

John Glenn's CTE programs prepare students for life after graduation

John Glenn's CTE pathways prepare students with more than graduation requirements, providing them with skills applicable to future careers.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK — John Glenn High School is working not only to prepare its students for graduation, but for life beyond campus as well. It does that with its Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

More than just graduation requirements, CTE programs provide students with academic and technical skills which they could potentially use in a future career.

John Glenn currently offers several pathways, including the Transportation Careers Academy Program, (TCAP), Arts, Media, Production Pathway (AMP), Academy for Careers in Education (ACE), robotics, and AVID.

Each pathway sees students move through associated courses as they advance through each grade.

Adrienne De Lama, lead coordinator for ACE, said the program has been around since the late 90's.

"[ACE] is an academy for kids who want to go into education," said De Lama. "...We kind of expanded it, and so it's no longer just for kids that want to go into becoming a teacher, but we have counselors, we have kids who want to be social workers, psychologists; I have even a couple of students who want to be lawyers, but lawyers for kids that are in the system."

ACE is a part of the California Partnerships Academy, and is funded through a grant from the California State Board of Education.

ACE affords students the opportunity for field trips and hands-on education work, including working with younger students from Moffit Elementary School.

"They do internships at Moffit," said De Lama. "So twice a week, they go over to Moffit Elementary and they're helping students from grades K through really fifth, but more so really to fourth for kids who got behind due to Covid with language arts, reading / writing, or math."

De Lama added that AMP also volunteers throughout the community.

Lisa Harrington oversees AMP.

"What we teach kids is digital media skills," said Harrington. "For example, our introductory course for the pathway is called multimedia communications. That class samples digital photography, video production, graphic design. Then, once they finish that class, they can decide what section of the pathway they want to pursue."

According to Harrington, AMP students eventually work their way up to be a part of a working production crew.

"Once they complete one of those classes, they move on to what is the capstone class, which is called digital production, and this is where they apply all the skills that they have learned to kind of be the crew for the school and for the district," said Harrington. "So, for example, if we have 'College Career Night,' my students will be out there with the video cameras, with the digital photography equipment, out there covering the event, doing interviews on the spot. They also produce the yearbook, produce videos for different departments."

"The ultimate goal is to give these kids skills, so when they



Students in John Glenn High School's ACE Academy work on story writing with Moffit Elementary school third graders. (Courtesy photo)

leave the pathway, when they're considered a completer, they actually have portfolio quality work to help them either further their education — getting into art school or going to university — or getting right into the workforce and working either independently or for a small design firm, or something along those lines."

Harrington says that all CTE teachers come from a background in their subject matter, bringing with it first-hand knowledge, as well as connections.

"Here I'm coming from industry, I'm able to come with my industry contacts; instead of coming from a classroom, I'm coming from a point of a working professional," said Harrington. "And that's with all CTE teachers;

we are, our credential, is based on our industry experience."

Last year, Harrington and AMP received a grant from the state of \$125,000, affording the class the ability to purchase some "state of the art equipment."

"My goal is to get the most current technology in these kids' hands to make them marketable, and to get them some skills and experience that they can't get anywhere else," said Harrington.

Principal Dr. Jennifer Padilla said that there is "no doubt that having CTE offerings at our sites is important."

"Not every kid is going to come to school loving math, and English and social science, but if it's not that, it's those vocational,

hands-on real-life classes that really grab them and motivate them to do well," said Padilla.

Padilla added "its not what [students] say, its what they show us." She hopes CTE will "continue improving and building" at John Glenn.

"When they leave here, and they are prepared, whether they do or do not pursue a career in that field, when they come back years later and they're like, 'That program really prepared me for college, or for getting the certification in this,' as a principal, when it helps them really and truly, that is when I know it's a good contribution to their high school experience," said Padilla.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	73°	
Saturday	73°	
Sunday	81°	

ON THIS DAY

1922: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Albert Bacon Fall secretly leased federal oil reserves to the Mammoth Oil Company in return for cash gifts; he was the first American to be convicted of a felony committed while holding a Cabinet post.

1927: The first public demonstration of a one-way videophone occurred between Herbert Hoover, then U.S. secretary of commerce, in Washington, D.C., and officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in New York City.

1933: Some eight months before Prohibition was repealed, low-alcoholic beer became legal in the United States; the day subsequently was celebrated as National Beer Day.



1939: Italian dictator Benito Mussolini made Albania a protectorate of his country, installing Italy's Victor Emmanuel III as king, while Albanian King Zog I went into exile.

1940: Booker T. Washington, an educator, author and adviser to several U.S. presidents, became the first African American to be depicted on a United States postage stamp.

1947: Henry Ford, who revolutionized factory production with his assembly-line methods and was the founder of the Ford Motor Company, died at age 83.

1948: The World Health Organization, a specialized agency of the UN, was formally established.

1963: Jack Nicklaus, a dominating figure in world golf from the 1960s to the '80s and the winner of 73 PGA tour events in his career, won the Masters Tournament at age 23.

1994: Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, a moderate Hutu, was assassinated by Hutu soldiers—a day after the death of Juvénal Habyarimana, president of Rwanda—as Rwanda entered a period of anarchy and mass killings.

2001: NASA launched the Mars Odyssey spacecraft, which reached Mars in October and transmitted photos and other data back to scientists on Earth.

2012: Television journalist Mike Wallace, who was noted for his aggressive, bruising style during interviews on the long-running TV newsmagazine program "60 Minutes," died at age 93.

Birthdays

Guitarist **John Oates** (75), "Rush Hour" star **Jackie Chan** (69), film actor **Russell Crowe** (59), and retired baseball player **Adrian Beltre** (44).

St. Paul softball defeats St. Anthony, 8-5, in Del Rey action

The Lady Swordsmen are closing in on its third league title since 2018

By John Sherrard
Contributor

PICO RIVERA — The St. Paul High School Softball team, with the Del Rey League title in sight, defeated visiting St. Anthony (Long Beach), 8-5, Tuesday (April 3).

The Lady Swordsmen, who finished second in league to St. Anthony last season, took a big early lead with a seven-run third inning and held on as the Stars scored five runs in three of the last four innings.

St. Paul (18-6, 9-1) can clinch its third title since 2018 with a win against Mary Star of the Sea at home on Monday (April 17). The Swordsmen were co-champs in the 2021 season with Bishop Amat.

With Bishop Amat (7-10, 1-2) in second, St. Anthony (6-11, 2-3) and Mary Star (10-5, 1-3) are fighting for the final playoff spot in league.

With the seven runs in the bottom of the third inning for St. Paul, the Stars came back with one run in the top of the fourth, to trail, 7-1.

The Lady Swordsmen answered with their final run in the bottom half of the inning followed by a pair of runs by St. Anthony in the fifth and sixth innings.

"The team played well (Tuesday), and it took our offense a couple of innings to make an adjustment at the plate," St. Paul softball coach Charles Gandara said. "Their pitcher did a very good

job mixing up her pitches and keeping us off balance.

"We were able to string together a couple of hits in the third inning and capitalized on a couple of their defensive mistakes."

The Swordsmen, along with St. Anthony, had 10 hits each in the game.

Three seniors and a junior led the charge for St. Paul with two hits apiece.

Senior second baseman Madison Gasca-Reyes was 2 for 4 with a run scored, while seniors Julissa Detrinidad (2 for 3, RBI) and outfielder Gaby Gandara (2 for 2, R, BB) also had two hits each.

"Our team is doing very well," Gasca-Reyes said. "We're progressing and moving along, and I think we're going to be very strong at the end. Our pitcher Elisa (Gulfin) did very well. There were a couple times where we struggled in the field, but we were able to comeback with some hits and had a very big inning."

Gandara (.463), who also had two doubles in the game, and Detrinidad (.443) are batting well over .400 this season. Gandara has 30 hits and 13 stolen bases, while Detrinidad has thrown out 10 base runners from the catcher's position.

Junior pitcher Abbey Duarte (2 for 3) scored a run and had two RBIs and junior third baseman Hannah Moreno added a pair of RBIs. Moreno currently has a .475 average, along with 29 RBIs and four home runs.

As a team, the Swordsmen are batting .417.

Leading the way in the circle

was senior Elisa Gulfin (4 BBs, HR allowed) with four innings, allowing only three hits, one earned run and five strikeouts. Gulfin, who has a 2.95 ERA overall and 96 strikeouts this season, improved to 14-5 overall and 7-1 in league.

Moreno pitched the final three innings, allowing four runs on seven hits and struck out two.

"Elisa (Gulfin) was strong in the circle and pitched well for four solid innings," Gandara said. "She experienced some tightness in her pitching arm and was replaced in the fifth (Moreno). A couple of misplayed balls and questionable calls in the fifth and sixth innings led to four runs (3 earned), but the team never panicked and finished the game strong."

Other top hitters for St. Paul are senior outfielder Kate Williams (.444, 24 runs scored), sophomore first baseman Daina Munoz (.392, 24 RBIs, 4 HRs) and freshman shortstop Audrey Prado (.477).

Four players will be playing at the next level, which includes: Gulfin (University of Nebraska), Gandara (Cal State Dominguez Hills), Detrinidad (Saint Martin's University) and senior Savannah Patino (Cal State East Bay).

With 100 hits in their careers are Moreno (100 RBIs) and Gandara (50 SBs). After facing Mary Star (4/17), St. Paul finishes the season with St. Anthony (4/18) and a non-league game at Sierra Vista. The CIF playoffs begin after that.



TOP: St. Paul's Elisa Gulfin (27) makes a pitch as they play St. Anthony in their league game at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs on Tuesday. BOTTOM: St. Paul's Madison Gasca-Reyes (25) is congratulated after scoring. (Photos by Keith Durlinger)

Think again before buying an actual bunny for an Easter gift

LOS ANGELES (CNS) - Rabbit rescue groups across Southern California are again urging people not to purchase bunnies as Easter gifts for children, saying that what begins as a well-intentioned gesture often leads to abandoned animals when the novelty wears off and families realize they're not equipped to properly care for the pets.

Instead, rescue groups and animal control officials recommend buying a stuffed toy bunny or chocolate candy rabbit for kids' Easter baskets.

"Easter bunnies who magically appear and lay multi-colored eggs shown on greetings cards and cartoons are nothing but a fantasy," said Lejla Hadzimuratovic, founder and president of Bunny World Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that has rescued thousands of unwanted rabbits from shelters and owner surrenders since its founding in 2008.

"Every year, we scream from the top of our lungs that bunnies don't make good Easter gifts, and still, those reminders go unheeded," Hadzimuratovic told City News Service in 2022.

Retail sales of rabbits, dogs and cats are prohibited in California, but direct sales are still permitted, including online, and illegal street sales occur in urban areas where baby bunnies are sometimes deceptively marketed as adult "dwarfs."

Despite an ordinance prohibiting the sale and purchase of live animals on the streets of Los Angeles, Hadzimuratovic says "the year-round live animal market in LA's Fashion District, specifically Santee Alley, is thriving. Typically bought on a whim as a toy for a child, they often live a desolate life in the corner of a filthy cage without enrichment until they are abandoned to a shelter or die of neglect."

As she did last year, Hadzimuratovic will be attending the L.A. Arboretum's "Spring Fling" event on Good Friday to counter the

popular misconceptions and educate the public about the realities of caring for rabbits. She'll bring along some of the group's rescued bunnies who are available for adoption -- but only for those who are serious about wanting bunnies in their lives.

"In 2022, 1,200 Los Angeles bunny lovers had their chance to meet some of BWF's precious rescued bunnies at the gorgeous Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden... It was an inspiring community event and an excellent educational opportunity," she said. "We're expecting our efforts to double this time around. We're bringing twice as many bunnies and volunteers to the event to promote the glory of rescued rabbits and educate the general public about their care."

BWF saves and re-homes hundreds of unwanted bunnies from Los Angeles-area shelters every year -- some of whom have special medical needs that place them at greater risk. But the group's struggles are magnified each spring by the effects of the holiday, and other groups see the same problem.

"Every year, we receive numerous reports of bunnies who were bought for Easter and then discarded once their cuteness or novelty wore off, which is why we adamantly advocate against buying live animals as Easter gifts," PETA's Catie Cryar told CNS. More information from PETA can be found at www.peta.org/features/reasons-never-buy-bunny/.

"Real rabbits and Easter don't mix," the Los Angeles Rabbit Foundation proclaimed in its annual Easter message this year.

"Rabbits make poor pets for small children. Most rabbits do not like to be picked up and held, and may scratch or bite in an effort to get free, or be injured when dropped. The typical 'Easter bunnies' illegally sold on the streets or in pet stores are usually babies, taken from their mothers before they are properly weaned. They will die soon after purchase -- hardly a fun experience for kids!"

The group is a chapter of House Rabbit Society, an international nonprofit headquartered in Richmond, California, that offers education about rabbits.

Jackie Tran, public information officer for Orange County's animal care department, said OC Animal Care "recommends that the community resist the urge to get a pet on impulse. Bunnies, chicks, ducks, and other small animals are adorable, but they quickly grow into adults and require specialized daily care."

Advocates for the animals do want them to be adopted into loving homes, saying they can be wonderful companions for those who are serious about the commitment. Advocates say the animals are gentle creatures that offer many benefits over other pets, including their quiet nature and a diet of hay and vegetables that avoids adding to the suffering and environmental harm inherent in factory farming that produces dog and cat food.

Rabbits are not low-maintenance pets. They require feeding, cleaning, and humane indoor housing in a bunny-proofed room, and veterinary care can be expensive, advocates note.

They're also not ideal pets for small children, as they respond best to quiet energy and can be easily spooked by the hyperactivity of a child.

Animal advocates offered a series of basic tips:

- Domestic rabbits should be kept indoors at all times.
- Rabbits need to be spayed or neutered as soon as they're old enough (between four and six months) to avoid unnecessary breeding and to aid their health.
- Once they've been spayed or neutered, bunnies should be paired with a mate for lifelong companionship. Single bunnies can be lonely and depressed.
- They should be fed a diet of unlimited timothy hay and a daily portion of leafy greens, plus pellets and alfalfa hay for rabbits under 6



(Getty Images)

- months.
- They should never be kept in cages, as they need room to hop around and exercise their legs.
- They need to be thoroughly groomed every two to three months to remove excess fur and have their nails trimmed.
- They're aggressive chewers, and need to be kept away from electrical cords and anything that can be dangerous if ingested, such as taped or glued boxes.
- Bunnies who stop eating or

appear to be in pain can die within 36 hours, and need immediate care from a veterinarian trained in rabbit care.

All six shelters in the Los Angeles Animal Services system have rabbits available for adoption, as do other Southland shelters, and private rescue groups offer support and mentoring for new bunny owners.

BWF offers a free foster program in which people care for the animals, help promote them on social media and bring them to weekly adoption

events until they find a permanent home. They can be contacted at info@bunnyworldfoundation.org, www.bunnyworldfoundation.org or [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=bunny world foundation](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=bunny+world+foundation).

The House Rabbit Society also has resources for learning about proper rabbit care, which can be found at rabbit.org.

Cerritos Center presenting ABBA tribute show

CERRITOS - In a flashback to the '70s, the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) celebrates the signature sound and style of Pop legend ABBA on Friday, May 26 at 8:00 pm. Tickets start at \$50.

Direct from Sweden: The Music of ABBA celebrates the band's legacy in a musical showcase of greatest tunes, including Chiquita; Fernando; Take a Chance on Me; and Super Trouper. With meticulous attention to costumes and make-up, the show incorporates ABBA's live traits, including solos, musical numbers, and a complete live band

consisting of handpicked members from some of the greatest ABBA tribute acts.

In 1974, the Swedish Pop-Rock band ABBA won England's Eurovision Song Contest with the single Waterloo. The quartet went on to dominate radio playlists and music charts in the '70s and '80s with a bevy of hits, including Money, Money, Money; The Winner Takes It All; and Knowing Me, Knowing You. However, it was the Gold-certified hit Dancing Queen - which skyrocketed to No. One in the United Kingdom, Germany,

Australia, and the United States in 1980 - that officially turned ABBA into an indisputable international Pop phenomenon.

The band sold more than 400 million records worldwide and garnered an induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The 1999 Broadway musical based on ABBA's songs, Mamma Mia, and the 2008 blockbuster hit film of the same name have kept the ensemble's appeal alive.

For tickets or more information, call (562) 916-8500 or go to cerritoscenter.com.

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Bonuses to executives at failed banks must end

By Michael Lyon

Michael Lyon is chief executive of Lyon Capital Inc.

Three decades ago, I was a young lawyer working for the FDIC as we scrambled to save First Republic Bank of Texas — the country’s 12th-largest bank at the time — and resolve the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s and 1990s. Though we were able to stabilize the banking system, there was one critical area where we had less success: holding those responsible to account.

This time around, faced with new banking sector challenges, regulators should seize the opportunity to make sure executives face penalties for reckless behavior or mismanagement.

There are echoes of those earlier crises in our current predicament. The S&L industry’s troubles were partly the result of a toxic combination of interest rate increases and weak regulation. S&L managers took bigger and bigger risks with government-backed deposits in often frantic attempts to earn their way out of trouble. Tails they won, heads we all lost. At that time, the FDIC worked closely with various government enforcement entities, including the Justice Department, to try to identify wrongdoing behind institutional failures. In the end, we found that most who led the failed thrifts simply made bad business decisions, and few actions rose to the level of criminal behavior. While many of these reckless managers lost their jobs, they often walked away with relative impunity and were even enriched in some cases.

Later, we witnessed a similar pattern during the global financial crisis of 2007–2009. Even as a series of bank failures threatened the world’s economy, many executives who had pocketed significant sums in the years leading up to the crisis simply walked away with their large bonuses and compensation untouched.

Some of us working in banking regulation reform back then suggested the introduction of clawback provisions to reclaim excessive compensation and other earnings received by executives before their institutions failed. In 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act took steps in this direction. But political forces and legal concerns limited the scope of the enacted clawback provisions — both in the scope of compensation that could be clawed back, as well as narrowing the conditions under which this correction could take place.

Now, here we are again, with a combination of mismanagement and inadequate regulation leading to further bank failures, including the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. In his testimony of March 28, the Federal Reserve’s vice chair for supervision, Michael S. Barr, concluded that “SVB’s failure is a textbook case of mismanagement.” Later, he stated that although regulators had identified multiple risks at SVB, “it is not the job of supervisors to fix the issues identified; it is the job of the bank’s senior management and board of directors to fix its problems.” But if that is the case, regulators need to implement stronger direct incentives to ensure management and boards act prudently.

It is time that we have clear and enforceable laws and regulations that hold leaders responsible for their failed institutions by forcing them to relinquish inappropriate personal gains — with their excessive compensation, ill-begotten bonuses, and stock sale proceeds being clawed back or taxed. Ensuring that executives face personal loss should help limit risk taking as an institution addresses a challenging balance sheet.

To that end, the Failed Bank Executives Clawback Act introduced Wednesday by Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) is a positive step — though I have a few suggested modifications. First, reduce the proposed clawback period from five years to two, for better alignment with the management decisions immediately before the bank’s failure. Second, focus on executive management and board members (the proposed language could reach too deep into junior ranks). Finally, limit the clawback to bonuses, stock sales and excessive compensation — determined on a normalized basis — during this two-year period. All of this should make the bill more politically acceptable and clarify market incentives and guidelines, too, without diluting its fundamental impact.

If Barr is correct that regulators cannot effectively correct poor bank management, then we need direct incentives to ensure that management and board members know they will not benefit from mismanagement, and that the forces of greed and fear are appropriately balanced.

History shows indictments don’t often hurt candidates

By Jeff Greenfield

Jeff Greenfield is a veteran TV news analyst, an author and a contributing editor at Politico.

For some politicians, “term limits” isn’t about how long they are allowed to serve in office, but about how long they might be compelled to serve in a very different kind of government facility.

But if you are a prominent political personality facing an official accusation of criminal misconduct — no names, please — there is good news: There’s every chance the voters will return you to office even as the cloud of indictment hovers overhead. Based on history, the electorate often seems to embrace the idea that a man or woman is innocent until proved guilty — especially if you’re a member of their party.

There is no better example of this than Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Shortly after his 2014 election, he was indicted on securities fraud charges and accused of misleading investors about his role in a tech start-up. Almost eight years later, the case has still not come to trial, tangled in legal disputes so convoluted they make Jarndyce and Jarndyce, the suit from Dickens’s “Bleak House,” seem like a small claims dispute. Since then, Paxton (R) has been reelected twice and has brushed aside more legal arrows. In 2020, eight of his top aides publicly accused him of misusing his office to protect a key donor. His margin last November? Ten points.

Texas is a state where every statewide office is held by a Republican, but “indicted and elected” is not a partisan matter. In 2015, Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, was indicted on 14 counts of fraud and bribery after accepting some \$1 million in gifts from a Florida ophthalmologist. A 2017 trial the year before Menendez was up for reelection ended in a hung jury. Two months later, the Justice Department dropped the case. In April 2018, the Senate Ethics Committee “severely admonished” the senator for his conduct.

You might think that “they couldn’t make the charge stick” is a less-than-optimal campaign theme. But New Jersey hasn’t sent a Republican to the U.S. Senate since 1972, its voters weren’t about to break a 50-year streak.

When the Newark Star-Ledger endorsed Menendez, it did so with this ringing praise: “This year’s U.S. Senate race presents the most depressing choice for New Jersey voters in a generation, with two awful candidates whose most convincing argument is that the other guy is unfit to serve.”

The midterm elections of 2018 served up something of a bumper crop for the (unofficial) Indictment Caucus. New York’s Chris Collins (insider trading) and California’s Duncan Hunter (campaign corruption) were sent back to Washington. So was Montana’s Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery after body-slammng a reporter in 2017. Last November, Gianforte was elected Montana’s governor.

For sheer longevity, it’s hard to top the record of Democrat Edwin Edwards, a four-time governor of Louisiana. Through his years in office, many of them marked by major improvements in education, health care and constitutional reform, he was plagued by charges of accepting illegal campaign money, selling state offices and accepting bribes in suitcases full of cash with which to fund his Las Vegas jaunts. But he beat a corruption indictment during his third term, and while the fallout seemed to end his political life — he lost the job in 1987 — he had the great good fortune that powers so many accused officials: Find the right opponent. In 1991, Republicans nominated Ku Klux Klansman David Duke, leading a consensus of mainstream figures — including GOP President George H.W. Bush — to back the return of Edwards as governor, under the blunt if unofficial theme: “Vote for the Crook — It’s Important.”

Only after his career was over did his good fortune end. In 2001, Edwards was convicted on 17 felony counts including selling riverboat casino licenses in return for hundreds of thousands of

dollars in cash. He served nearly nine years in federal prison.

If there is a lesson here, it’s that voters are not inclined to exercise the political death penalty if the charges involve one form or another of corruption. There’s a pretty widespread belief that “they all do it.”

All of this comes as welcome news for former president Donald Trump as he faces an indictment in New York for allegations of dodgy accounting to evade campaign-finance laws. But what about voting not for an accused wrongdoer but a convicted one? Voters rarely get that chance, because once they are convicted, officeholders leave the scene, voluntarily or otherwise. A year after their reelections, Collins and Hunter pleaded guilty to crimes and stepped down.

But we shouldn’t forget the remarkable career of Boston’s James Michael Curley, the model for Edwin O’Connor’s Francis Skeffington in “The Last Hurrah.” He was elected to the Boston Board of Aldermen in 1904 while serving time in prison for fraud. He had taken a civil service exam for a less-than-literate constituent and swept to victory under the slogan: “He did it for a friend.”

More than 40 years later, Curley ran and won a fourth mayoral term while under two federal indictments, for bribery and mail fraud. His winning slogan: “Curley Gets Things Done.” He was convicted while mayor and conducted the city’s business for five months while a prisoner in Danbury’s federal prison.

Okay, maybe there’s not much to learn from a 120-year-old local election; maybe voters would apply a tougher standard when an indictment or multiple indictments hit a former (and perhaps future) president. But given all those survival stories — and especially given Trump’s “nine lives” history — it wouldn’t be surprising if he sees himself moving from swearing to tell the truth in a courtroom to swearing to execute the oath of office at the Capitol, without breaking a sweat.

Major League Baseball games are faster; you need to pay attention

By Steve Kettmann

Steve Kettmann has written extensively about baseball and is working on a new book about managers.

In previous years, planning a typical preseason game, the Mets manager Buck Showalter would have been laser-focused on decisions like who to try that day as leadoff batter or which pitchers he would have available coming out of the bullpen.

But this year, late in spring training, he was pondering which player would be miked up for part of a game to provide audio commentary, sometimes even from the field, for the Mets.

“Why don’t you ask Max if he’ll get miked up?” Showalter suggested at one point, clearly a joke, since the reference was to Mets’ pitcher Max Scherzer, a.k.a. Mad Max, known for possessing one of the most intense personalities in baseball.

The start of a season usually brings a fresh round of questions about baseball as cultural inheritance, a big-business sport forever looking in the rearview mirror to its halcyon days as the so-called national pastime. But this year, somewhat shockingly, the new season represents a genuine departure for organized baseball. In pushing forward with tradition-defying rules changes — like a pitch clock, bigger bases and viewer-friendly innovations like miking up managers and players — baseball has taken dramatic steps to recapture a vitality and vividness for fans and players alike.

In the 2023 season, for lapsed fans and potential new fans, Major League Baseball is making a case to give the game a second chance.

With the changes and tweaks, the pace of games will pick up. Spring training games this year were about 25 minutes shorter than in recent years — games averaged around two and a half hours.

The new pitch clock has received the most attention, and for good reason: It requires the most jarring adjustment for longtime fans. With the bases empty, pitchers now have 15 seconds to start their motion; with a runner on, they have 20 seconds. If they take longer, they will be assessed a ball — meaning, in some cases, an umpire-awarded walk for the batter. Hitters are now required to be in place in the batter’s box by the time the clock counts down to eight seconds; violators will be assessed a strike, and if it’s the third strike, a strikeout.

I hated the pitch-clock idea the first time it was described to me a couple of years ago by the former Red Sox general manager and Cubs executive Theo Epstein.

But as soon as I saw games with a clock this spring, I loved it. It worked. The absence of dead time injected games with much-needed energy and tilted the balance toward more action and intrigue.

Too often in years past, too many pitchers killed time on the mound and too many batters around the plate — by stepping out after every pitch to adjust the batting glove, scratch an itch or just plain preen. This year during spring training, there was none of that.

Another new rule concerns pickoff throws. For years, fans saved some of their loudest booing for those dreary sequences when a pitcher, with a runner on, stepped off the mound and tossed over to first base again and again and again. Now a pitcher is limited to two “disengagements” — either stepping off the rubber, to regroup, or throwing to a base — per batter. With a third, the pitcher is assessed a balk, so any base runners may advance to the next base.

With the new ban on defensive shifts, at the start of a pitch, infielders must have both feet within the outer boundary of the infield, and two infielders must be on each side of second base.

The shift ban is a response to changes in the game prompted by the baseball analytics movement, which developed a logic of its own. Teams paid millions to hire legions of Ph.D.s to crunch numbers and suggest “improvements” in positioning and tactics (like the infield shift) that may have satisfied spreadsheets but that also made the game fatally boring. What’s more, players often hated it.

Another analytics trend has put an emphasis on big home-run swings and the “launch angle” — when batters adjust their swings to lift the ball in the air when it leaves the bat. That actually minimized the penalty of strikeouts, since at least batters weren’t hitting ground balls into double plays. But it also meant fewer balls were put in play, less happened on the field — and more yawns were produced in the stands.

The problem with that way of playing ball wasn’t just the tedium — it was the death of possibility. If a player was more likely to either strike out or hit a home run, a viewer could half-watch a game and still catch any moonshot home runs on replay. There was little attention paid to the suspense of building sequences.

It’s almost like watching a different game when players are closely tuned into a sense of constantly shifting possibility, with, for example, base runners ready to run as a pitch is thrown, in

violation of the analytics-craze horror at employing the hit and run. Unpredictability is a lot more fun than analytics-programmed monotony.

The game’s makeover goes beyond rule changes, to address its lack of confidence to embrace its flair and flavor. The World Baseball Classic this spring made that clear and signaled a new dynamic: Let personality and passion shine through, and the players themselves will be far more engaged.

When ESPN carried a Mets preseason game against the Astros, Showalter and the Houston manager, Dusty Baker, did turns miked up during the broadcast and were lively and relaxed. Showalter offered sharp analysis of the impact of the rules changes. “I think it’s going to make people more aggressive,” he said, adding that “everybody’s going to push the envelope trying to get a competitive edge.”

Mets’ shortstop Francisco Lindor was also miked, talking from his spot in the infield about the art of hitting and about his ever-changing hair color. “I just did a new color last night,” he said, and added that “it’s like a mood ring, it changes colors, depending on how I wake up.”

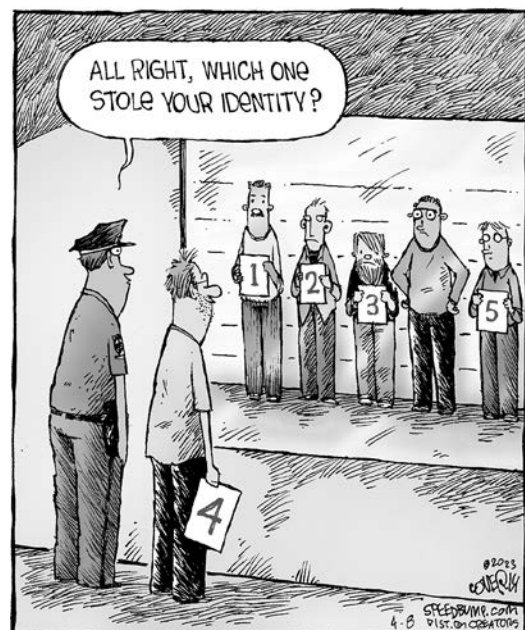
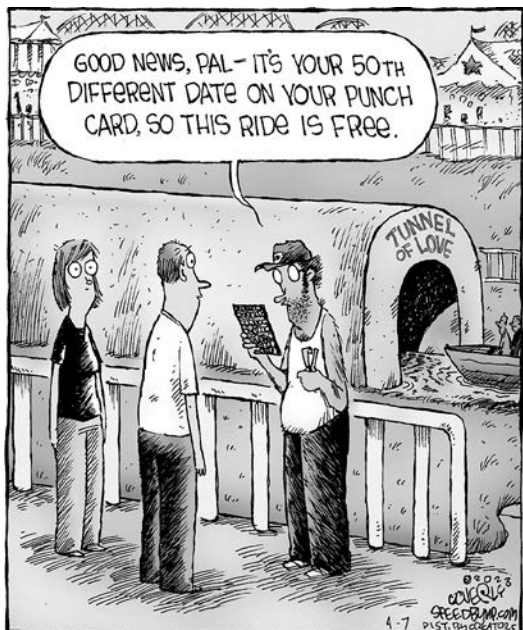
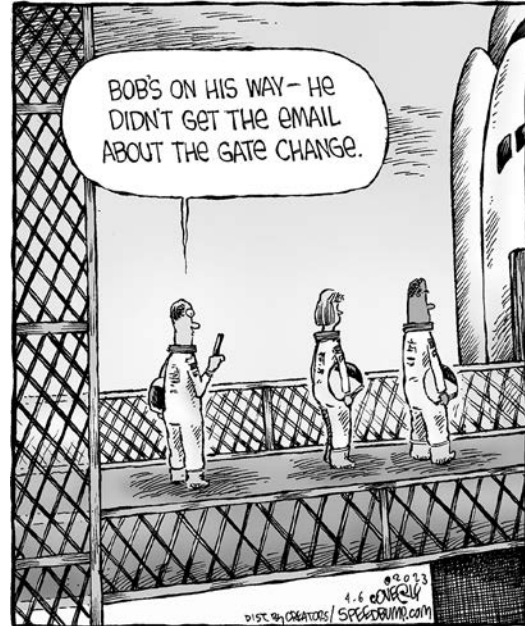
“Baseball traditionally has been so slow to evolve, and so repressed,” the ESPN reporter Alden Gonzalez told me. “I think it has finally realized the only way to appeal to a younger generation is to have more fun. It sounds simple, right? Like: ‘Let the kids play.’”

These athletes are more talented — bigger, stronger, faster — than ever. The more they’re unleashed, the more fans are pulled toward caring. The continuing relevance of baseball comes from its ability to represent, like movies or theater, a relatable glimpse into the everyday drama of being human.

Bring on the color. Get more billionaire owners out there in the stands in T-shirts, cheering with the fans, like Steve Cohen for the Mets on opening day. How about some uniforms with pizzazz, maybe a new round inspired by those Astros’ or San Diego Padres’ uniforms of the 1970s, instead of the current trend toward pinstripe dullness?

Some rules changes might need to be rethought, and others need to be tried. The innovations that work depend on the players themselves. They like the faster games, the reduced dead time. The more the sport channels the personalities and passions of its players, rather than the suits upstairs, the better chance it has of grabbing old and new fans alike.

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

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@thedownypatriot.com

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
STATES' PLATES: Provinces, too
 by Billie Trulltt

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wide city sts.
 - 5 Pays heed to
 - 10 Eur. region
 - 15 Beanstalk boy
 - 19 Home repair pro Bob
 - 20 Duo times four
 - 21 Health care pro
 - 22 Look at impolitely
 - 23 In excess of
 - 24 Chess side
 - 25 Bassoon cousins
 - 26 Donkey sound
 - 27 "Canada's Ocean Playground"
 - 29 "America's Dairyland"
 - 31 Oldies group __ Na Na
 - 32 Pass, as time
 - 34 China's Chou En-__
 - 35 Elevated ballet position
 - 40 How __ Your Mother
 - 41 Dawn-to-dusk period
 - 45 "Wild, Wonderful"
 - 47 Figured out
 - 48 Earthbound birds
 - 49 Diva's showpiece
 - 50 Extremely eager
 - 51 Filleted
 - 53 Mar.-to-Nov. hours
 - 54 CPA's entries
 - 55 Euphoria
 - 57 "Peace Garden State"
 - 60 Place for a swim meet
 - 61 Cab Calloway catchphrase
 - 62 Monet contemporary
 - 63 Literary coda
 - 66 Sundae selections
 - 68 Area of influence
 - 69 Insider's vocabulary
 - 70 Padded envelope
 - 71 Subsequently
 - 72 "Great Faces, Great Places"
 - 74 Composer Copland
 - 76 '90s "Awesome!"
 - 79 Craft beer designation
 - 80 Wail of warning
 - 81 Auto from Bavaria
 - 82 Casting assignment
 - 83 Hawaii's state bird
 - 85 Title Ringo received in '18
 - 86 "Land of Living Skies"
 - 90 Dad's dad
 - 92 Fa followers
 - 93 "Level with me"
 - 94 Hair gel, for instance
 - 95 Tree sometimes called "slippery"
 - 97 Consist of
 - 98 "Sportsman's Paradise"
 - 101 "Evergreen State"
 - 107 Medium for medicine
 - 108 Music licensing org.
 - 109 A son of Jacob
 - 110 Attendant
 - 111 Coral ridge
 - 112 Deceive
 - 113 "Now __ talking!"
 - 114 Poor grades
 - 115 Figure (out)
 - 116 Throat ailment
 - 117 Golf great Sam
 - 118 Prefix for while
- DOWN**
- 1 The Bard's river
 - 2 Lively, in music
 - 3 "Welcome to" sign abbr.
 - 4 Florida city
 - 5 "Why should you expect that of me?"
 - 6 Sound rebound
 - 7 Battling
 - 8 Knot again
 - 9 Thievery
 - 10 Stir-fry veggie
 - 11 Picasso, for a while
 - 12 Popped up
 - 13 Tiny fraction of a min.
 - 14 With no one around
 - 15 Workplace
 - 16 Prefix for culture
 - 17 Extended family
 - 18 Vital
 - 28 Thug's knife
 - 30 Thumbs-down vote
 - 33 Male friend from Montreal
 - 35 Actor McGregor
 - 36 Roman tyrant
 - 37 Trident-shaped letters
 - 38 Fall behind
 - 39 Brunch fare
 - 41 Hawaiian singer
 - 42 "That's it for me!"
 - 43 Assemble, as troops
 - 44 Home with large grounds
 - 46 What Macs run on
 - 47 Some black-clad teens
 - 51 Title in Uncle Remus stories
 - 52 Get wet
 - 55 Diner seating
 - 56 Captain's journal
 - 57 Olay alternative
 - 58 Distinctive aroma
 - 59 Madeline of *Blazing Saddles*
 - 60 Story line
 - 61 Sentry's shout
 - 63 Letting up
 - 64 Well-mannered
 - 65 Chameleon cousin
 - 66 Charlatan
 - 67 Big cat
 - 68 HBO rival
 - 70 *The Sound of Music* heroine
 - 71 Overused, as a phrase
 - 73 Kitchen conveniences
 - 74 Diving seabird
 - 75 Very little bit
 - 76 T. __ Price (investment firm)
 - 77 "It's a pity"
 - 78 Bumper mishap
 - 81 Letter sign-off
 - 82 Turncoat
 - 84 Swallows up
 - 86 Fizzy drink
 - 87 Part of 79 Across
 - 88 Presided over
 - 89 Road warning
 - 91 "And how!"
 - 92 House on the Hill
 - 95 Fast car
 - 96 Stoneworker
 - 98 (In) place (of)
 - 99 Spanish cheers
 - 100 "Can that be?"
 - 102 Actress Elisabeth
 - 103 Olympian queen
 - 104 Stadium level
 - 105 Praiseful poems
 - 106 Squirrel's home
 - 107 Former telephone trio

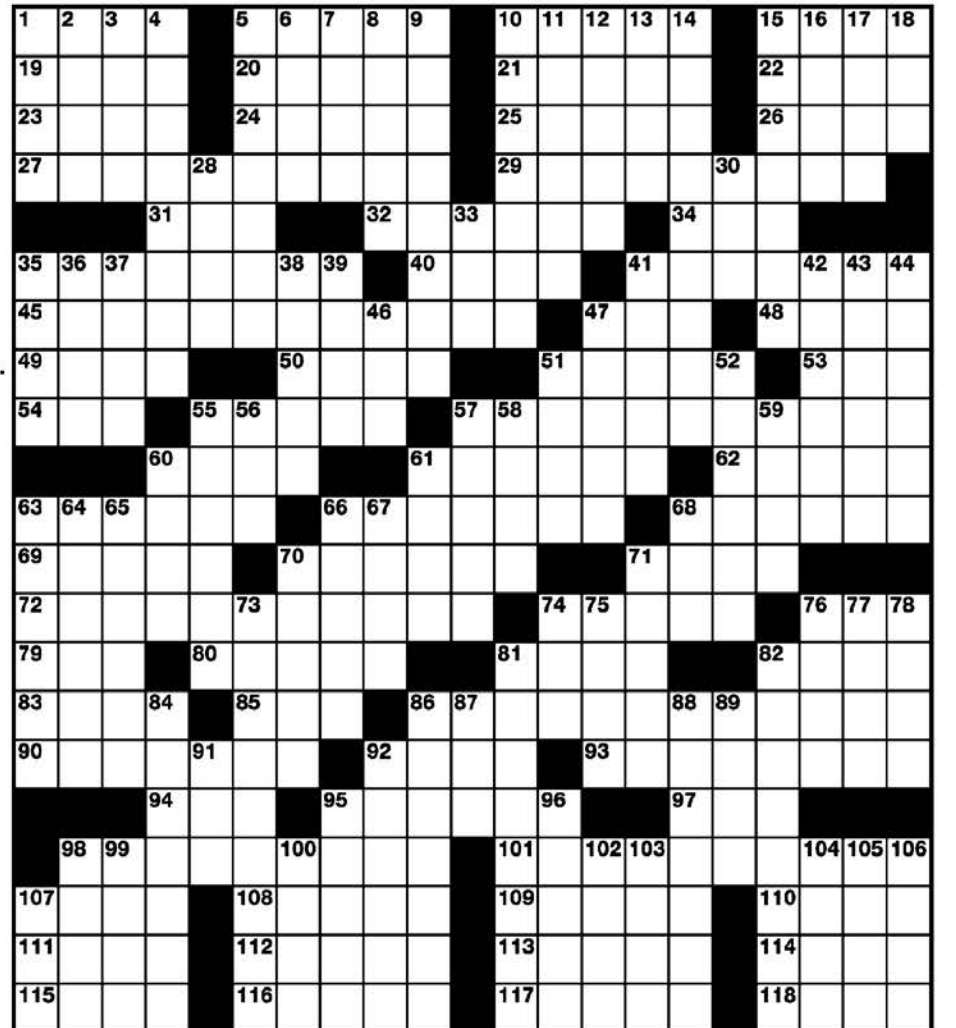
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

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

Canada. Before becoming host of the PBS series *This Old House*, Bob Vila awarded for his restoration of a Victorian home. Chou en-LAI (34 Across) served as the first pre-mier and first foreign minister of the People's Republic of China. The official nickname of NORTH DAKOTA (57 Across) comes from the International Peace Garden along its border with Manitoba.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 4/2/23



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

Effort to depopulate LA County jails delayed amid backlash

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES — A proposal to declare a humanitarian crisis in Los Angeles County's overcrowded jails and begin efforts to dramatically pare down the inmate population was pulled from Tuesday's Board of Supervisors agenda amid opposition from some board members and law enforcement groups.

The motion to "depopulate and decarcerate" the jails -- introduced by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Lindsey Horvath, and originally scheduled for a vote Tuesday -- was met with backlash from law enforcement organizations when it was published late last week. Among those opposing the plan was the Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, which bashed it as "dangerous and reckless."

The Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, meanwhile, wrote in a letter to the board that the measure would "further erode community safety and quality of life." The association also said it received no advance notice of the motion, learning about it only on Friday, and called for more collaboration before the proposal advances.

Monday, Board of Supervisors Chair Janice Hahn issued a statement saying she planned to oppose the motion, saying that

while she agrees with the need to address jail overcrowding, "any plan to reduce the population of our jails needs to be decided in partnership with law enforcement, our deputy district attorneys and our courts."

Supervisor Kathryn Barger told the Daily News earlier that she also planned to oppose the motion.

As a result, Solis on Monday yanked the motion from the agenda.

In a statement, Solis said that since the motion was published late last week, her office "has received concerns from a variety of stakeholders -- those who feel the motion is not doing enough and those who feel it is doing too much. To that end, I will be referring the motion back to my office so that I can continue to gather input from all stakeholders. We must help balance the needs of public safety while also getting into compliance with our federal obligations. And in that process, I ask that county departments and agencies help us with meeting the need of our most vulnerable."

The now-delayed motion is another step in a long-running effort by the Board of Supervisors to implement a "care first, jails last" agenda, which includes a long-fought effort to close the much-criticized Men's Central Jail without constructing a replacement facility.

Proposals to close the jail have envisioned a redistribution of the

inmate population across other correctional facilities over time, while also releasing thousands of inmates to residential programs or community treatment.

The Solis-Horvath motion called for a litany of efforts aimed at reducing the jail population and redistributing inmates, including through the release of some people in jail for select felonies or misdemeanors "who can be safely released back into the community."

Solis said the motion primarily called for:

- giving the sheriff authority to use electronic monitoring as a form of an alternative to incarceration;

- advocating for the Los Angeles Superior Court to reimplement a zero-bail system that was used during the COVID-19 emergency, setting "bail at \$0 for our pre-trial population, which accounts for almost half of the total jail population." She noted that "many who have not yet been tried for misdemeanors and lower-level felonies are languishing in county jails.;"

- requesting the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to take individuals in county jails who have been sentenced to prison to their facilities, accounting for about 10% of the jail population; and

- advocating for legislative changes at the state level so those who are medically fragile can be



(Getty Images)

eligible for compassionate release.

Solis said she introduced the motion as "a way to strike a balance with both justice involved advocates and public safety representatives. Additionally, with the federal consent decrees and settlement agreements, including a potential receivership from the State, I felt this move was necessary."

Eric Siddall, vice president of the Los Angeles Association of Deputy District Attorneys, said in a statement Monday that the motion would "gut parts of the criminal

justice system without input from stakeholders." He said it would implement what he called a "cite and release" system "without any plan or infrastructure to protect the community from violent criminals apprehended by law enforcement."

"Further, it creates no lockdown facilities for the mentally ill," he said. "This program benefits no one except career criminals."

The county Police Chiefs Association, in its letter to the board, said similar efforts to reduce the populations of state prisons

have led to "a steady rise in crime, reduced quality of life and increased fear within our communities."

"Closing (Men's Central Jail) will have a very similar effect on communities if the county does what the state did by releasing large numbers of inmates arbitrarily and without community protections in place," according to the group. "... We are simply asking for more detailed vetting and building of replacement alternatives, and for a seat at the table."

ANALYSIS: L.A. County Board of Supervisors flirts with anarchy

By Alex Villanueva

Leave it to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to find a way to endanger further

the lives of county residents. It's almost as if they feel residents are not threatened enough with violent crime, brazen retail theft, homeless encampments encroaching on

residential communities, and a district attorney who champions the rights of criminal suspects over victims of crime. Now the board wants to close Men's Central Jail, arguing that they felt compelled to act based on an emergency of their own making.

The board's motion (eventually pulled from this week's agenda) claimed that due to a lack of mental health treatment capacity and overcrowding, they need to "depopulate" Central Jail and "decarcerate" the county jail system in order to solve a humanitarian crisis.

Both issues are patently false, and extremely dishonest for Supervisors Hilda Solis and Lindsey Horvath to claim given they are the ones responsible for the mental health services provided in the jails.

They are also well aware that the county jails can hold a little over 17,000 inmates, and the current population of 14,000 and change puts them far below maximum capacity.

The poor conditions of confinement in our county jails were exacerbated by the board of

supervisors' move to defund the LASD and impose a hiring freeze in 2020, when Supervisor Janice Hahn declared she wanted to "seize the moment" during the summer of civil unrest.

This followed a unanimous vote in 2019 to permanently close Men's Central Jail without a replacement, in spite of multiple reports concluding that it cannot be accomplished without a replacement facility.

Wait, you mean releasing dangerous inmates is dangerous? Who knew?

The board of supervisors is on a roll, for sure. Closing MCJ without a replacement and killing the Mental Health Treatment Center while paying a mind-boggling \$80 million dollar penalty was pretty bad, but it follows a breathtaking trend of incompetence and ideologically driven bad decisions that harm the public at every turn.

The board refuses to regulate public space and take proactive steps to reign in the homeless

crisis. They voted to increase outreach to the homeless on our transit system while reducing the presence of law enforcement, so we now have 5,700 transients living on our trains and platforms.

No wonder ridership is plunging.

The current board of supervisors is a special breed of career politicians. They created the "Care First, Jail Last" policy that has been an utter disaster at every turn.

The Probation Department is now a raging dumpster fire with an ill-defined mission, personnel leaving by the droves, and escalating costs to house a dwindling number of juvenile offenders.

The Orwellian-named Justice, Opportunity, and Care Department is literally a paper tiger with no physical presence to accomplish anything, yet the board wants to empanel them with "caring" for those who would otherwise wind up in the county jail.

They're still chasing the Housing First solution to homelessness, which has been proven to be a colossal failure, as the Homeless Industrial Complex continues to grow as the homeless population grows as well.

Now convicted felon Mark Ridley Thomas claimed that I needed to be removed from office in 2020, and he was joined by Sheila Kuehl. They said I was the biggest threat to public safety, without presenting a shred of evidence to support their outrageous claims.

I think the record of the board speaks for itself -- they are the ones who need to resign and apologize for harming the residents of Los Angeles County.

Alex Villanueva is a retired law enforcement officer who served as the 33rd sheriff of Los Angeles County, California.



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