

# The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, July 21, 2023

Vol. 17 No. 25

14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Los Padrinos reopens with 274 incarcerated youth

## Norwalk to improve living conditions of One-Ways neighborhoods

By City News Service

**DOWNEY** — More than 100 juvenile detainees were successfully transferred out of the troubled Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar to the renovated Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey, completing a state-mandated transfer of all L.A. County pre-disposition detainees out of two facilities deemed unsuitable for housing, county officials said Wednesday.

The move of 106 pre-disposition youths -- those whose criminal cases have not yet been adjudicated -- out of Nidorf Hall was completed Tuesday, according to the county Probation Department. They joined roughly 170 youths who were transferred last week to Los Padrinos from Central Juvenile Hall in Lincoln Heights.

According to the county, a total of 274 youths are now housed at Los Padrinos.

The county had been facing a July 23 deadline set by the Board of State and Community Corrections to move all pre-disposition youths out of Nidorf and Central halls, both of which it determined to be unsuitable for housing youth detainees. The board cited a laundry list of ongoing violations of state standards at the facilities, including sanitary conditions of the housing units, detainees' access to school and other programs and staffing shortfalls.

Nidorf will continue to be home to a Security Youth Track Facility for post-disposition juvenile offenders. About 60 youth are being housed in that facility.

"We've gone from Mission Impossible to mission accomplished," Guillermo Viera Rosa, the county's interim probation chief, said in a statement. "The relocation of nearly 300 pre-disposition youth safely and in record time demonstrates what public servants across many LA County departments can do when everyone pulls together in the face of daunting odds."

Prior to the BSCC ruling ordering Nidorf and Central to be cleared out, the county Board of Supervisors on May 2 approved a plan to relocate all pre-disposition youths to Los Padrinos. Under that plan, Central Juvenile Hall will be used solely as an intake unit and a medical and diagnostic/assessment hub for youths, and only post-disposition Secure Youth Track Facility youths will be housed at Nidorf.

Construction and probation crews worked furiously over the previous two months to get Los Padrinos up to speed. Renovation work completed at Los Padrinos included new paint, new flooring, new furnishings, mattresses, fixtures, cameras, interior and exterior lighting upgrades, intercoms, plumbing and partitions for restroom privacy, according to the county.

Los Padrinos was originally opened in 1957. It includes 37 buildings, including 19 living units and nine dormitories, along with a kitchen, classrooms, recreation areas, library, infirmary, laundry, chapel, gym and pool.

Earlier this month, the BSCC officially notified the county that Los Padrinos had passed its pre-opening inspection, clearing it to house up to 317 pre-disposition youths. Probation officials said they plan to house no more than 275 to 300 youths at the 26-acre campus.



Amanda Moreno wanted to give back to the One-ways community and help others maintain safe living conditions. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

■ The One-Ways Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program aims to create safer living conditions.

By Vincent Medina Contributor

**NORWALK** - Amanda Moreno recalls growing up in the Norwalk one-ways with a working-class family that provided for everyone, and like their neighbors, they struggled to maintain their home adequately.

"There wasn't time for a lot of these families to focus on maintaining their home or ensuring it was safe and even healthy for the family to be living in," Moreno said. "A leaky roof is very common during the rain and it risks mold."

She began working for the city and expressed her desire to give back to the one-ways community to the deputy city manager. After becoming the Norwalk senior analyst, the deputy city manager asked Moreno to spearhead the Norwalk One-Ways

Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program.

Through a collaboration between Norwalk and the University of California Irvine Graduate Program in Urban Planning, the program aims to provide essential home improvements to community members and create healthier living conditions.

The city council approved the program in July 2022, after \$2 million from the American Rescue Plan Act was set aside for the project. However, the limited budget means the program may only service the first 60 applicants of the 85 eligible participants.

Once the first 60 applicants are serviced, the program will go through the applicant list on a first-come-first-serve basis, according to Moreno.

Genet Abera moved into the one-ways two years ago, where she takes care of her 73-year-old mother. She is one of the program recipients and expressed the repairs to her home were unattainable without

the rehabilitation program.

"When it was raining this year I noticed water was coming through the walls, and I was informed the roof was leaking," Abera said. "It was very expensive, and I would have struggled a lot to pay for it."

During the program workshops, applicants listed the repairs needed to their home in order of priority, and the contractors would make the repairs according to the list.

Melissa Hernandez listed her roof as the main priority to repair as well. She moved into the one-ways approximately two years ago with her fiancé and 57-year-old mother.

Her family had just spent \$15 thousand repairing their floors from termite damage when they were informed their roof would be sustainable for approximately two more years.

"The program came right on time because we were going to get the roof inspected and figure out how we would raise funds to get it replaced," Hernandez said. "I did look up an estimate

on Angi.com, and it's anywhere between \$10 and \$15 thousand."

As she is still working to pay off her \$64 thousand in student loan debt and earn her master's degree in public health from the University of Southern California, Hernandez said she could not afford to replace her roof.

While Abera and Hernandez were thankful for the program, they expressed their gratitude to Moreno for her leadership and empathy toward the community.

"Amanda has been instrumental in ensuring that everything is flowing, but also being a person that provides validation and reassurance to others," Hernandez said. "Somehow she perseveres and manages all this with a smile on her face and a positive attitude."

The projects are expected to start in August as the city has finished pre-qualifying multiple contractors, according to Norwalk communications and public affairs director Levy Sun.

## Former Bicycle Club manager alleges boss told him to go back to Lebanon

By City News Service

**BELL GARDENS** — A former Bicycle Casino manager has filed an age and national origin discrimination suit against the Bell Gardens poker club, alleging he was wrongfully terminated in 2022 because he was in his 60s and that a CEO once told him, "Go back to Lebanon."

Plaintiff George Rahme's Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit also alleges hostile work environment, retaliation, failure to prevent discrimination, harassment and retaliation, breach of contract and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Rahme seeks

unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

A Bicycle Club representative did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the suit brought July 10.

Rahme, 63, was hired as a manager in April 1985. Throughout Rahme's employment, the then-CEO made discriminatory and harassing comments about Rahme's preference for wearing a tie and button-up shirt, saying "You look like you just woke up," as well as the plaintiff's weight and bald head, the suit states.

The same CEO did not make similar remarks to younger workers, according to the suit.

The CEO also often told Rahme, "You should retire" and "You are getting old," "Go back to Lebanon" and "I will make you a bus driver and send you back to Lebanon," while comparing Arabs to camels and making fun of the plaintiff's accent, the suit states.

In 2021, a new CEO arrived and Rahme soon learned he did not like him, leaving the plaintiff "shocked" given Rahme's "exemplary work ethic during his decades-long employment," the suit states.

Rahme was pressured to resign in January 2022 by being offered severance pay, but he initially declined, the suit states. Rahme said two months later

he would consider taking the severance pay, but was told it would be at a reduced amount, the suit states.

In April 2022, the new CEO told Rahme during a meeting that the plaintiff was "not a good fit for the new team" being put together, so Rahme asked for a demotion to shift manager to try and save his job, according to the complaint. However, Rahme was terminated anyway without being given any severance pay, the suit states.

Rahme has lost past and future income and also suffered emotional distress due to his termination, according to the suit.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 91°

Saturday 90°

Sunday 92°

### ON THIS DAY

**1925:** The trial of high-school teacher John T. Scopes ended with his conviction in Tennessee; he had taught Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in violation of a state law.

**1925:** Driving a custom automobile powered by a jet engine, Malcolm Campbell became the first person to exceed 150 mph on land.

**1959:** Elijah Jerry "Pumpsie" Green became the first African-American to play for the Boston Red Sox, the last team to integrate.

**1960:** Sirimavo Bandaranaike became the world's first woman prime minister when she took office in Ceylon (later Sri Lanka).

**1967:** Albert John Luthuli, president of the African National Congress and the first African to be awarded a Nobel Prize for Peace, died after being struck by a train.

**1983:** The world's lowest recorded temperature, -128.6 °F, was measured at Vostok Station, Antarctica.

**1987:** Heavy metal band Guns N' Roses released the landmark album "Appetite for Destruction," which sold more than 17 million copies.



**2007:** "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final book in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, was released.

**2010:** President Barack Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, overhauling financial regulation in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

**2011:** The U.S. space shuttle program ended, after 135 missions, as the orbiter Atlantis landed at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

### Birthdays

Folk singer **Cat Stevens** (75), comedian **Jov Lovitz** (66), retired soccer player **Brandi Chastain** (55), actor **Josh Hartnett** (45), Aventura singer **Romeo Santos** (42), pop singer **Rebecca Ferguson** (37) and basketball player **DeAndre Jordan** (35).

# 3 people killed in 5 Freeway crash in Norwalk

By City News Service

**NORWALK** - The name of the third victim who was killed in a multiple-vehicle crash on the Santa Ana (5) Freeway in Norwalk was released Tuesday by the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner's office.

The crash was reported Sunday on the northbound Santa Ana Freeway south of Florence Avenue, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The chain of events started at about 2:20 a.m. when a 2017 Honda hit a sound wall and the vehicle became disabled, the CHP said. The driver of a Hadley's tow truck then stopped behind the disabled Honda.

Hector Rivero of Pico Rivera initiated the first crash when he slammed into a 2011 Kia into the tow truck, killing his passenger, 32-year-old Arilene Rivero of Pico Rivera. A 2016 Toyota driven by 22-year-old Luis Marroquin also

crashed into the tow truck, killing two passengers, identified

by the medical examiner's office as 41-year-old Luis Marroquin and 40-year-old Joel Araujo. The CHP said both Marroquins were from Pomona and Araujo was an Azusa resident.

Arilene Rivero, the 41-year-old Marroquin and Araujo were pronounced dead at the scene, the CHP said.

Hector Rivero and the

22-year-old Marroquin were taken to Saint Francis Medical Center for treatment of major injuries, the CHP said. They were also arrested for suspicion of felony DUI.

It was not immediately known if Hector Rivero and Arilene Rivero were related.

The Honda driver, identified as 23-year-old Clarence Hill, was arrested for suspicion of misdemeanor DUI.

# Black LASD lieutenant drops discrimination/retaliation suit

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** - A Black Los Angeles County sheriff's lieutenant has dropped his lawsuit in which he alleged he was wrongfully demoted by former Sheriff Alex Villanueva in 2021, two days after being elevated to a coveted position.

Attorneys for Lt. John Lindsay filed court papers on July 12 with Judge Daniel Murphy asking that the case be dismissed "with prejudice," meaning it can't be refiled. The court papers do not state whether a settlement was reached or if Lindsay is not pursuing the case for other reasons.

The suit alleged discrimination, retaliation and failure to prevent harassment, discrimination or retaliation. Lindsay maintained that under Villanueva's leadership, the LASD had "engaged in systemic racial discrimination against African-Americans by decreasing the number of African-American employees to accommodate an increase in Hispanic applicants and promotional candidates in the department."

In a previously issued statement, the LASD rejected Lindsay's claims, calling the complaint "yet another frivolous lawsuit" and likening his allegations to those of other department members who have "failed" in their leadership duties.

"The allegations by Mr. Lindsay are completely without merit and we look forward to exposing this in court," the statement read.

But according to Lindsay's suit, Villanueva "made it clear in public statements that he harbors a racial animus towards African-Americans, engaging in racist generalizations about African-Americans, having cast blame upon African-Americans within the department for allegedly interfering with his promotability in a lawsuit he filed against his

own department."

Villanueva, saying he wanted to "mirror the communities of Los Angeles County," directed recruitment, hiring and promotional efforts that "materially lowered the number of African-American employees while raising the number of Hispanic employees on the department," the suit filed last Oct. 31 alleged.

According to his suit, Lindsay has worked in custody and patrol duty as well as in community-oriented policing. As a lieutenant, he has been the Civic Center liaison supervising tactical planning and logistics for large-scale events and protests in the downtown Los Angeles area, the suit stated.

Lindsay was picked in January 2021 by then-Undersheriff Timothy Murakami for the position of executive aide, a highly desirable and promotable position, the suit stated. Two days later, Villanueva, while in Murakami's office, allegedly looked at Lindsay and said, "So you're the new guy," the suit further stated.

Immediately after Villanueva left the office, Murakami told Lindsay that he was being demoted to his previous position, according to the suit. Murakami was unable to provide an explanation, saying it was out of his hands, but that he admired the plaintiff's work performance, according to the suit.

The suit further stated that Lindsay's replacement was not Black and lacked Lindsay's education and experience.

Subsequent to Lindsay's demotion, Villanueva denied the plaintiff multiple promotions in the Court Services Division for which he was well-suited, instead promoting Latinos who had "zero knowledge" of division operating procedures, according to the suit.

# Judge dismisses animal control worker's harassment, retaliation lawsuit

By City News Service

**DOWNEY** - A judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by a Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control officer who alleged she was sexually harassed by a co-worker and that false complaints the colleague filed against her forced her to accept a demotion out of fear she could lose her job.

On June 26, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Douglas Stern heard arguments on a motion by county attorneys to toss plaintiff Sara Berrelleza's claims for sex and gender harassment, whistleblower retaliation and general retaliation. Stern took the issues under submission and issued a final ruling Tuesday.

Berrelleza was hired by the department in 2008 and reached the rank of animal control officer III in 2015, the suit stated. She was assigned to the Downey facility when Marcos Vega, an animal control III supervisor, was reassigned there from the Baldwin Park facility in

June 2018 because of a sexual harassment complaint made against him there, according to the suit.

Shortly thereafter, Vega allegedly began making inappropriate remarks to Berrelleza, touched her without permission and stared at her, the suit filed in November 2019 alleged.

"On numerous occasions, Marcos Vega followed me into the kennels or around the shelter when there was no need for him to do so," Berrelleza said in a sworn declaration. "I never welcomed or invited any romantic attention from Marcos Vega."

An instructor for the county's sexual harassment training acknowledged that Vega's conduct amounted to sexual harassment, the suit stated. But when Berrelleza complained about Vega to her immediate supervisor, the boss "quickly cut plaintiff off and abruptly ended the conversation," the suit stated.

That same day, Berrelleza asked to speak with the manager

of the Downey facility, but the manager allegedly told her that an internal complaint was filed against her and that she was being transferred to the Baldwin Park animal care center, increasing the daily commute time to work considerably for the plaintiff.

"The complaint was orchestrated and instigated by Marcos Vega," the suit alleged.

Most of the Baldwin Park center supervisors were friends of Vega and Berrelleza was given an isolated work space and was not given overtime opportunities offered to others of her rank, the suit stated. The Baldwin Park manager allegedly issued her a "bogus written reprimand" in November 2018.

Days later, she asked the department's human resources manager for a transfer to the Carson facility, but never received a reply, according to the suit.

In March 2019, the human resources manager told her she could either accept a demotion to animal control officer II and a transfer to the Norwalk facility,

or be involuntarily reduced in rank to an animal control officer I, the suit stated.

"(Berrelleza) accepted the voluntary reduction in rank because she was a single mother in sole support for her children and was terrified that she would be terminated," the suit stated. "(She) was never interviewed or shown any details or documents about the alleged complaints made against her that were orchestrated by Vega and her supervisor."

But according to Stern's ruling, the county attorneys provided evidence in their court papers that no further harassment occurred after Berrelleza reported Vega's alleged misconduct and that the county took appropriate action after investigating the plaintiff's complaints.

In addition, Animal Care and Control management had no way of knowing in advance that Vega would allegedly harass Berrelleza, according to the judge, who also found that her retaliation claims were based on hearsay evidence.

## Dine Local

*Clearman's is the destination for your Summer Celebrations!*

**CLARMAN'S NORTH WOODS INN**  
14305 Firestone Blvd., La Mirada • (714) 994-4590/(714) 739-0331  
clearmansrestaurants.com

**DOWNEY LOCATION ONLY**

### VERACRUZ

**FAMILY RESTAURANT**

**BUY 1, GET 1 FREE**

\* Buy any item from our dinner menu at regular price and get the 2nd of equal or lesser value FREE w/purchase of 2 drinks. Items 1-43 Only, Take Out Only, 1 Coupon Per Visit, Substitutions Extra. Expires 8-2-23. Excludes Holidays.

9085 IMPERIAL (AT COLUMBIA WAY) • DAILY 10 AM - 9 PM • (562) 923-1013

## Malhotra & Malhotra Attorneys

Serving the community for 38 years

**DIVORCE | CHILD CUSTODY/SUPPORT | TRUSTS/WILLS | CONSERVATORSHIPS | PROBATE**

Call us for a **FREE** consultation  
Eva Juarez Malhotra  
Krishna Malhotra

*Se Habla Espanol*

**(562) 806-9400 • (800) 811-8881**

7847 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 111, Downey, CA 90240

# Small earthquake strikes near Bell

By City News Service

**BELL** - A pair of small earthquakes rattled the southeast Los Angeles area, although the magnitude of the temblors was downgraded Wednesday.

The U.S. Geological Survey initially reported a pair of 3.0-magnitude quakes occurring near Bell, one at 9:37 p.m. Tuesday and another four minutes later at 9:41 p.m.

Early Wednesday morning, the USGS revised the magnitude of the initial quake to 2.7. The second shaker was revised downward to 2.8.

Both shakers were centered just west-southwest of Bell and east of Walnut Park. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

# BULLETIN BOARD

**INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL AUTOMATION INC.**  
*FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS*

- ELECTRICAL PANEL REPAIR & UPGRADE • AC ELECTRICAL FEEDING
- MINI SPLITS COOLING & HEATING INSTALLATION • REWIRING
- POOL ELECTRICAL TROUBLESHOOTING & REPAIR

• 24/7 ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY • ENERGY SAVING PARKING LOT LIGHTS

**CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**  
**562-966-1943**

35 Years of Experience  
ieaelectricians.com • ieaelectricians@gmail.com

FREE ESTIMATES "Your Local Plumber At Your Service"

Lic. #896712

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PLUMBING**

• FREE ESTIMATES • RAPID RESPONSE • SENIOR DISCOUNTS

• Plumbing • Sewer • Water Heaters  
• Hydro Jet Specialists • Drain Cleaning **(562) 420-6458**

Family Owned And Operated, Serving Long Beach And Surrounding Areas For Over 25 Years.

**E&R REASONABLE PRICES**

*Plumbing, Heating, Electrical*

**DRAIN CLEANING SERVICES**

Residential, Commercial, Experts  
LIC. #814113 C36 / LIC. #965519 C10  
Cudahy, CA 90201

**Erick Cell: 323.228.4500**  
**562.450.7599**

reasonableplumbing@sbcglobal.net

# The southern border is a national shame

By Jill Filipovic

*Jill Filipovic is a journalist based in New York and author of the book "OK Boomer, Let's Talk: How My Generation Got Left Behind."*

The US-Mexico border is becoming an increasingly inhumane and often deadly zone — and a national shame.

That's the conclusion you have to reach based on emails shared by the Texas Department of Public Safety and originally reported on by The Houston Chronicle.

An email from a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper, obtained by the Chronicle and shared with CNN, describes conditions along the border at Eagle Pass, Texas that the officer himself characterizes as "inhumane." In an effort to discourage migration across the Rio Grande River, the state of Texas has strung razor wire, buoys and other deterrence strategies.

According to the trooper, officers have also been ordered to refuse water to migrants, who are traveling in extreme heat that can top 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and to push them back into the water. These efforts have deterred some migrants; they've also injured and possibly killed many others.

According to the email, medics say they treated a teenager whose leg was broken when he tried to cross a part of the river away from the buoys. One 19-year-old woman, the trooper wrote, was caught in the wire while having a miscarriage. A four-year-old fainted in the extreme heat as her group was forced back into Mexico. And that all allegedly happened within seven hours.

The next day, the trooper wrote, he heard about a mother and her two children who drowned trying to cross the river and avoid the razor wire.

Part of the problem, the trooper wrote, is that the razor-

wire-covered buoys don't keep people from trying to cross; the threat of injury just pushes people into areas of the river that are deeper, which poses a greater risk to those traveling with bags or children.

At least 748 people died at the border last fiscal year.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Considine told the Chronicle that there is no water-refusal policy. Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw called for an audit of border procedures to see if there were ways to decrease potential harms to migrants attempting to cross. "The purpose of the wire is to deter smuggling between the ports of entry and not to injure migrants," he wrote. "The smugglers care not if the migrants are injured, but we do, and we must take all necessary measures to mitigate the risk to them including injuries from trying to cross over the concertina wire, drownings and dehydration."

In a statement, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott told CNN: "Texas is deploying every tool and strategy to deter and repel illegal crossings between ports of entry as President Biden's dangerous open border policies entice migrants from over 150 countries to risk their lives entering the country illegally. The absence of razor wire and other deterrence strategies encourages migrants to make unsafe and illegal crossings between ports of entry, while making the job of Texas National Guard soldiers and DPS troopers more dangerous and difficult. President Biden has unleashed a chaos on the border that's unsustainable, and we have a constitutional duty to respond to this unprecedented crisis."

In fact, the Biden administration does not have an "open border" policy; President Joe Biden has adopted stricter immigration policies that have drawn the ire of advocates for immigrants' rights. Those policies include limiting the rights of asylum-seekers at the US-Mexico border, expansions of a

Trump-era immigration law, Title 42, invoked as a public health emergency during the Covid pandemic (after a lot of back-and-forth, the administration finally ended that policy in May) and expedited removals of migrants. Border crossings dropped.

Countries, of course, have a right to set their own immigration policies. But the US has a legal obligation to offer asylum-seekers due process under the law, and a moral obligation to not set human traps for desperate people as if they were vermin. Razor wire that pushes people into more dangerous conditions and slices through the skin of some of the world's most vulnerable people is not a reasonable deterrent; it's cruelty, plain and simple.

Many of the people attempting to cross the southern border are looking for financial security that their homelands cannot provide. Others are fleeing endemic violence, threats to their lives and political instability. A great many Americans seem to read these stories and see images of exhausted moms toting babies near the Rio Grande and wonder, "Why would they do that?" Maybe, instead of disbelief and disgust, we could really try to answer that question: Why would someone risk their own life, and their child's life, at a dangerous border crossing unless they determined that whatever they were fleeing was worse?

When it comes to the border, the trooper wrote in his email, "We need to operate it correctly in the eyes of God. We need to recognize that these are people who are made in the image of God and need to be treated as such."

There is nothing good or godly about what's happening at the border. There is only Hell on earth — created, in part, by American politicians.

# Over-the-counter birth control pill could make a huge difference

By Megan L. Ranney and Monique Rainford

*Megan L. Ranney MD MPH is an emergency physician and Dean of the Yale School of Public Health. Monique Rainford MD is an obstetrician and gynecologist, Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science at the Yale School of Medicine*

As practicing physicians and public health leaders, we applaud the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of Opill as an over-the-counter (OTC) birth control pill — the first of its kind in the US.

This approval is a big win for Americans' ability to have planned and healthy pregnancies. Opill is eminently safe and effective — more so than many other OTC drugs. Indeed, outside of the US, similar pills have been available OTC in many countries for decades without issue.

This approval is, in fact, overdue. In health care, we sometimes refer to oral contraceptives like Opill as a "mini-pill," because it only contains progestin, a synthetic version of the hormone progesterone, whereas other kinds of oral contraceptives contain analogues of both progesterone and estrogen.

Decades of evidence show that mini-pills avoid the potential risks of estrogen-progestin combination pills, such as blood clots, and are safe for almost all people — removing the argument that a doctor's visit is necessary prior to starting the pill. (As doctors, we do remind readers that people who are pregnant, have breast cancer, liver tumors or who have unexplained vaginal bleeding should still avoid the Opill.) Moreover, progestin-only contraceptives like Opill can be up to 98% effective when used exactly as directed.

Improving access to contraceptives is a critically important part of our toolbox in trying to reduce the US' abysmal maternal mortality rates. Contraceptive use may have decreased maternal mortality by as much as 44% worldwide, and increased use could reduce deaths by another 29%, according to an analysis of 172

countries by researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

Yet more than 19 million women in the US live in "contraceptive deserts." According to a survey conducted by researchers a decade ago, nearly one-third of American women who tried to get a prescription for a birth control pill reported difficulty doing so. Access has only become more difficult in recent years, as barriers to reproductive health care have increased for women. Black and Hispanic women often face greater difficulty accessing contraceptive services.

In a post-Dobbs world, when post-pregnancy care and abortion services are increasingly challenging to find, preventing unwanted or unsafe pregnancies becomes even more important.

An OTC birth control pill will make a huge difference. Common obstacles to getting a birth control pill prescription — such as lack of a primary physician, lack of time for or transportation to a physician visit or lack of trust in health care providers — are eliminated when a pill becomes available OTC. Providing teens with good, non-prescription options to prevent pregnancy (in addition to condoms) matters particularly deeply.

Unfortunately, though, Opill's approval as an OTC medication is not a magic wand. Problems with accessing reproductive health care extend beyond a single medication's prescription status, and they are increasing nationwide.

For example, we have seen that despite continued FDA approval of mifepristone (the first of a two-part abortion pill), some pharmacies may not make this medication available in states with restrictive abortion laws. We worry that, similarly, pharmacies in some states will be hesitant to stock Opill.

There may be economic barriers, too. We are still waiting to learn how Opill will be priced. The requirement for insurance companies to cover the full cost of contraceptive services seems to apply only to those that have been prescribed. OTC contraceptives like Opill will most likely require people to pay out-of-pocket. Offering vouchers for low-income people,

providing the medication for free or at a reduced cost in easily accessible locations, pricing Opill appropriately or clarifying insurance regulations could mitigate cost concerns.

Despite Opill's terrific efficacy in clinical studies, we know that the real world differs from a clinical trial. It is tremendously important for people to learn how to take Opill correctly — at the same time, every day, every month. It is also important to understand that the medication is not a "morning after" pill, so it will not prevent pregnancy if taken after unprotected sex.

We hope that community organizations will partner with health care providers, pharmacists and public health experts to ensure people have accurate information from sources they trust. Community health workers could potentially play a valuable role in these efforts. Attention to disparities in access to information (or confidence in the people who provide that information) matters deeply.

Opill will not solve all the difficulties that women have in accessing safe and effective contraception. It does not eliminate all the negative effects of state policies that limit women's reproductive rights. It cannot eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in women's reproductive choice. And although Opill is better than no pill at all, there are more effective methods of contraception that require a less strict commitment to taking a pill at the same time, every day.

Nonetheless, we celebrate this news. Our job as health care practitioners and leaders is to ensure that women regardless of their racial, ethnic, geographic or economic background have all the information to use this tool effectively and can access it and afford to use it without difficulty.

Opill's OTC availability provides another valuable tool that women can use to take control of their reproductive rights — something that matters now, more than ever.

# Our country's retirement system is broken

By Scott Klinger

*Scott Klinger is the senior equitable development specialist at Jobs With Justice, a nonprofit advocacy group.*

For the past two years, higher prices have made life harder for working families and retirees. But today's cost-of-living woes may only be the tip of the iceberg. America's retirees and those approaching their retirement years face deep uncertainties about their golden years.

Indeed, just 64% of American workers feel at least somewhat confident that they will have enough money to comfortably live in retirement, according to the 2023 Retirement Confidence Survey, published by the Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald Research.

The survey, which has been conducted annually for 33 years, found that the decline in confidence since 2022 was the most precipitous since the 2008 global financial crisis. Of those not feeling confident in their retirement security, four in 10 workers reported it was because they had little to no savings.

While America's workers struggle to save for retirement, their CEO bosses are continuing to hoard wealth, deepening the retirement divide in the US. Among S&P 500 CEOs with company-provided retirement benefits, their average account was \$19.4 million at the end of 2021, according to a new report by the Institute for Policy Studies and Jobs With Justice, which I co-authored.

If these CEOs invested their retirement bounty in an annuity, they would receive a monthly retirement check of nearly \$111,000, according to Jobs With Justice analysis. Meanwhile, the median value of workers' 401(k) plans invested with Vanguard was just \$33,472, which would yield a monthly check of about \$200 to supplement Social Security.

About 40% of America's retirees rely exclusively on Social Security, according to a 2020 study by the National Institute on Retirement Security. The average Social Security monthly check was just \$1,784 in March 2023 — meaning too many retirees are living in or on the brink of poverty.

Our nation's largest private employer, Walmart, illustrates the problems looming in the American retirement system, and how pay disparities between CEOs and employees have become the norm in Corporate America. Walmart CEO Doug McMillon has amassed \$169 million in his company's deferred compensation plan, enough to deliver McMillon a monthly retirement check of \$1 million.

Walmart's employees face a far different future. Walmart disclosed to its shareholders that its median pay for its more than two million employees around the world was just \$27,136 in 2022. In a separate filing, Walmart reports that it has established a 401(k) plan for each of its US employees, but, as is standard for most companies, they must contribute in order to receive the company's 6% match. But it is hard to set aside money for retirement when you are trying to stretch your paycheck to buy food and pay for rent.

As a result, a whopping 46% of Walmart's workers have a zero balance in their 401(k). Those who do have funds in their Walmart 401(k) have an average balance of \$19,753, enough to generate a monthly retirement check of \$120, according to Jobs With Justice analysis.

Defending its meager uptake of retirement benefits, a Walmart spokesperson told The Wall Street Journal that 401(k) matching cost the company \$1.4 billion in 2022. This is a drop in the bucket for such a massive corporate giant — in November 2022, Walmart announced a \$20 billion stock buyback plan, which rewards shareholders by boosting the stock price.

CEO-to-worker retirement disparities weren't always so stark. As recently as 1984, 30 million Americans were covered by defined benefit pensions, through which companies bore the risk of stock market declines in order to guarantee workers a monthly check of a fixed amount.

Since the 1980s, employers have been shifting the market risks to their employees through 401(k) plans. Today, just 12 million American workers are covered by defined benefit plans, leaving workers with 401(k)s vulnerable to declines in stock market values. In 2022, workers with 401(k)s saw their retirement assets plummet about 20% from the year prior, according to Fidelity.

At the same time, corporate boards like Walmart's are approving executive benefits that have grown exponentially in comparison to worker pay — in fact, the Economic Policy Institute released a report stating that CEO pay has increased by 1,460% since 1978, while worker pay has increased by just 18.1%.

Another part of the problem comes from federal tax law. Ordinary employees face strict limits on the amount of income they can set aside tax-free into their retirement plans: \$22,500 for most workers and \$30,000 for workers over 50 (indeed, just 14% of Vanguard's nearly five million 401(k) customers max out).

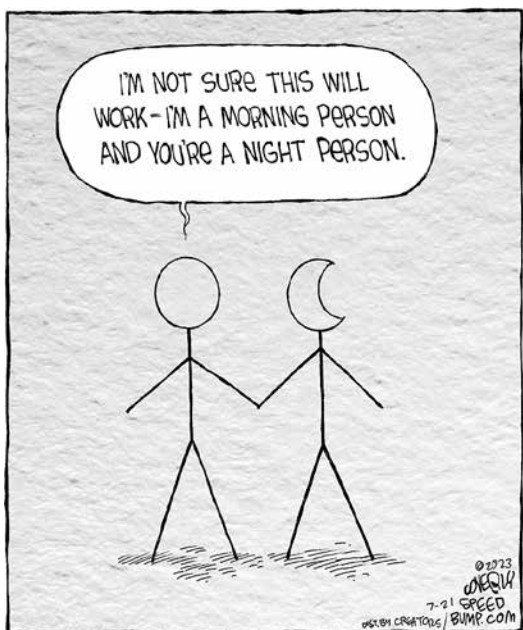
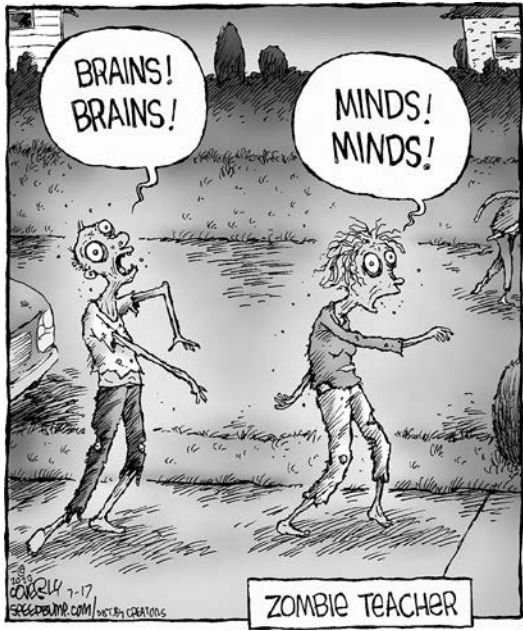
In contrast, CEO-deferred compensation plans have no limits to the amount of income that can be shielded from tax and grow tax-free until the funds are withdrawn. These special provisions save corporate executives millions of dollars in taxes, while denying federal and state treasuries funds they would otherwise be entitled to.

Congress has the power to narrow this retirement gap. First, it could close loopholes that favor corporate executives with lucrative retirement tax subsidies and instead treat all workers the same, regardless of the kind of work they do. That means all workers, regardless of the job they perform, should be subject to the same rules governing their tax-free retirement deferrals.

Second, lawmakers could raise the cap on income subject to Social Security payroll taxes, which is currently at \$160,200. Currently, an executive earning \$1 million a year finishes paying their payroll taxes in February — as every dollar over \$160,200 is exempt from Social Security tax. Removing that cap would generate revenue to expand Social Security so that vulnerable workers with no other source of retirement income could receive additional monthly benefits.

Retirement inequality is a manifestation of corporate priorities to increase shareholder profits at the expense of worker retirement security, and federal policies that don't do enough to balance interests and protect workers. Corporate profits should not trump peoples' ability to retire comfortably. Together, we can begin to close these gaps and ensure all workers the dignified retirement to which they are entitled.

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

## The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

- JENNIFER DEKAY**  
Publisher
- JULIE LEDESMA-AZIZ**  
Display Advertising
- LINDA LARSON**  
Classified Advertising
- JONATHAN FOX**  
Production
- KEITH DURFLINGER**  
Photographer
- ERIC PIERCE**  
Vice President,  
Business Operations
- ALEX DOMINGUEZ**  
Staff Writer
- JOHN M. SHERRARD**  
Contributor
- VINCENT MEDINA**  
Contributor
- CAROL KEARNS**  
Contributor

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

**ADVERTISING POLICY**  
THE NORWALK PATRIOT reserves the right to censor, reclassify, revise or reject any ad. THE NORWALK PATRIOT is not responsible for incorrect ads beyond the first business day of an ad scheduled. Please check your ad on the first day of publication and report any errors that have occurred to the Advertising Department at 562-904-3668 at the beginning of the next business day to have it publish correctly for the remainder of the schedule.

TEL (562) 404-3008 | FAX (562) 904-3124 | MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 3PM  
14783 CARMENITA ROAD, NORWALK, CA 90650 | ADJUDICATION #BS154952

# PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

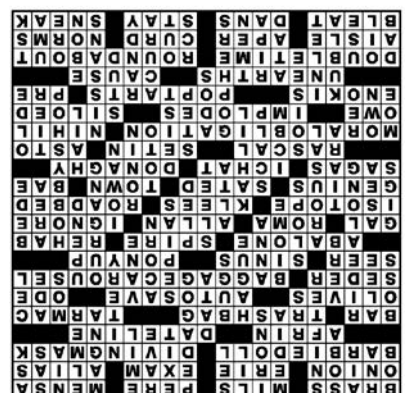
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
CIRCULAR REASONING: With a 110 Across trick  
by Gary M. Larson

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chutzpah
  - 6 Big bucks, briefly
  - 10 Parsian parent
  - 14 Highly intelligent group
  - 19 Pizza topping
  - 20 Pennsylvania city that sounds spooky
  - 21 Midterm, for instance
  - 22 Nom de plume
  - 23 Mattel mega-seller
  - 25 Snorkeler's gear
  - 27 Nasal spray brand
  - 28 News story starter
  - 29 Rule out
  - 32 Household plastic
  - 35 What a plane lands on
  - 39 Pizza topping
  - 41 Application feature
  - 45 Shelley selection
  - 46 Meal with matzo
  - 47 Stop after a flight
  - 51 Clairvoyant
  - 52 Nasal passage
  - 53 Pay a debt
  - 54 Mother-of-pearl source
  - 56 Cathedral topper
  - 58 Healthful program
  - 62 Milk qty.
  - 64 Tomato variety
  - 65 Middle name of macabredom
  - 66 Shrug off
  - 67 Elemental form
  - 69 Swiss abstract paintings
  - 70 Street surface
  - 71 Highly intelligent person
  - 72 Filled to excess
  - 73 Crier's employer
  - 74 Sweetie, slangily
  - 75 Heroic tales
  - 76 Former Apple messaging app
  - 77 Baldwin's 30 Rock role
  - 79 Ne'er-do-well
  - 81 Arrive, as darkness
  - 82 Concerning
  - 85 What you feel duty bound to do
  - 90 Nothing, in Latin
  - 91 Be in debt
  - 92 Bursts inward
  - 93 Was isolated from others
  - 94 Japanese mushrooms
  - 97 Toaster Strudel alternatives
  - 100 "Prior to" starter
  - 101 Digs up
  - 105 Make happen
  - 107 Military marching pace
  - 110 You'll find things that are \_\_\_ the seven other 9+-letter answers
  - 115 Supermarket walkway
  - 116 Imitative person
  - 117 Bit of cottage cheese
  - 118 Societal standards
  - 119 Maa or baa
  - 120 Karate ranks
  - 121 Legal deferral
  - 122 Ne'er-do-well
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Short haircut
  - 2 Basis of some vaccines
  - 3 Put on TV
  - 4 Japanese noodles
  - 5 Brandy glass
  - 6 News sources
  - 7 Golfer's group
  - 8 Small, as some rappers
  - 9 French seasoning
  - 10 Schoolteacher
  - 11 Escape route
  - 12 Hoot and holler
  - 13 German painter Nolde
  - 14 \_\_\_ Carta
  - 15 Looney Tunes hunter
  - 16 Actress Vardalos
  - 17 Carrier to Copenhagen
  - 18 Request of
  - 24 Misses the mark
  - 26 Supper club
  - 28 Numbers to crunch
  - 29 Woman in charge
  - 30 Nautical heading
  - 31 Join a cop in a car
  - 33 The \_\_\_, Netherlands
  - 34 15 Down adversary
  - 36 Yearly doz.
  - 37 Suffix for block
  - 38 Collectible image of 15 or 34 Down
  - 40 Sink or swim
  - 42 Brown photo tones
  - 43 Tough nut to crack
  - 44 Barn topper
  - 47 Ecological community
  - 48 Fashion designer Sui
  - 49 Philip Roth political satire
  - 50 Turn topsy-turvy
  - 52 Spills (over)
  - 55 Awakening
  - 56 Cold shower
  - 57 Entreated
  - 59 Purveyor of small planes
  - 60 Field of study
  - 61 "Venerable" British saint
  - 62 Shows for soloists
  - 63 "... against \_\_\_ of troubles"
  - 65 Utah ski resort
  - 66 Hawkeye
  - 68 Something fit for a princess
  - 69 Writer Gibran
  - 70 Samurai without a master
  - 72 Hair holder
  - 73 Emerald City visitor
  - 76 SALT talks subject
  - 77 Jefferson, by belief
  - 78 Come (from)
  - 80 "Apparently"
  - 81 Escalator part
  - 83 Bank in a theater
  - 84 \_\_\_ Tyme (quaint)
  - 85 Homer's beer server
  - 86 Oprah's network
  - 87 Car built by Olds
  - 88 Tunneling experts
  - 89 Commotions
  - 90 Rogues and Sentras
  - 93 Tux shirt accessory
  - 95 Khan mentioned by Coleridge
  - 96 Coastal recess
  - 98 Honda brand
  - 99 Pitching great Johnson
  - 102 Hardly any
  - 103 Kelly of morning TV
  - 104 IRS agents, for instance
  - 106 Very dark, in verse
  - 107 Drop of gel
  - 108 Stuff for salads
  - 109 Put into play
  - 110 Some colas
  - 111 Available now
  - 112 Mined find
  - 113 Thurman in films
  - 114 Scolding sound

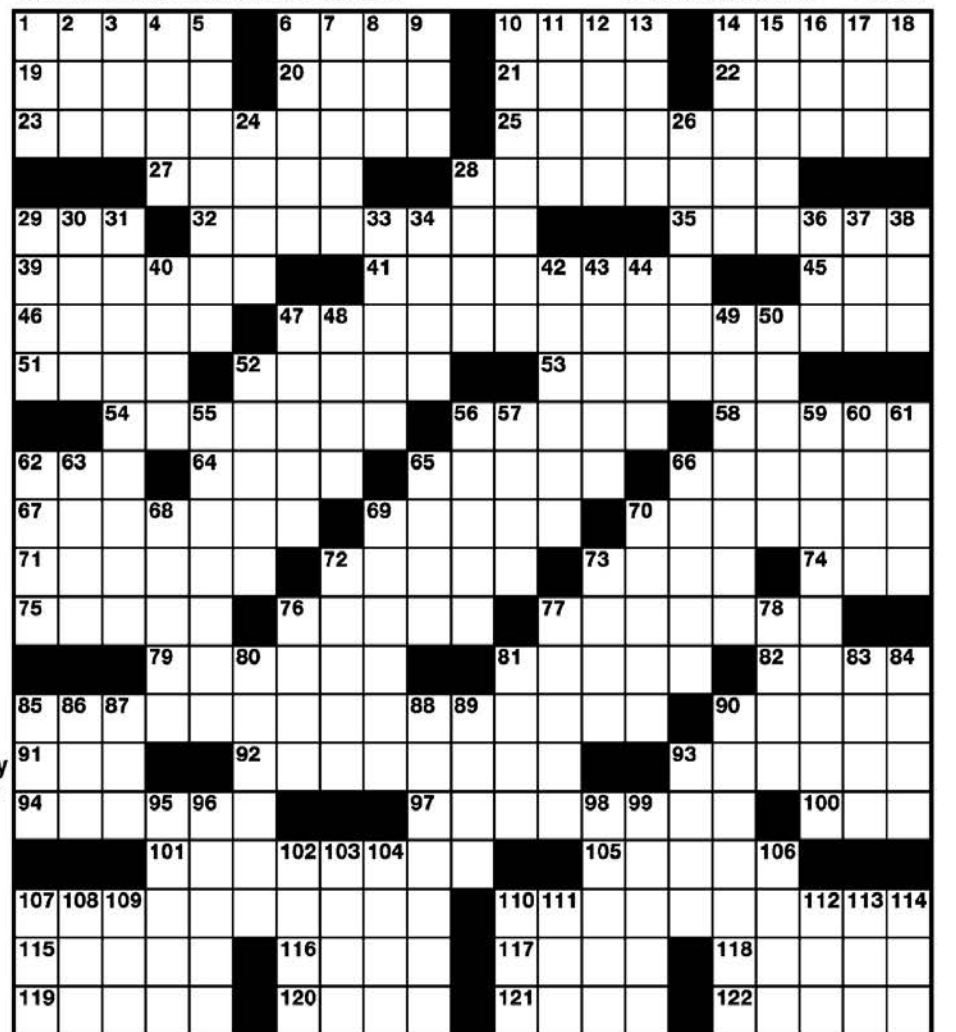
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: [StanXwords@aol.com](mailto:StanXwords@aol.com). Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

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

Since their introduction in 1959, over one billion BARBIE DOLLS have been sold world-wide. Toaster Strudels (97 Across) are Pillsbury's competition for Kellogg's POP TARTS. The septet of round things found about seven answers: BALL (23 Across), DISK (25 Across), BAGEL (47 Across), MOON (85 Across), DOME (107 Across), RING (31 Down) and HOOP (59 Down).



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 7/16/23



- 72 Hair holder
- 73 Emerald City visitor
- 76 SALT talks subject
- 77 Jefferson, by belief
- 78 Come (from)
- 80 "Apparently"
- 81 Escalator part
- 83 Bank in a theater
- 84 \_\_\_ Tyme (quaint)
- 85 Homer's beer server
- 86 Oprah's network
- 87 Car built by Olds
- 88 Tunneling experts
- 89 Commotions
- 90 Rogues and Sentras
- 93 Tux shirt accessory
- 95 Khan mentioned by Coleridge
- 96 Coastal recess
- 98 Honda brand
- 99 Pitching great Johnson
- 102 Hardly any
- 103 Kelly of morning TV
- 104 IRS agents, for instance
- 106 Very dark, in verse
- 107 Drop of gel
- 108 Stuff for salads
- 109 Put into play
- 110 Some colas
- 111 Available now
- 112 Mined find
- 113 Thurman in films
- 114 Scolding sound

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















under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/23/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1144939.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023136932  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Z & Z SALES AND MARKETING, 5800 S EASTERN AVE STE 55, COMMERCE, CA 90040 LA COUNTY. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: ZAIRA OLINDA TORRES MALDONADO, 12618 CAMILLA ST, WHITTIER, CA 90601. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ZAIRA OLINDA TORRES MALDONADO, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 02/2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/22/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1145327.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023135309  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: LA FORTUNA RESTAURANT, 4807 CLORENE AVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: JOSE MANUEL CORRALES, 5533 LONG BEACH BL, SPACE 79, LONG BEACH, CA 90805. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: JOSE MANUEL CORRALES, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/20/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1145583.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023140793  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: FINLAY STEVENSON, 11640 WOODBRIDGE ST, APT 211, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: ANGELA DAVIS, 11640 WOODBRIDGE ST, APT 211, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ANGELA DAVIS, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 05/2021. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/27/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1145675.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023141437  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: RIFF COLOR, 15021 VENTURA BLVD UNIT 314, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: HARVEY RIFF, 15021 VENTURA BLVD UNIT 314, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: HARVEY RIFF, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 01/2000. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/28/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1145866.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023141731  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: B'S EMBROIDERY & PRINTING, 42257 6TH ST, WEST #307, LANCASTER, CA 93534 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: C3615940. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: B'S EMBROIDERY ETC., INC., 42257 6TH ST, WEST #307, LANCASTER, CA 93534 (State of Incorporation/ Organization: CALIFORNIA). This business is conducted by: CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: BETH MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/29/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1145927.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023142240  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: PRIORITY CHOICE NEMT, 16344 MOUNTAIN LANE, CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91387 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: PRIORITY CHOICE STAFFING PRO LLC, 16344 MOUNTAIN LANE, CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91387 (State of Incorporation/ Organization: CA). This business is conducted by: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: JAMILLA E MYERS, CEO. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/29/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146098.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023142350  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: ROSARIO S CRAFT, 135 N JACKSON ST, 209, GLENDALE, CA 91206 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: MARIA PENA, 135 N JACKSON ST, 209, GLENDALE, CA 91206. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: MARIA PENA, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/29/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146125.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023143315  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: AJ FADEAWAY, 18732 VISTA DEL CANON UNIT E, NEWHALL, CA 91321 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: AARON SAMONTE, 18732 VISTA DEL CANON UNIT E, NEWHALL, CA 91321. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: AARON SAMONTE, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 01/2012. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/29/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146349.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023143946  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: PINTADOS, 1550 W 31ST ST, LONG BEACH, CA 90810 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: ANNAFE LOBEDECIS, 1550 W 31ST ST, LONG BEACH, CA 90810, ROMEO C LOBEDECIS JR., 1550 W 1ST ST., LONG BEACH, CA 90810. This business is conducted by: MARRIED COUPLE. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ANNAFE LOBEDECIS, WIFE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/30/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146355.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023143531  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: MARRO'S MOBILE DETAILING, 40535 SHINNECOCK CT, PALMDALE, CA 93551 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: MARIO RAMIREZ, 40535 SHINNECOCK CT., PALMDALE, CA 93551. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: MARIO RAMIREZ, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 06/30/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146439.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023145568  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: DMC TRCS ROAD SERVICE, 1729 4TH ST, LYNWOOD, CA 90650 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: LUDWIN ESAU CORTEZ CAMPOS, 11729 4TH AVE., LYNWOOD, CA 90622. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: LUDWIN ESAU CORTEZ CAMPOS, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 07/05/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146935.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023145894  
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: UTOPIA FEET, 260 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE, #100, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 ORANGE COUNTY. Mailing address if different: N/A. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: 4860183. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: DENALI NATURAL PRODUCTS, 260 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE, #100, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 (State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA). This business is conducted by: CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ORNELA TORRES, CEO. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date) 07/05/2023. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 07/07/2023, 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1146936.

**GOVERNMENT**  
**CITY OF NORWALK SUMMARY ORDINANCE NO. 23-1741**  
The Norwalk City Council, at a meeting held July 18, 2023, introduced proposed Ordinance No. 23-1741, entitled "THE CITY OF NORWALK SETTING FORTH ITS FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION APPROVING ZONE CHANGE NO. 2022-02 FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12217 ROSECRANS AVENUE, which will amend the zoning designation of a portion of the site zoned

automobile parking to restricted commercial, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES: Councilmembers Ayala, Perez, and Ramirez, and Mayor Valencia**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rios**

The full text of Ordinance No. 23-1741 is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours and on the City's website with the July 18, 2023 Council agenda, Item No. 18.

Theresa Devoy, CMC  
City Clerk  
July 19, 2023

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/21/23

**CITY OF NORWALK PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that these notices shall satisfy two separate, but related, procedural requirements for Home Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program activities to be undertaken by the City of Norwalk.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On August 7, 2023, the City of Norwalk (City) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of \$1,047,149 funds as part of the Home Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program under U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) as amended, to undertake a project known as the The Walk Residences Project (Project).

The Project would construct a new six-story, 66-unit housing building on the southwest corner of Imperial Highway and Norwalk Boulevard in the City of Norwalk's Norwalk Entertainment District – Civic Center Specific Plan area. The 66 residential units would be restricted to a target population that includes both Special Needs and Non-Special Needs Domestic Violence Families and Transition Age Youth. The Project would provide 31 studio units, 18 two-bedroom units of which one unit would be for the building manager, and 17 three-bedroom units, a total of 66 units. The Project would include parking and commercial uses on the ground floor, parking on the second level, and residential units on the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors for a total height of 60 feet. The Project would also provide amenities, including approximately 100,000 square feet of open space and 4,000 square feet of amenity space, including a roof deck and podium deck with landscaping and seating. The building would also include approximately 25,040 square feet of ground floor retail and a total of 90 parking spaces (33 spaces for residential use and 57 spaces for commercial).

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City that can be accessed online at the following website: [www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/housing-neighborhood-development](http://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/housing-neighborhood-development). By request, the ERR will also be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. For mailed copies, please submit your request by U.S. mail to: 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Room 12, Norwalk, CA 90650, Attention: Rosio Medina, Senior Management Analyst, or by email at: [rmolina@norwalkca.gov](mailto:rmolina@norwalkca.gov). Please specify which Notice you are addressing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Rosio Medina, Senior Management Analyst, at the email listed above or by U.S. mail at the address listed above. All comments received by August 4, 2023 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Norwalk certifies to HUD that John P. Ramirez in his capacity as Community Development Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the use of open space and 4,000 square feet of amenity space, including a roof deck and podium deck with landscaping and seating, the building would also include approximately 25,040 square feet of ground floor retail and a total of 90 parking spaces (33 spaces for residential use and 57 spaces for commercial).

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City's environmental certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and must be emailed to HUD's grant administration office at [Objections@hud.gov](mailto:Objections@hud.gov) and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be emailed to the HUD grant administration office at: [CPDLA@hud.gov](mailto:CPDLA@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Please contact the City of Norwalk Community Development Block Grant

program at (562) 929-5951 for additional information.

Dated this 20th day of July 2023.

Theresa Devoy, CMC  
City Clerk

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/21/23

**LIEN SALES**

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

10950 Firestone Blvd  
Norwalk, CA 90650

08/08/2023 11:00am

Alice Hudson  
Household items

Haydy Bernard  
Household items

Elijah Burton  
Household items

Mario Miranda  
Household items

Julianne Gavaldon  
Household items

Martha Rodriguez  
Household items

Priscilla Teutschman  
Household items

Linda Castillo  
Household items

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

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/21/23, 7/28/23

**NOTICES**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER: 23NWCP00263**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner WILLIAM GREGORY CONTRERAS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name WILLIAM GREGORY CONTRERAS to Proposed name WILLIAM GREGORY SANDOVAL. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING Date: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312 The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650**

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation: THE NORWALK PATRIOT JULY 10, 2023 JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES Judge of the Superior Court ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY WILLIAM GREGORY CONTRERAS 12541 HAYFORD ST NORWALK, CA 90650 (714) 393-7531 CILLWONTRERAS@YAHOO.COM

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/21/23, 7/28/23, 8/4/23, 8/11/23

**PROBATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CAROLINE ELIZABETH RYAN CASE NO. 23STPB06884**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of CAROLINE ELIZABETH RYAN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RICHARD F. RYAN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RICHARD F. RYAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/04/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing, Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner WILLIAM BOON, ESQ. - SBN 202150 558 N. CURSON AVENUE LOS ANGELES CA 90046 7/7, 7/14, 7/21/23 CNS-3715138# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

CNS 3715138  
The Norwalk Patriot  
7/7/23, 7/14/23, 7/21/23

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: INEZ DAVILA CASE NO. 23STPB07635**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of INEZ DAVILA. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by NILSA DAVILA ARIAS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NILSA DAVILA ARIAS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/18/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner JENNIFER N. SAWDAY - SBN 228320, TREDWAY LUMSDAINE & DOYLE, LLP 3900 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, STE 240 LONG BEACH CA 90806. Telephone (562) 923-0971 7/21, 7/28, 8/4/23 CNS-3721735# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

CNS 3721735  
The Norwalk Patriot  
7/21/23, 7/28/23, 8/4/23

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOAN F. BUSH CASE NO. 23STPB07093**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOAN F. BUSH. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BRUCE BUSH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BRUCE BUSH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/07/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing, Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

Attorney for Petitioner JOHN H. LEUNIEKS - SBN 57598 19900 BEACH BLVD., SUITE B HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92648. Telephone (714) 558-3007 7/21, 7/28, 8/4/23 CNS-3721913# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner JENNIFER N. SAWDAY, ESQ. - SBN 228320 TREDWAY LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP 3900 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, STE 240 LONG BEACH CA 90806 Telephone (562) 923-0971 BSC 223602 7/7, 7/14, 7/21/23 CNS-3716617# THE NORWALK PATRIOT

</

# Downey ice cream company debuts new collab with Embassy Suites

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

■ Galaxy Swirl is an “ube Tres leche” that is exclusive to Downey’s Embassy Suites hotel.

**DOWNEY** - There’s a new ice cream flavor in Downey, and it is Suite.

On National Ice Cream day earlier this week, hometown ice cream architects Tony La Verde and Anthony Abdelsayed – of Mashup Ice Cream Co. – released a new flavor in collaboration with Embassy Suites Downey.

According to the duo, Embassy Suites staff reached out to them after word started to spread about their product.

“We were coming to realize that what we are trying to do takes a lot of explaining to people, to understand,” said La Verde. “But once they do get that information and they start to see the potential about what we’re trying to create, they get on board immediately.”

It took around five months of work and testing before ultimately landing on Galactic Swirl, an ube and vanilla swirl with hints of coconut, described as “an ube Tres leches.”

“We had pitched maybe eight flavors total with the idea in mind that every single one that we pitched to them could be combined with each other to go for that outer space nebula kind of effect that we were going for, leaning into the whole aerospace theme of the city and the hotel itself,” said La Verde.

Abdelsayed said that the flavor “strikes a chord” with Mashup’s mission to expose people to new things.

“Everybody knows and loves vanilla; not everybody is familiar with ube. Bringing the two together could create that spark of interest,” said Abdelsayed. “When we did our tasting, yeah, there were a lot of people who had never had ube before, and it was a unique first experience for them, and they seemed to very much

enjoy it.”

Csilla Martin-Arujo, marketing manager at Embassy Suites Downey, said that the Embassy Suites is “always looking to provide unique experiences for our guests.” Upon learning of Mashup, she says the Embassy Suites team was “instantly intrigued.”

“Their goal is to tell a story in every scoop, and we’re trying to tell a story in every stay,” said Martin-Arujo. “We felt like it was a match made in Heaven.”

In addition to being sold in the Embassy’s E’rtire, Galaxy Swirl can also be served atop the toffee caramel cake as part of Brickstone’s Grill’s dessert menu.

Martin-Arujo hopes the ice cream will remain available at the hotel for “years on end.”

“We are hoping to have people come to our hotel, try the dessert or the ice cream itself, and then years to come they’re still thinking about the ice cream and their experience in Downey and they come back to try it again.”

La Verde and Abdelsayed hope that this is just the first collaboration to take place in Downey.

“[Embassy Suites Downey] are now a partner of ours and we want to continue to nurture that relationship,” said Abdelsayed.

“To someone who understands the idea, it makes perfect sense what we’re doing; to those who aren’t really as familiar with it, the idea of a media-centered ice cream company that doesn’t have a shop, that doesn’t really have any distribution, that’s focused more on telling stories seems very convoluted, and sort of counter-productive,” said La Verde. “This is an idea that we’ve quickly realized takes a lot of proof of concept, and knowledge is expensive; information is expensive.”

“So, when we’re given these opportunities... it helps them understand it, it helps them get on board, and it helps us get new supporters.”



Anthony Abdelsayed and Tony La Verde of Mashup Ice Cream Co. show off their newest flavor Galactic Swirl, which is exclusive to Embassy Suites Downey and Brickstones Grill. (Photos by Alex Dominguez)



## Art Museum Objects to Mechanic’s Reinstatement Despite Convictions

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** - The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is asking a judge to overturn a Civil Service Commission decision to reinstate a refrigeration mechanic who was arrested along with his brother after marijuana plants and a cache of firearms and ammunition were seized at three locations.

The petition involves the punishment levied on Manuel Scagliotti, who museum attorneys state was discharged because of convictions for illegal possession of assault weapons, larceny and a marijuana-related charge.

“The arrest and incident were covered in the news media and were a source of embarrassment for the county,” the petition states.

A county Civil Service Commission representative did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the petition brought Monday.

After Scagliotti was discharged, he petitioned the commission for a hearing and an officer was appointed to hear the evidence, according to the petition, which further states that the officer recommended upholding the firing.

“The hearing officer further prepared a statement of facts and conclusions of law that found Scagliotti’s claims that he committed the crimes out of ignorance not credible ...” the petition states.

The officer additionally found that Scagliotti’s termination was

appropriate considering that the department would be continuing to employ someone who was found to have “intentionally acted in such a reckless manner,” the petition states.

After Scagliotti objected to the commission’s adopting of the hearing officer’s report, the panel by a 3-2 vote overturned the discharge in April and determined he should be reinstated to his position with a 30-day suspension, the petition states.

“This order came despite adopting the hearing officer’s report with findings reflecting Scagliotti’s behavior outside of work unbecoming of a county employee,” according to the museum attorneys, who further argue in their court papers that Scagliotti’s reinstatement was an “abuse of discretion.”

The Los Angeles Police Department said at the time of the arrests that warrants were served in April 2016 in the 800 block of Terrace 49 in Mount Washington, the 6000 block of Tipton Way in Highland Park and the 13000 block of Bradley Avenue in Sylmar.

Various types of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized along with about \$4,500 in cash from the Mount Washington address, police said. The seized marijuana allegedly had an approximate street value of \$500,000.

Manuel Scagliotti, then 44, was arrested at the Terrace 49 location and his brother, Livio Scagliotti, then 49, at the Tipton Avenue location, police said

## First generation Master’s recipient lauds higher education

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

■ Yesenia Valenzuela’s work at South Central Los Angeles Regional Center ultimately led her to earn her Masters from UWLA

**DOWNEY** - Sometimes you need a break. Sometimes life happens. Sometimes, you aren’t sure what the future holds for you.

But ask Yesenia Valenzuela, and she’ll emphasize the value in choosing a path to higher education.

Valenzuela, 28, is a 2012 graduate from Warren High School. She moved on to California State University Long Beach to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish in 2016; the first in her family to do so.

What to do after wasn’t so clear.

“I wanted to get my masters, but I still didn’t really know what I wanted to do,” said Valenzuela. “I wanted to get a little more experience, so I started working.”

Valenzuela began working with Los Angeles Unified School District, “always helping children” in several different roles, including as a tutor, and as a teacher’s assistant.

But after working for a few years, she felt a need to do more with the field which she studied.

“I became an early interventionist, and I helped individuals who were a year to three years old, trying to meet their milestones. A lot of the individuals had disabilities,” said Valenzuela.

Valenzuela has now



Yesenia Valenzuela recently earned her Masters in Organizational Leadership and Business Innovation. She hopes to one day open her own daycare for children with disabilities. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

found herself working South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) as a service coordinator, overseeing hundreds of cases.

Still, Valenzuela is always an advocate for higher education. As such, took advantage of SCLARC’s partnership with the University of West Los Angeles to pursue her masters. She recently completed that endeavor, earning a Master’s of Science in Organizational Leadership & Business Innovation, and graduating Summa Cum Laude.

It wasn’t entirely an easy decision.

“Once I decided to make the commitment to join UWLA,

there were some challenges,” said Yesenia. “I had to get used to going to school again. It had been almost six years since I had gone to school, so getting back into the routine of completing assignments, projects, timelines, studying. It was hard to get back into the rhythm.”

She was also working full-time, not to mention planning her wedding.

“It was very little sleep that I was getting, but I knew it was for a good reason,” said Valenzuela.

Ultimately, Valenzuela wants to open a specialized daycare; maybe a few years down the road.

“I want this daycare to be

focused, I know there’s a lot of daycares, but I want my daycare to be tailored around a specific plan for children,” said Valenzuela. “I want this daycare to be focused on individuals with disabilities, so we want to make a plan for them; not like we’re just taking care of them... so every plan will be different for every child, but they’ll be well taken care of.”

Valenzuela lives in Downey with her husband Jeynsen Lopez.