

The Norwalk Patriot

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County budget proposal criticized sheriff's allocations

■ Critics say funds should be diverted away from the probation and sheriff's department and redirected towards education.

By City News Service

NORWALK — The public got its first chance Wednesday to weigh in on the county's \$43 billion 2023-24 budget proposal, with some speakers voicing frustration at funding amounts being allocated for incarceration and the probation and sheriff's departments.

Those who spoke out against the agencies generally asked that the funding be diverted instead to education and recreation programs.

Several speakers referenced this week's overdose death of a detainee at the Barry Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar.

One speaker asked that Probation Department officials look at their detainees "as though they were their own children."

Despite calls from multiple speakers for a reduction in the sheriff's department budget, Sheriff Robert Luna appeared before the board and asked for additional funds. He asked for money to fund two more captain positions, citing a need for more senior officers to complete a management overhaul of the agency.

"I can't believe that we have the biggest jail in the nation and it doesn't even have a management system," Luna said.

He also spoke of 30-year-old computer systems running obsolete software, paper-based bookkeeping and other technological deficiencies at the department. But he said his primary immediate goal at this time is to meet the conditions of various legal settlements and consent decrees that have impacted the department and its jails "in cases dating back to 1975."

The county's overall \$43 billion budget proposal represents a \$1.6 billion shrinkage from last year's spending package.

The Board of Supervisors special meeting Wednesday was another step in the drawn-out process of budget compilation, which ends Oct. 3.

The largest chunk of the proposal, 33%, is geared toward Health and Public Works Sanitation at \$14.1 billion. Public Assistance represents 26%, or \$11.1 billion of the budget, followed by Public Protection at 24%, or \$10.5 billion, including the Sheriff's Department; Fire Department; District Attorney; Public Defender; Probation; Justice, Care and Opportunities Department; Office of Diversion and Reentry; Medical Examiner; and Animal Care and Control.

General Government, which is 11% of the total at \$5 billion, includes the Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Board of Supervisors, County Counsel, Chief Executive Office, Economic Opportunity, Treasurer-Tax Collector and more. Recreation and Cultural spending is 0.7% of the total budget, or \$1 billion.

The budget also includes cautionary language about possible further major expenditures in the near future, particularly up to \$3 billion in settlements for alleged abuses of youth in county custody in the past. According to county officials, there may be as many as 3,000 such cases.

"Early information estimates that the county's financial exposure ranges from \$1.6 billion to more than \$3 billion from more than 3,000 claims alleging childhood sexual assault at various county facilities," CEO Fesia Davenport wrote to the board when she released her proposed budget last month.

The spending plan includes investments in mental health services, homelessness programs and establishment of an Office of Constitutional Policing within the sheriff's department. It also realizes the goal set by voter passage of Measure J in 2020 -- mandating that at least 10% of the county's locally generated "unrestricted revenues" be dedicated to community service programs and alternatives to incarceration.



L.A. County board chair Janice Hahn, top. The county is under pressure to reduce its financial commitments to the probation and sheriff's department. Sheriff Robert Luna, below, is seeking an increase in funding.

Davenport said the budget proposal dedicates \$288.3 million to such programs, along with nearly \$198 million more that will roll over from the current fiscal year, putting the 2023-24 total at about \$486 million.

Specific recommendations for the use of those funds are expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors this spring, and will be added to the final budget document, according to Davenport. The measures are part of the county's "Care First and Community Investment" effort to overhaul its criminal justice system.

The spending proposal includes \$6.6 million and the addition of 24 non-sworn positions to establish an Office of Constitutional Policing in the sheriff's department, to "oversee and monitor consent decrees, deputy gang issues, audit and investigations, compliance, risk management and policy development."

It also includes nearly \$50



million in ongoing funding for improved conditions and mental health services in the jails to meet terms of a settlement with federal prosecutors.

"The recommended budget -- the first step in the county's multi-phase budget process -- was developed against a backdrop of growing fiscal uncertainty,

including a looming state budget deficit, a significant slowdown in local real estate transactions, and an unsettled economic environment in which recession remains a very real possibility," Davenport wrote in her budget-transmittal letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Downey cracks down on catalytic converter thefts

DOWNEY — Downey City Council approved an ordinance on Tuesday barring the possession of a detached catalytic converter without proof of ownership.

Under the new directive, a person in possession of a catalytic converter that has been removed from a car would need to provide some sort of verifiable proof of ownership. This includes a license plate and VIN of the originating vehicle, contact information for the vehicle owner, a bill of sale from a core recycler or vehicle owner, and contact information for the current owner.

According to a report given by City Prosecutor James Eckert, catalytic converter theft has continued to rise, due in large part to the combination of the precious metals held inside which can be sold for upwards of \$1000, the ease that they can be taken, and the extreme difficulty in prosecution.

The city saw 142 reported catalytic converter thefts in 2020, then 340 in 2021 and 2022.

Alex Dominguez, staff writer

Homeless outreach workers often underpaid, study finds



LOS ANGELES — Workers employed by nonprofit homeless services agencies in Los Angeles County often do not earn a living wage, creating stress for the workers and making it difficult to retain staff, according to a report released Wednesday by the Santa Monica-based RAND Corporation.

According to the report, salaries are "particularly low" for the most frontline workers who are on the streets reaching out to the homeless, creating health concerns and housing insecurity for workers already facing challenging working conditions.

"From the worker perspective, earning such low wages has material consequences, including stress and housing insecurity -- they may worry about becoming unhoused themselves," said Lisa Abraham, the study's lead author and an associate economist at RAND, said in a statement. "These challenges make it hard for a worker to develop a career when they themselves may be struggling to make ends meet."

The study concluded that increasing salaries for homeless response workers could improve the quality of their work by boosting morale, easing stress and reducing turnover.

According to RAND, more than 200 nonprofit organizations in the county conduct homeless response efforts, with roughly 8,000 people working in the sector.

The study's authors estimated that most frontline workers and even some of in management positions don't earn a living wage. According to the report, frontline workers earn roughly \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually, while supervisors and managers may earn more.

Researchers calculated that a worker would need to earn a minimum annual salary of \$64,000 in Los Angeles County to afford a one-bedroom residence, with that amount rising to \$82,000 for someone needing a two-bedroom unit or \$108,000 for a three-bedroom unit.

The report noted the diversity of the organizations working in the homeless response field, with some exclusively focused on homeless services, while others address issues such as child and family services, health care and workforce skills development.

Despite the 2017 approval of the Measure H local sales tax hike to fund homelessness programs, concerns have persisted about working conditions and high turnover in the sector, according to RAND.

Nonprofit leaders told RAND researchers they had limited authority over setting wages, because salaries are largely dependent on government funding.

"Organizations could work together to publicly advocate for better worker pay and learn from others regarding new resources and supports to aid workers," Sarah Hunter, co-author of the study and a senior behavioral scientist at RAND, said in a statement. "Improving pay for workers in the homeless services sector has the potential to improve productivity, morale and retention -- all of which could improve client care and continuity of care."

City News Service

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 76°

Saturday 80°

Sunday 79°

ON THIS DAY

1780: During the American Revolution, Major General Benjamin Lincoln of the Continental Army was forced to surrender with 7,000 troops at Charleston, South Carolina.

1820: Florence Nightingale, who founded trained nursing as a profession for women, was born in Florence, Italy; International Nurses Day is celebrated on her birthday.

1846: The ill-fated Donner party left Independence, Missouri, for California; months later the group became trapped in the Sierra Nevada and some members reportedly resorted to cannibalism when the food ran out.

1932: Ten weeks after his abduction, Charles Jr., the infant son of Charles Lindbergh, was found dead near Hopewell, New Jersey, just a few miles from the Lindberghs' home.

1937: King George VI of the United Kingdom was crowned following the abdication of Edward VIII.

1960: Elvis Presley appeared on a Frank Sinatra television special, singing Sinatra's hit "Witchcraft" while Sinatra sang "Love Me Tender."

1972: The Rolling Stones released "Exile on Main Street," a double album that is considered one of their defining works.

1982: During a procession outside the shrine of the Virgin Mary in Fátima, Portugal, security guards overpowered Juan María Fernández y Krohn before he could attack Pope John Paul II with a bayonet.

1994: "Pulp Fiction", directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring John Travolta, Uma Thurman and Samuel L. Jackson, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.



2002: Former President Jimmy Carter arrived in Cuba for a five-day visit with Fidel Castro, becoming the first President of the United States, in or out of office, to visit the island since the Cuban Revolution.

2008: A massive earthquake struck Sichuan province in China, causing great destruction and killing some 90,000 people.

2008: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducts the largest-ever raid of a workplace in Postville, Iowa, arresting nearly 400 immigrants for identity theft and document fraud.

Birthdays

"Mighty Ducks" star **Emilio Estevez** (61), skateboarder **Tony Hawk** (55), "Living Single" actress **Kim Fields** (54), "American Pie" star **Jason Biggs** (45), actor **Rami Malek** (42), and actress and singer **Clare Bowen** (39).

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

During the pandemic, I felt as if hugs were a thing of the past. Ironically, hugs may have been what we needed the most during that difficult time.

Isolation and lack of human connection made quarantining so difficult, for so many. The longing for human touch and connection is a basic human need, and there's strong evidence that hugs don't just make us feel good. Researchers have found that demonstrating warmth and affection can be good for our physical health, as well.



What happens when we are hugged? A feeling of calmness and relaxation is a result of the release of oxytocin. Oxytocin functions like a neurotransmitter in the brain. It can regulate our emotional responses and pro-social behaviors, including trust, empathy, positive memories, processing of bonding cues, and positive communication.

Oxytocin can induce anti-stress-like effects, including the reduction of blood pressure, pulse, and cortisol levels. It increases pain thresholds, acts as a tranquilizer, and stimulates various types of positive social interactions. It promotes growth and healing. (The neurotransmitters oxytocin, serotonin, and dopamine have been referred to as the "happy hormones.") Oxytocin also carries a protective effect on the immune system, helping to keep us healthy.

Fortunately, we can raise our oxytocin levels quite easily, through making social connections and bonds. Try giving a hug, getting a massage, listening to music, or even petting your dog or cat. Note that there are no foods or medications known to increase our oxytocin levels.

Believe it or not, studies have actually been done on the optimum number of hugs per day. While that number may be in the range of two to four, my own scientific guess is: the more, the better. Sadly, so many of us are touch-deprived, living lives in solitude, or working long hours.

I would guess that, given these neurochemical effects, that there may be yet more benefits. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to locate studies connecting hugging to heart disease, cancer, and such. You can imagine how difficult it would be to quantify this in a rigorously controlled study.

Nonetheless, I am recommending hugs whenever possible (with permission, of course). If a fellow human is not available, try hugging a pet or even a body pillow. I suggest that we all start giving and asking for more.

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

Downey partners with Apple to expand access to technology

Apple is changing the way technology is used in classrooms, and Downey Unified is leading the way.

DOWNEY — Something transformative is happening in the Downey Unified School District.

"There's a buzz," says Allison Box, principal at Lewis Elementary School. "It's exciting — there's never a boring day here, and that's because our kids are immersed in learning environments that are truly dynamic."

Across the district, students are using Apple technology to create projects as varied as podcasts with GarageBand, animations with Keynote, and movies with Clips — and these changes are reshaping classrooms.

At the center of this transformation is a group of educators who have applied their knowledge from the Apple Learning Coach program to rethink how teachers and students approach their studies.

Apple Learning Coach is a free professional learning program that trains instructional coaches, digital learning specialists, and other coaching educators to help teachers effectively use Apple technology in the classroom.

More than 1,900 educators have already completed the program in the United States, and the next cohort is now accepting applications through May 30.



Jennifer Robbins has been working in Downey for 27 years and is the district's director of elementary education as well as an Apple Learning Coach. (Photo courtesy Apple)

Additionally, Apple Learning Coach is expanding to 12 more countries, in addition to the United States, by the end of the year.

Downey Unified is home to 22,000 students from transitional kindergarten through grade 12 across 22 schools, including eight Apple Distinguished Schools. More than 10 years ago, the district began using iPod touch to aid with reading fluency for English language learners.

Fast forward to today, and all elementary schools provide an iPad to every student and, since the pandemic, middle schools are also 1:1 with iPad.

Downey follows the coherence model, where all schools have the same access to technology, education, tools, and services. For example, each school has an Innovation Lab with coding, robotics, and green screen film projects, and Student Tech Squads provide leadership opportunities where older students mentor younger students and facilitate districtwide creativity and innovation competitions.

In addition, a cornerstone at Downey is that all educators are provided professional learning opportunities — and since it launched in 2021, this includes Apple Learning Coach. To date, Downey has 15 certified Apple Learning

Coaches, with an additional five educators currently enrolled in the program.

Through a mix of self-paced lessons and virtual workshops with Apple Professional Learning Specialists, each Apple Learning Coach gains a deeper understanding of how to support teachers in the classroom as they integrate technology into learning. Upon completing the program, each Apple Learning Coach comes away with an actionable coaching portfolio they can begin using immediately.

Marnie Luevano was certified as an Apple Learning Coach last year. Her role as an instructional technology coach at Downey Unified brings her into the district's elementary schools, where she helps teachers reimagine how they use Apple technology to supercharge lessons.

"We work with teachers to identify new ways their students can demonstrate what they've learned beyond the use of a worksheet or simply writing an essay," says Luevano. "And then the kids are taking off with it — they're so excited. Every time we visit the schools, the kids can't wait to tell us about the podcast they're finishing or show us the cover they designed for one of their projects."

"They're not just trying to get the assignment done — they're really enjoying the process."

This year, as a result of the Apple Learning Coach program, the district's coaches are deepening their use of Apple's Everyone Can Create resources.

Every week, a new Everyone Can Create project is featured and distributed to educators, and the district technology team has created a digital fluency deck to give its teachers technology goals for students based on grade level.

For example, by the end of first grade, students will be able to record video using the camera on iPad, and by the end of second grade, they will be able to build on that skill to combine video with photos and audio in iMovie.

Jennifer Robbins has been working in Downey for 27 years and is the district's director of elementary education, as well as an Apple Learning Coach. She hasn't just seen a change in the students as their access to technology has increased — she's also watched her fellow educators learn and grow.

"Apple Learning Coach gave us the tools to be able to meet educators where they are, no matter the level of their technology knowledge," says Robbins. "So we want to give voice and choice to our kids, but we want the same for our teachers. We work to customize the learning for them too."

The results for Downey have been measurable. In an era of declining enrollment across California public schools, Downey has seen growth in its student population. Principal Box, who is also an Apple Learning Coach, credits the program with helping to transform schools in the district, including her own.

"Apple has truly been a game changer in education, both for our teachers and our students," says Box. "In applying the Apple Learning Coach model, we're achieving a higher level of engagement, and it's opening up so many possibilities — we're thinking about what an augmented reality program or app design studio might look like for our school."

"It's helping us create a culture that embraces change and innovation, and prepares our students for the future, and I'm very excited about what's next."



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US workers deserve a break. It's time for a 32-hour work week.

By **Bernie Sanders**

Bernie Sanders is a U.S. senator from Vermont.

In 1938, as a result of a massive grassroots effort by the trade union movement, the Fair Labor Standards Act was enacted by Congress to reduce the work week to 40 hours. Back then, the American people were sick and tired of working 80, 90, 100 hours a week with very little time for rest, relaxation or quality time with their families. They demanded change and they won a huge victory. That's the good news.

The bad news is that despite an explosion in technology, major increases in worker productivity, and transformational changes in the workplace and American society, the Fair Labor Standards Act has not been reformed in 80 years. The result: millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages, with the average worker making nearly \$50 a week less than he or she did 50 years ago, after adjusting for inflation. Further, family life is suffering, as parents don't have adequate time for their kids, life expectancy for working people is in decline, and increased stress is a major factor in the mental health crisis we are now experiencing.

Compared with other countries, our workplace record is not good. In 2021, American employees worked 184 more hours than Japanese workers, 294 more hours than British workers, and 442 more hours than German workers. Unbelievably, in 2023 there are millions of Americans who work at jobs with no vacation time.

It's time to reduce the work week to 32 hours with no loss in pay. It's time to reduce the stress level in our country and allow Americans to enjoy a better quality of life. It's time to make sure that working people benefit from rapidly increasing technology, not just large corporations that are already doing phenomenally well.

Think about all of the extraordinary changes that have taken

place in the workplace over the past several decades. When I was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont, in 1981, there were no computers in city hall. There were no chatboxes, no printers, no emails, no calculators, no cellphones, no conference calling or Zoom.

In factories and warehouses, robots and sophisticated machinery did not exist or were only used in primitive forms.

In grocery stores and shops of all kinds, there were no checkout counters that utilized bar codes.

As a result of the extraordinary technological transformation that we have seen in recent years, American workers are now 480% more productive than they were in the 1940s.

In addition, there are far more workers today. In the 1940s, less than 65% of Americans between 25 and 54 were in the workforce. Today, with most families requiring two breadwinners to pay the bills, that number is over 83%.

Yet despite all of these incredible gains in productivity, over 40% of US employees now work more than 45 hours per week; 12% work more than 60 hours a week; and the average worker now works 43 hours per week. Many are on their computers or answering emails seven days a week.

Moving to a 32-hour work week with no loss of pay is not a radical idea. In fact, movement in that direction is already taking place in other developed countries. France, the seventh-largest economy in the world, has a 35-hour work week and is considering reducing it to 32. The work week in Norway and Denmark is about 37 hours.

Recently, the United Kingdom conducted a four-day pilot program of 3,000 workers at over 60 companies. Not surprisingly, it showed that happy workers were more productive. The pilot was so successful that 92% of the companies that participated decided to maintain a four-day

week, because of the benefits to both employers and employees.

Another pilot of nearly 1,000 workers at 33 companies in seven countries found that revenue increased by more than 37% in the companies that participated and 97% of workers were happy with the four-day workweek.

Studies have shown that despite working fewer hours, workers are either more, or just as, productive during a four-day work week. One study found that worker productivity increased 55% after companies implemented a four-day week. A trial of four-day work weeks for public-sector workers in Iceland found that productivity remained the same or improved across the majority of workplaces. In 2019, Microsoft tested a four-day work week in Japan and reported a 40% increase in productivity.

In addition, 57% of workers in companies that have moved to a four-day work week have indicated that they are less likely to quit their jobs.

Moreover, at a time when so many of our people are struggling with their mental health, 71% of workers in companies that have moved to a four-day work week report feeling less burnout, 39% reported feeling less stress and 46% reported feeling less fatigued.

As much as technology and worker productivity has exploded in recent years, there is no debate that new breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and robotics will only accelerate the transformation of our economy. That transformation should benefit all, not just the few. It should create more time for friends and family, more time for rest and relaxation, more time for all of us to develop our human potential.

Eighty-three years after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a 40-hour work week into law, it's time for us to move to a 32-hour work week at no loss of pay.

Clarence Thomas's enablers

By **Joe Conason**

Joe Conason wrote a column for the New York Observer from 1992 to 2011. His most recent book, "Big Lies: The Right-Wing Propaganda Machine and How It Distorts the Truth" was a New York Times bestseller.

Every fresh revelation of an ethical lapse by Clarence Thomas raises the question to which Republican leaders apparently have no answer: Just how much crooked behavior by a conservative Supreme Court justice will they justify?

So far, they seem utterly untroubled by Thomas' acceptance from a right-wing billionaire of lavish vacations, jet travel, the lucrative purchase of his mother's house and the full cost of his grandnephew's very expensive private school tuition — or by his repeated and willful failure to disclose these dubious "gifts."

Instead of confronting the scandal, Republicans pretend to be offended by the very notion that Thomas should be held to account for his misconduct. Sen. Mike Lee of Utah suggests that "sanctimonious" inquiries concerning the justice's deranged ethics are somehow comparable to the Ku Klux Klan's racist terrorism.

Such fake indignation may become hard to sustain, however, now that we know conservative lobbyist Leonard Leo — the prominent right-wing operative whose hand lies behind the creation of the current Supreme Court — has laundered tens of thousands of dollars into the personal bank account of Thomas through his far-right activist spouse.

Those secret payments, arranged through a nonprofit group, should prompt a thorough investigation as well as spur more

sweeping Senate hearings on the grift surrounding the high court. The unscrupulous scheme recalls a quip attributed to the late New York Gov. Al Smith, who pointed to a student while visiting a law library and said, "There is a young man learning how to call a bribe a fee."

According to The Washington Post, Leonard Leo directed pollster Kellyanne Conway in January 2012 to send "another \$25,000" to Ginni Thomas — a nice fat check that apparently was only one in a series totaling as much as \$100,000. At the time, Conway's firm, the Polling Company, worked for the Judicial Education Project, a nonprofit ostensibly run by its officers of record but in fact controlled by Leo. He instructed the obedient Conway to "give" the money to Thomas and keep the truth out of any paperwork: "No mention of Ginni, of course."

Of course! Clearly Conway understood what Leo meant, because she sent a bill for \$25,000 to the Judicial Education Project that very day, complete with a fabricated purpose: "Supplement for Constitution Polling and Opinion Consulting." Documents examined by Post reporters show that between June 2011 and January 2012, the Polling Company sent \$80,000 to Ginni Thomas through her firm, Liberty Consultants, and anticipated sending an additional \$20,000 before the year's end. Nobody has seen any evidence that Thomas did any actual work for that huge sum.

Within that same time frame, the Judicial Education Project filed a brief to the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, the landmark case that prompted Thomas and his right-wing colleagues to eviscerate the Voting Rights Act — exactly as Leo urged them to do. That Thomas could have been expected to

endorse just such a betrayal of Black voters in no way dispels the stink. In a statement to the Post, Leo claimed with characteristic insolence and impunity that he was merely trying to protect the "privacy" of the Thomases from "malicious and gossipy" people.

No doubt anybody who violates federal laws and ethical norms prefers privacy to public exposure. That might well apply with extra force to Leo, whose self-dealing chicanery in siphoning off millions in nonprofit funds for his personal profit has lately come under scrutiny. But what this looks like is a criminal scheme with possible elements of tax fraud, public corruption, money laundering and conspiracy.

The fact that Leo, Thomas and Conway might escape prosecution under the federal statute of limitations does not excuse authorities from investigating this shameful affair. Not only should the cabal tainting the high court be required to testify under oath about the precise details of their financial relationship, but the records of Leo's enormous influence-peddling network should be subpoenaed to determine whether he and his organizations have broken tax and lobbying laws.

Looking beyond this particular gang of scoundrels, Congress must now establish strict ethical guidelines for the Supreme Court, which Chief Justice John Roberts and his colleagues have so disgracefully resisted. If no cleansing remedy is applied, the public will come to see that behind the court's rulings overturning long-established American rights lies an indelible stain of corruption.

Homelessness is not a valid lifestyle choice

By **Betsy McCaughey**

Betsy McCaughey is a former lieutenant governor of New York and chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths.

Americans must not surrender to the new normal of squalor and urban chaos — of tent encampments, public defecation, panhandling and shouting schizophrenics.

In the aftermath of Jordan Neely's tragic death on a New York subway, advocates for the homeless and most Democratic politicians are demanding unfettered freedom for the homeless to live on the streets, even with mental illness.

Advocates are taking over subway stations and dominating the mainstream media with their demands. Too little is being said about the needs of the quiet majority.

People who go to a job every day or operate a business or take their kids to school need safe sidewalks and public transportation.

Yet Democrats in the Oregon state legislature are pushing a bill to guarantee the homeless the right to sue for \$1,000 if they are harassed or removed from a public space.

Democratic lawmakers in California recently defeated a ban on homeless encampments within 500 feet of a school, playground or youth center. So, it's OK for kindergartners to have to step over syringes and navigate buckets of urine on their way into school?

Even after Michelle Go was pushed to sudden death off a Times Square subway platform by a mentally ill homeless person in 2022, the New York Civil Liberties Union continues to say, "we must not lock people with mental health issues away in

hospitals" and "allow police officers to simply sweep homeless people out of the subways so they are kept out of sight."

New York Times opinion columnist Jamelle Bouie railed this week that "we are living through a vicious campaign of demonization and hostility toward the homeless" with "prominent voices" advocating "sweeping homeless people from the streets like trash." Bouie is wrong. The opposite is true. The loudest voices are demanding "rights" for the homeless, but not for the rest of us.

The National Coalition for the Homeless considers local laws against panhandling and sidewalk camping as violations of the constitutional rights of the unhoused.

What about rights for Pedro Morales, an Austin, Texas, small-business owner? A homeless encampment has popped up in the alley next to the building he owns. "I have to clean up somebody else's mess," he explains.

Same is true of Edy Perez, who owns an auto repair business in Los Angeles. The homeless have set up a sprawl of tents nearby. Once customers see that, they never come back, he complains.

Urban homelessness emerged as a problem in the 1980s, in part because civil libertarians demanded that mental hospitals be closed. The number of patients living in state hospitals across the nation plunged from 535,000 in 1960 to 137,000 by 1980. The mentally ill wound up on the streets.

The problem worsened when the Obama administration and homeless advocates won a lawsuit to prevent Boise, Idaho, from outlawing camping on sidewalks and public parks. Obama's Justice Department deemed homelessness a legally protected

lifestyle choice. Ridiculous.

A person who "chooses" street living, instead of shelter or hospitalization, is exposed to hypothermia, disease and crime. On average, a homeless person survives only to age 48, losing 30 years of a normal lifespan. It's worse for women.

Allowing that choice is neither compassionate to the homeless nor fair to the rest of society.

Kudos to a handful of Democratic politicians who are bucking their party to advocate for involuntarily hospitalizing the mentally ill homeless.

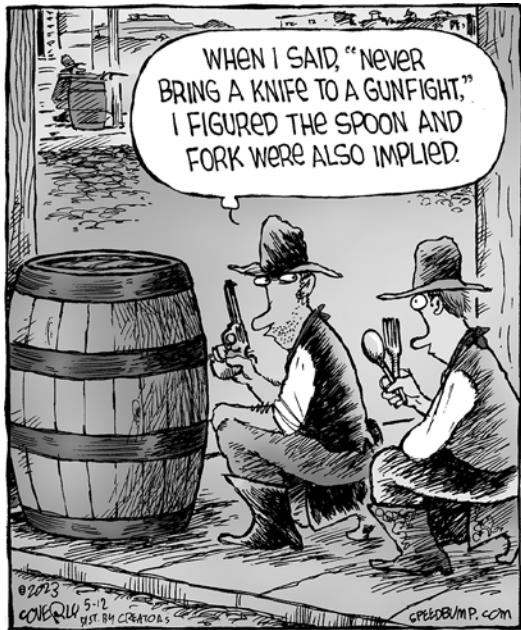
In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams is employing teams of EMS workers and health professionals to get the mentally ill homeless off the streets and subways and into hospitals. Predictably, the mainstream press are slamming Adams' policy for violating the "civil rights" of the homeless.

In Portland, Oregon, Democratic Mayor Ted Wheeler is pushing to loosen the state's involuntary commitment law, making it easier to hospitalize the homeless against their will.

Neely's death is igniting a nationwide debate over homelessness — the only good to come out of the tragedy. If he had been hospitalized for mental illnesses, maybe he'd be alive today.

Seize this moment to speak up and denounce the delusional argument that street living is a "right." It dooms the homeless to short, brutal lives, and the rest of us to filth, crime and chaos.

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

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

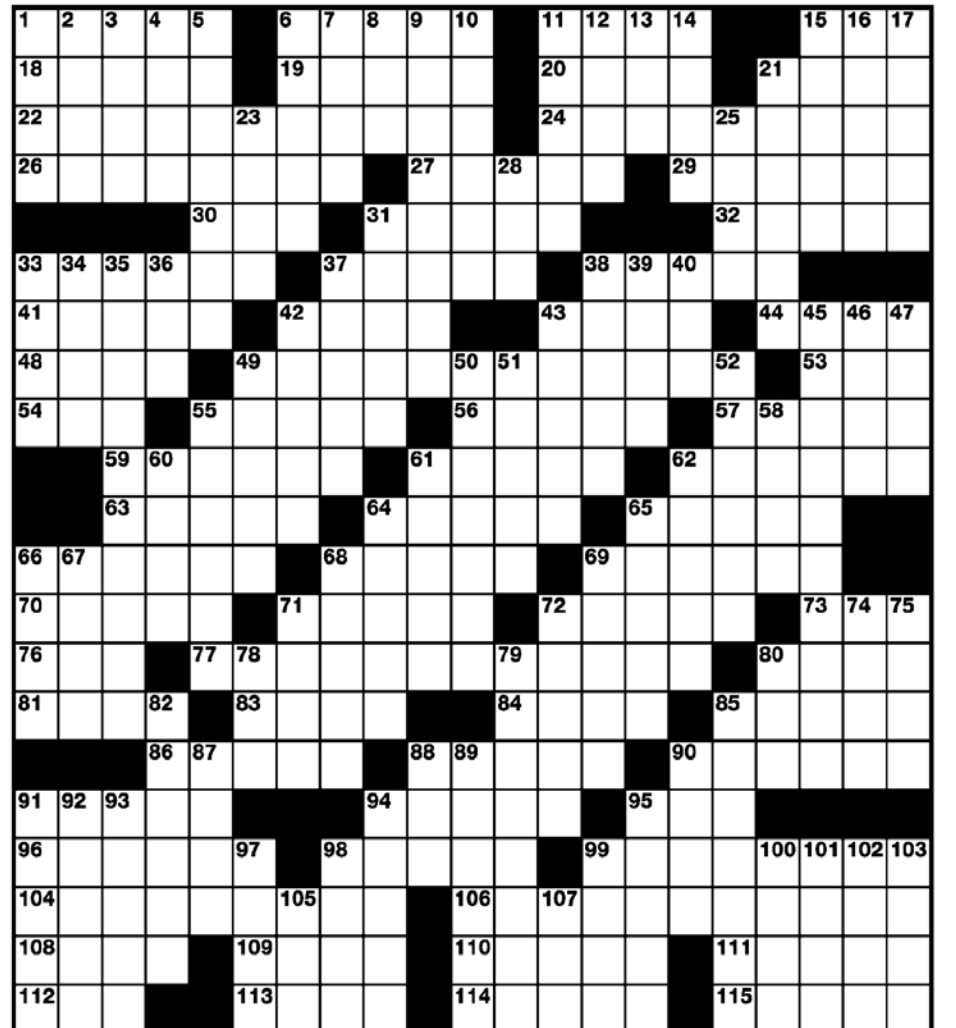
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
RUNNING STARTS: For you to finish
by Fred Piscop

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

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cried like a crow
 - 6 Juilliard major
 - 11 Natural bandage
 - 15 Transcript no.
 - 18 Wedding party member
 - 19 Pungent plant
 - 20 Give birth to
 - 21 Two-purpose
 - 22 Run __ (withstand an ordeal)
 - 24 Run __ (encounter difficulty with)
 - 26 Lets loose
 - 27 Steak style
 - 29 Pixie
 - 30 Even score
 - 31 Permissible
 - 32 Flying Pan
 - 33 Winter warmers
 - 37 Bishop's hat
 - 38 Wholesale quantity
 - 41 One of Donald Duck's nephews
 - 42 Number-picking game
 - 43 Spoiled kid
 - 44 Fruit-filled pastry
 - 48 Utah ski resort
 - 49 Run __ (help someone with a problem)
 - 53 Excessively
 - 54 Onetime Chinese leader
 - 55 Scornful look
 - 56 Vine-covered
 - 57 Overly loud
 - 59 Like a Biblical calf
 - 61 Deceptive move
 - 62 SUV ancestors
 - 63 Fathered on a farm
 - 64 Come-from-behind charge
 - 65 Australian port
 - 66 Horoscopic adjective
 - 68 Fuses with a blowtorch
 - 69 Most paltry
 - 70 Piece of paper
 - 71 Ruin, with "up"
 - 72 Italian white wine
 - 73 Nautical pronoun
 - 76 Hyundai competitor
 - 77 Run __ (be feverish)
 - 80 Gambler's IOU
 - 81 Costco rival
 - 83 A long, long time
 - 84 Anchovy holders
 - 85 Leaves the dock
 - 86 Computer printer pioneer
 - 88 Sectioned, as windows
 - 90 Without difficulty
 - 91 Glassy look
 - 94 Mexican money
 - 95 Monkey's cousin
 - 96 Halt the progress of
 - 98 Visual sense
 - 99 Attributed
 - 104 Run __ (disagree with)
 - 106 Run __ (be markedly better than)
 - 108 Basketball great Bryant
 - 109 In __ of (rather than)
 - 110 Love, in Italy
 - 111 Skylit courtyards
 - 112 Place for a mud bath leader
 - 113 Storm systems
 - 114 Western elevations
 - 115 Beachlike
- DOWN**
- 1 Hairstyles
 - 2 Tennis great Arthur
 - 3 Make sharper
 - 4 Brain tests, in brief
 - 5 Conscripted soldier
 - 6 Charity receiver
 - 7 First chip thrown in
 - 8 Zilch
 - 9 One sharing the polishing
 - 10 Rope in
 - 11 Turn aside
 - 12 Sort of peninsula
 - 13 Director DuVernay
 - 14 Beseches
 - 15 Step on the gas
 - 16 Attach to a scrapbook
 - 17 Amend
 - 21 Most urgent
 - 23 Exodus novelist
 - 25 Smartwatch downloads
 - 28 Telecast
 - 31 Cruise vessel
 - 33 Stylishly flashy, for short
 - 34 Bugs Bunny's girlfriend
 - 35 Run __ (get weary)
 - 36 By way of
 - 37 Rationed (out)
 - 38 Bid welcome to
 - 39 South African money
 - 40 Nonprescription: Abbr.
 - 42 Weak- (timid)
 - 43 Sea, colloquially
 - 45 Run __ (be strict in managing)
 - 46 Stood up
 - 47 Tinkers (with)
 - 49 Spy's gathering, informally
 - 50 Shortstop, for instance
 - 51 Wrongdoings
 - 52 Access granted
 - 55 Layers of rock
 - 58 Feed for horses
 - 60 Suffix for gazillion
 - 61 Insincere
 - 62 Bring out dinner
 - 64 Signs for another stint
 - 65 Still life fruits
 - 66 Poses questions
 - 67 Branch of Islam
 - 68 All hosts of The View
 - 69 Place for a pitcher
 - 71 Big name in bricks
 - 72 Farm pens
 - 74 Larger version of a 69 Down
 - 75 Handicrafts website
 - 78 USC aides
 - 79 Never
 - 80 Photo shooter
 - 82 Tranquil
 - 85 Rugged mountains
 - 87 Steady annoyance
 - 88 Place to hang a hat
 - 89 Hindu retreat
 - 90 Pet protection org.
 - 91 Bags for potatoes
 - 92 Group of scouts
 - 93 Dutch Caribbean isle
 - 94 Very devout
 - 95 Braying beasts
 - 97 Expose a secret
 - 98 Ladled-out dinner
 - 99 Indian tourist mecca
 - 100 Frat letter
 - 101 Really overcook
 - 102 Oklahoma city
 - 103 When "INVASION" was a headline
 - 105 __ de Janeiro
 - 107 Refusals

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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

Norwalk, La Mirada, Santa Fe each headed to CIF quarterfinals

■ **CIF BASEBALL, SOFTBALL ROUNDUP:** La Mirada, St. Paul, Norwalk and John Glenn lose in CIF second round

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK — After the CIF-Southern Section second round for both baseball and softball have concluded, just three local teams are alive.

Norwalk and La Mirada baseball teams won and are headed to Friday's (May 12) quarterfinals, along with the lone softball team, Santa Fe Chiefs, also advancing to Friday's quarterfinals.

La Mirada had a come-from-behind, 3-2, win over Torrance in a Division 1 second-round game, while Norwalk (23-4) defeated Carpinteria, 11-7, in DVI in CIF baseball action. The Lancers opened the playoffs with a 9-3 win over Arroyo.

Norwalk will host Hesperia Christian (16-2) Friday.

In softball, Santa Fe (17-12-1) remains the only area team still alive, with a 6-2 second-round win over Dos Pueblos. Santa Fe took a 2-0 lead in the second inning. After Dos Pueblos cut the lead in half with a run in the top of the third inning, the Chiefs added four more in the fourth to lead, 6-1.

They will travel to Hillcrest (Riverside) Friday for a quarterfinal game. The Chiefs defeated Elsinore, 11-4, in the opening round.

St. Paul and Glenn ended their seasons Tuesday in the second round of the playoffs.

St. Paul opened the playoffs

with an 8-4 win over Fountain Valley in D3 on Friday (May 5), but fell in the second round to Los Altos, 7-3. Glenn (16-4-1) won its first-round D6 game, 11-1, over Moreno Valley, but lost to St. Joseph (Lakewood), 9-1.

Norwalk, after scoring 83 runs in three shutouts in its last three league games, was shutout, 1-0 in the first round by Culver City. Also falling in the opening round was La Mirada (18-8), 6-5, to Pacifica.

La Mirada Baseball wins 3-2 over Torrance.

In the featured baseball game, for the second game in a row, La Mirada came from behind to defeat visiting Torrance, 3-2, at John Glenn High School in a Division 1 game. The Matadores trailed 2-0 in a first-round game and defeated Ayala, 4-3.

"That's two gamers in a row that we went down 2-0 and answered back that next inning," La Mirada Baseball coach Jimmy Zurn said. "They represent La Mirada proud and I'm just happy we're still playing."

"First off, you don't see blowouts in the division one playoffs. To have the ability with a young team with a good senior group on top of that to win two, one-run games....good teams win one-run games."

La Mirada (22-7) will travel to Santa Margarita (24-6), an 8-0 winner over Millikan, for a quarterfinal game Friday.

With the loss, Torrance ended its season at 23-4. The Tartars came into the game having won 21 of their last 22 games.

Torrance took the early lead with two unearned runs in



La Mirada pitcher Walker Calvo (27) makes a pitch against Torrance in the second round of CIF playoffs at John Glenn High School on Tuesday. La Mirada defeated Torrance, 3-2. (Photo by Keith Durlfing)

the second inning after junior designated hitter Anthony Macias walked, followed by a throwing error by junior pitcher Walker Calvo for the first run. That was followed by another fielding error as La Mirada sophomore center fielder Travis Friend dropped the ball that allowed Torrance right fielder Matt Chavez to advance to second and score junior second baseman Slater Nunez for the 2-0 lead.

La Mirada came right back with two runs to tie the game, 2-2.

After seniors Benjamin Kim and Jonah Rouwenhorst walked, Friend redeemed himself with a big ground rule double to center, scoring Kim. Freshman left fielder Noah Rodriguez grounded out to first sending Rouwenhorst in with the second run.

"I knew once I dropped that, I got to come back for my team and knew I had to come back with something big to get my team going," Friend said.

Two innings later, a miscue cost the Tartars, as Friend reached on an infield error, scoring Rouwenhorst for the 3-2 lead.

Calvo, who mishandled the ball near the mound and then threw it away in the second, settled down and almost shut down Torrance the rest of the way.

"I trust my defense wholeheartedly, and after I kicked that bunt (second inning error) and at that point, honestly, it was on me," Calvo said. "I just needed to regroup, refocus, and throw strikes."

"This (win) is amazing, and



La Mirada's Benjamin Kim (21) celebrates scoring as they play Torrance in the second round of CIF playoffs at John Glenn High School on Tuesday.

La Mirada defeated Torrance 3-2. (Photo by Keith Durlfing)

you couldn't ask for anything more."

Calvo settled down and retired 17 of the last 19 Torrance batters and struck out four to preserve the victory.

Also pitching a complete game in defeat was Torrance senior Nick Han (4 hits allowed). The senior struck out five, allowed two earned runs and retired 11 of the final 12 Matadors batters.

Senior second baseman Aidan Haller led La Mirada with two hits in the game.

"We need these young guys (freshman and sophomore starters) to make an impact and they've been doing the job to get

it done," said Haller, referring to the young La Mirada lineup. "(Zurn) makes you play for the name across your chest."

"I told Travis (Friend) to wipe it (error in enter in the second inning) and that he was going to come up big and do it with your bat and come back and he smoked it for a ground-rule double."

St. Paul wins opener

The Swordsmen opened the playoffs with the win over Fountain Valley with 14 hits.

Trailing 1-0 in the third inning, St. Paul scored four runs for the 4-1 lead and never trailed again.

Senior center fielder Gabby Gandara (4 for 4, 2 Rs) singled with one out and after a fly out, freshman pinch hitter Audrey Prado singled in Gandara.

"I was really excited to play this game," said Gandara, who is committed to Cal State Dominguez. "Our dugout is one of our best assets of the game. We don't quit until the game is over."

Senior right fielder Kate Williams singled to left and the ball was misplayed, sending two runners home for the 3-1 lead.

Gandara singled in Williams for the fourth run of the inning.

Fountain Valley added two runs in the sixth, to trail, 4-3, but the Swordsmen sealed the win with four more runs in the top of the seventh to lead, 8-3. Fountain Valley added one more run in the bottom half of the inning.

"Elisa Gulfin in the circle, pitched a (heck) of a game and went all seven innings," said St. Paul coach Charles Gandara, of the first-round win. "She gave up a home run early but settled in for a pretty good lineup."

Gulfin, a senior is headed to the University of Nebraska next year, said of her performance, "I gave up that home run and just had to bounce back and trust my team to take care of me and they did."

Swordsmen fall in second round

The season came to an unexpected ending with a loss to Los Altos Tuesday.

Three players led the Swordsmen with two hits each — Hannah Moreno (2 for 4, 2 RBIs, 2 Dbls.), Gandara (2 for 3, 2 Rs) and Abbey Duarte (2 for 3, Dbl.).

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