

# The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Aug. 11, 2023

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14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

## Congresswoman Sanchez holds first Senior Fair since pandemic

■ Over 700 seniors attended the 18th annual event.

**NORWALK** — Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez (D-CA) hosted her 18th Annual Senior Fair on Friday, Aug. 4 at Cerritos College in Norwalk. This marked the return of Congresswoman Sanchez's Annual Senior Fair since the pandemic limited larger in-person events. Over 700 constituents and 40 vendors from across the 38th Congressional District attended.

Congresswoman Sánchez updated seniors on legislation in Congress that directly impacts them and the programs they rely on, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans' benefits. Seniors participated in free health screenings and consulted with agencies such as the Social Security Administration, Department of Veteran Affairs, and senior advocacy organizations.

"Senior Fair is one of my favorite events every year," Congresswoman Linda Sánchez said to the crowd. "As your

voice in Washington, one of the most important parts of my job is making sure our seniors are financially stable and can enjoy their golden years in good health. You've worked hard your entire life. You kept your end of the deal. I want to do everything I can to make sure you have access to the resources you need to enjoy retirement. That is one of my biggest goals as your Congresswoman — to be a resource for you at home and strong advocate for you in Washington!"

Over 40 vendors were present at the event, offering various services for seniors, including screenings for oral health, visual, and blood oxygen. Other vendors offered information on topics like financial planning, reverse mortgages, elder rights, housing rights, and caregiver assistance.

Representatives from the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service and Social Security Administration were also available to answer individual questions.

As part of her dedication to serving her constituents,

## Dodgers honor Bob Archuleta as Military Hero of the Game

■ Honors included a tour of the stadium and public recognition in front of fans between innings.

**LOS ANGELES** — State Sen. Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) was honored by the Los Angeles Dodgers as the team's Military Hero of the Game on Aug. 3.

"It was quite exhilarating receiving a standing ovation from 50,000 Dodgers fans," Archuleta said. "I've had great memories attending games here, and meeting Dodger greats Tommy Lasorda, Manny Mota, Fernando Valenzuela and Jaime Jarrin. This night will definitely count as another wonderful Dodger memory."

During each home game, the Dodgers invite a military veteran and publicly honor them for his or her service to their country. The experience also includes a tour of Dodger Stadium.

Archuleta is an Army veteran, having served in the 82nd Airborne Division.

"I didn't recognize the magnitude of the recognition until I was actually there on

the field, being recognized by one of Major League Baseball's legendary franchise," Archuleta said. "I am humbled by this acknowledgement of my military service, but more importantly, I thank the Los Angeles Dodgers for their continuous support of our veterans and active military members. It's a privilege to count myself among my fellow veterans."

Archuleta, who attended the game with his wife, Rose, grandson, Zachery, and several friends, said he was overwhelmed by the ceremony that took place during the game between the Dodgers and the Oakland A's.

A former Pico Rivera council member, Archuleta was elected to the California state senate in November 2018 and re-elected in 2022. His district includes Norwalk.

Archuleta is the chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, the first Latino Army veteran named to the position. He was appointed to the Governor's Military Council in 2019.

President Barack Obama appointed Archuleta to the Board

## The Temptations, Four Tops return to Cerritos Center

**CERRITOS** — Jam along to The Temptations' Happy People and Get Ready and The Four Tops' Baby I Need Your Loving and Same Old Song when two of Motown's biggest acts dominate the stage for an evening of greatest hits and snazzy moves at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 7 pm. Tickets start at \$69.

Rolling Stone magazine said The Temptations is "indisputably the greatest black vocal group of the modern era, this quintet created masterpiece after masterpiece of chugging, gospel-tinted soul." The Grammy-winning soul-R&B quintet set the bar for vocal groups with an impressive avalanche of hits, including My Girl and The Way You Do the Things You Do, a song penned and produced by

Smokey Robinson that propelled the Grammy-winning group into worldwide fame. Known for its fine-tuned choreography and harmonious crooning, The Temptations quickly became a Motown favorite and one of the most revered male vocal groups of all time, able to tackle lush pop and politically charged funk with equal aplomb and appeal.

With a colorful repertoire that has embraced numerous genres over the last five decades — including soul, R&B, doo-wop, and funk — the group has garnered an impressive list of honors. The single Cloud Nine earned a 1968 Grammy for "Best Rhythm & Blues Performance." Papa was a Rolling Stone won two Grammys in 1972 for "Best R&B Vocal Performance" and "Best R&B Instrumental Performance" and was inducted

into the Grammy Hall of Fame along with My Girl. The band scored another Grammy in 2000 for Ear-Resistible, which was chosen "Best Traditional R&B Vocal Album." The Temptations was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 1999.

The Temptations today consists of original member Otis Williams, Terry Weeks, Ron Tyson, Tony Grant, and Jawan M. Jackson. The band continues to wow sold-out crowds with its timeless hits, such as I Wish It Would Rain, I Can't Get Next to You, and Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me).

The Four Tops began as a band of high school pals who performed at school parties and church socials, progressing eventually to the small-club circuit. It quickly became a group that helped to shape and define

the Motown momentum of the 1960s.

With the help of legendary Motown record producer Berry Gordy, who recognized the band's talent for spinning Gospel with a Rock rhythm, the foursome shot to international stardom with a steady stream of hits that shook up pop and R&B charts, including I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch); It's the Same Old Song; and Reach Out I'll Be There, which became The Four Tops' signature song.

Even after the quartet left the Motown Records label, The Four Tops maintained a constant presence on the music scene and charts with Keeper of the Castle, Ain't No Woman (Like the One I've Got), and When She Was My Girl. The group — which currently consists of



Senior Fair offered several services and information to the community's elderly population. (Courtesy photo)

Congresswoman Sánchez had her team of caseworkers available at the Senior Fair to address individual questions.

Congresswoman Sánchez's staff remains accessible to constituents who require

assistance. If seniors were not able to attend the Senior Fair, have questions, or need help finding information, Congresswoman Sánchez encourages them to contact her office by calling (562) 860 - 5050 or visiting [www.lindasanchez.house.gov](http://lindasanchez.house.gov).

A free lunch was provided by Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and water for the entire group was provided by the Water Replenishment District.

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 82°

Saturday 84°

Sunday 83°

## ON THIS DAY

**1924:** The first newsreel of U.S. presidential candidates, which included footage of Calvin Coolidge, John W. Davis, and Robert La Follette, was filmed.

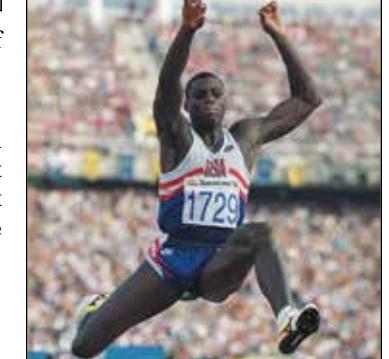
**1929:** In a game against the Cleveland Indians, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees hit his 500th career home run, becoming the first baseball player to reach that milestone.

**1942:** Actress Hedy Lamarr and composer George Antheil received a patent for an electronic device that minimized the jamming of radio signals; it later became a component of satellite and cellular phone technology.

**1964:** The Beatles' first feature film, "A Hard Day's Night," had its U.S. premiere in New York City; released during the height of Beatlemania, it is now widely considered a classic.

**1965:** Race riots erupted in the Watts district of Los Angeles, resulting in the deaths of 34 people.

**1984:** At the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Carl Lewis became the third track-and-field athlete to win four gold medals in one Olympics, joining fellow Americans Alvin Kraenzlein (1900) and Jesse Owens (1936).



**1994:** The Major League Baseball Players Association began a labor strike following the games of August 11, and the dispute eventually led to the cancellation of the remainder of the season, including the World Series.

**2014:** Robin Williams, who was known for his manic stand-up routines and his diverse film performances, died by suicide.

## Birthdays

Apple co-founder **Steve Wozniak** (73), wrestling legend **Hulk Hogan** (70), Oscar winning actress **Viola Davis** (58), podcast host **Joe Rogan** (56), "Boy Meets World" star Will Friedle (47), actor **Chris Hemsworth** (40), Bollywood star **Jacqueline Fernandez** (38) and conservative TV host **Tomi Lahren** (31).

## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Have you ever witnessed odd behavior and attributed it to the full moon? For centuries, the moon and how it affects us has been a focus of mythology and folklore. Consider the word "lunacy." It dates back to the 15th century, when it was commonly believed that the moon and its phases could cause aggression or other behaviors. In some cultures, the moon is worshiped, and in others it holds a darker tone (werewolves!). Is there scientific evidence behind whether or how the moon affects us?

All organisms have natural biological cycles. The moon, with its month-long cycle, exerts a gravitational pull on Earth powerful enough to affect the ocean tides. Given that our bodies are made up of roughly 60% water, isn't it reasonable that we may be impacted as well?

It is interesting that several species have adapted their biological cycles to line up with the lunar cycle. For example, the reproductive cycles of marine animals

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(including tropical corals, annelid worms, and multiple other species) adjust their feeding, migration, molting and more on the moon's cycle. Another obvious example is the (typically) 28-day human menstrual cycle.

How might lunar cycles affect our sleep? Well controlled studies on sleep and the moon have shown conflicting results. One showed 20% lower levels of melatonin during full moon, and a few studies from 2021 showed a correlation between full moons and decreased sleep. Many studies were performed in well-lit sleep labs, making conclusions questionable. It's clear that bright light from cell phones, televisions, computer screens, and certainly full moons, impacts our ability to fall asleep and to stay asleep. This makes such studies difficult to perform and analyze.

How might the phases of the moon affect mood and mental health? It is clear that various environmental factors can play a significant role in mood swings and act as a trigger for depression and anxiety. One small study on those with bipolar disorders found that they cycled between depression and mania in sync with the lunar cycle. Clearly,

more research is needed.

We've all heard about the full moon causing altered behavior, higher birth rates, increased visits to emergency rooms, and higher crime rates. However, scientists today generally believe that while there is indeed a correlation between lunar cycles and various activities, no causation has been proven.

My instincts tell me that the cycles of the moon may very well affect our health and behavior, but scientific studies have not proven it. I suspect that most of us will continue to believe that there is an effect, and as a result, our behavior might change, based on this belief. The power of belief looms large in folklore, mythology and religion, and it makes sense that the power of belief in science as well may have a direct impact on our physical, mental and emotional health.

*Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 10927 Downey Ave., Suite C, Downey, CA 90241.*

## Survey: Americans want weight loss drugs despite high cost

By Julie Appleby  
KFF Health News

Many Americans really want to lose weight — and a new poll shows nearly half of adults would be interested in taking a prescription drug to help them do so.

At the same time, enthusiasm dims sharply if the treatment comes as an injection, if it is not covered by insurance, or if the weight is likely to return after discontinuing treatment, a new nationwide KFF poll found.

Those findings display the enthusiasm for a new generation of pricey weight loss drugs hitting the market and illustrate possible stumbling blocks, as users potentially must deal with weekly self-injections, lack of insurance coverage, and the need to continue the medications indefinitely.

For example, interest dropped to 14% when respondents were asked if they would still consider taking prescription medications if they knew they could regain weight after stopping the drugs.

One way to interpret that finding is "people want to lose

a few pounds but don't want to be on a drug for the rest of their life," said Ashley Kirzinger, KFF's director of survey methodology. The monthly poll reached out to 1,327 U.S. adults.

The U.S. represents a large market for drugmakers who want to sell weight loss prescriptions: An estimated 42% of the population is classified as obese, according to a controversial metric known as BMI, or body mass index. In the KFF poll, 61% said they were currently trying to lose weight, although only 4% were taking a prescription medication to do so.

That gap between the 4% taking any kind of prescription weight loss treatment and the number of Americans deemed overweight or obese is the sweet spot drugmakers are targeting for the new drugs, which include several diabetes treatments repurposed as weight loss drugs.

The drugs have attracted much attention, both in mainstream publications and broadcasts and on social media, where they are often touted by celebrities and other influencers. Demand jumped and supplies have become limited. About 7 in 10 adults had heard at least "a little" about the new drugs, according to the survey.

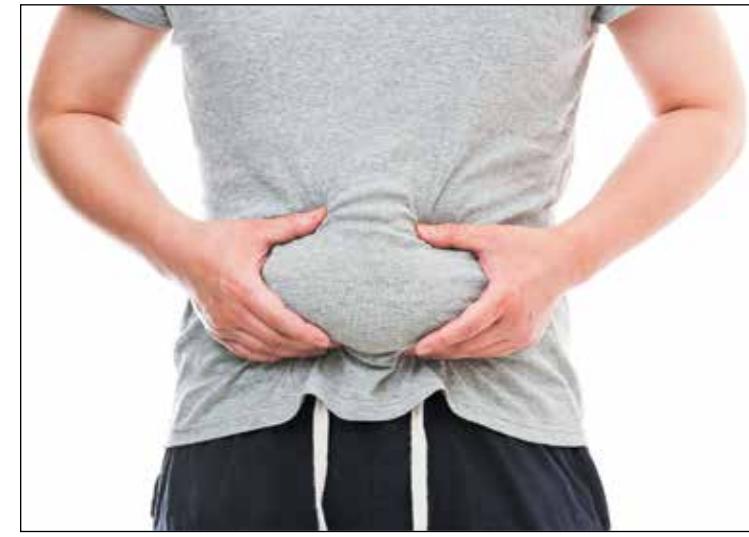
The newer treatments include Wegovy, a slightly higher dose of Novo Nordisk's diabetes drug Ozempic, and Mounjaro, an Eli Lilly diabetes treatment for which the company is currently seeking FDA approval as a weight loss drug.

Weight loss with these injectable drugs surpasses those of earlier generations of weight loss medications. But they are also costlier than previous drugs. The monthly costs of the drugs set by the drugmakers can range from \$900 to more than \$1,300.

At, say, a wholesale price tag of \$1,350, the tab per person could top \$323,000 over 20 years.

The drugs appear to work by mimicking a hormone that helps decrease appetite.

Still, like all drugs, they come with side effects, which can include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and constipation. More serious side effects include the



(Getty Images)

risk of a type of thyroid cancer, inflammation of the pancreas, or low blood sugar. Health officials in Europe are investigating reports that the drugs may result in other side effects like suicidal thoughts.

The KFF survey found that 80% of adults thought insurers should cover the new weight loss drugs for those diagnosed as overweight or obese. Just over half wanted it covered for anyone who wanted to take it. Half would still support insurance coverage even if doing so could increase everyone's monthly premiums. Still, 16% of those surveyed said they would be interested in a weight loss prescription even if their insurance did not cover it.

In practice, coverage for the new treatments varies, and private insurers often peg coverage to patients' BMI, a ratio of height to weight. Medicare specifically bars coverage for drugs for "anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain," although it pays for bariatric surgery.

"Unfortunately, a lot of insurers have not caught up to the idea of recognizing obesity as a disease," said Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity medicine specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Employers and insurers must consider the potential costs of covering the drugs for enrollees — perhaps for them to use indefinitely — against the potential savings associated with losing weight, such as a lower chance of diabetes or joint

problems.

Stanford said the drugs are not a miracle cure and do not work for everyone. But for those who benefit, "it can be significantly life-altering in a positive way," she said.

It's not surprising, she added, that the drugs may need to be taken long term, as "the idea that there is a quick fix" doesn't reflect the complexity of obesity as a disease.

While the drugs currently on the market are injectables, some drugmakers are developing oral weight loss drugs, although it is unclear whether the prices will be the same or less than the injectable products.

Still, many experts predict that a lot of money will be spent on weight loss products in the coming years. In a recent report, Morgan Stanley analysts called obesity "the new hypertension" and predicted industry revenue from U.S. sales of obesity drugs could rise from a current \$1.6 billion annually to \$31.5 billion by 2030.

**KFF Health News** is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF—an independent source of health policy research, polling, and journalism.

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# America's childcare crisis is worsening

By Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Tina Smith

*Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat, is the senior US Senator from Massachusetts and has served since 2013. Senator Tina Smith, a Democrat, is the junior US Senator from Minnesota and has served since 2018.*

In the early weeks of the pandemic, as a surging virus shuttered child care centers across the country, the two of us got together and outlined a vision for \$50 billion in emergency funding to keep centers afloat and preserve a vital safety net for parents. We fought to secure that funding, and we won.

Now, a new crisis looms for working families: Federal child care funding is about to take a nose dive off a cliff as much of that pandemic relief expires at the end of September, and Republicans refuse to make any new investments in early education funding.

If the Republicans have their way, more than 3 million babies will lose their child care — at a minimum — and millions of parents will be forced to scramble for other arrangements or leave the workforce altogether.

But there is a glimmer of light. Some members of Congress have indicated they may support increased funding for a few federal programs, including disaster relief and aid for Ukraine. President Joe Biden and Democrats should use this opening and insist that emergency child care funding be part of any supplemental spending package.

For decades, the economics of child care in America have been badly broken. Care is hard to find — especially for babies

too young to enter kindergarten. And even when families are lucky enough to score a spot, the costs are crushing. In fact, Care.com's annual Cost of Care Report found that, on average, American families are spending more than a quarter of their income on child care in 2023. At the same time, child care providers struggle to make ends meet, and workers make poverty-level wages for their powerfully important and difficult work in most states.

The Covid-19 pandemic was the latest blow to the industry, but it was also a wake-up call. In normal years, the federal government spends just \$13 billion on child care, compared to \$712 billion on defense. In fact, the US is 33rd out of the 37 richest nations in child care investments — behind Mexico and Romania. But emergency funding reached more than eight out of every 10 child care providers nationwide, providing them with enough money to raise wages temporarily for workers without raising costs for parents. That support also meant millions more parents could go to work knowing their children were in good hands.

As the pandemic relief expires, a bad problem will get worse. The child care industry is still short nearly 50,000 child care workers. Child care directors are already preparing to face impossible choices: slashing salaries for child care workers or raising costs on parents. Child care analysts estimate that 70,000 child care programs will close if emergency child care funding expires. That means nearly a quarter of a million child care workers could lose their jobs, and 3.2 million children could lose child care.

One way to address this crisis would be for Congress to

increase the annual appropriations for child care and early education, but thanks to MAGA Republicans' use of the debt ceiling to hold the US economy hostage, Congress is restricted by spending caps. But there's one last sliver of opportunity: Congress is now considering additional emergency funding outside of annual appropriations for disaster relief, the military and Ukraine. Why not address the child care emergency, too?

Reporting indicates the Biden administration is preparing a supplemental request for emergency funding. If the president is serious about his commitment to America's families — and his strong track record indicates that he is — then that request should include additional funding to address the child care emergency, just the same as for disaster relief, the military and Ukraine. And Congress should approve it quickly.

Experts estimate that \$16 billion would prevent the child care sector from falling off the pandemic funding cliff, giving child care providers support to retain their staffs and keep open the classrooms that parents rely on. And we know other leaders in the fight for child care funding — like our Senate colleagues Tim Kaine and Patty Murray — are ready to help get this done.

In the longer term, Congress needs to pass the big structural reforms and long-term funding that will permanently fix our broken child care system. This will help to ensure that all families can find high-quality, reliable and affordable child care, and that child care workers are paid the wages they deserve.

# A different approach to student debt relief

By Kelli Rhee

*Kelli Rhee is president and CEO of Arnold Ventures, a philanthropy with portfolios dedicated to criminal justice, health care, higher education, public finance and infrastructure.*

Back in June, mere hours after the Supreme Court rejected the Biden administration's first attempt at broad-based student debt relief, the White House kicked off a renewed push. The president announced a new effort to cancel student debt, this time under a different legal authority than the "national emergency" one used previously. The latest attempt, which requires a lengthy rulemaking process before it could take effect, cites the education secretary's authority to "compromise" federal student loans in certain cases. With this latest effort, the administration hopes to navigate the Supreme Court's clear pronouncement that the education secretary lacked the authority to "rewrite [the] statute from the ground up."

Unfortunately, what's likely to follow is a repeat of last year's legal back-and-forth: a lawsuit, a protracted court battle and persistent uncertainty for borrowers. And even if this new gambit is successful, it won't solve the underlying problem. America's student loan debt will likely again reach \$1.6 trillion — today's staggering total — within just a few short years. In the meantime, the rest of the administration's important higher education agenda will almost certainly shift to the backburner as attention is placed instead on regulating debt cancellation.

Given the time and distraction required for a long-shot chance at winning in court, the administration would be wise to consider a different approach to its higher education agenda. By instead focusing on holding colleges accountable for their value and ensuring borrowers have the support they need, it could make a meaningful and tangible difference in the lives of students and borrowers — improvements that will endure well beyond Joe Biden's tenure as president.

One such improvement is holding predatory for-profit colleges — of which there are hundreds in the US — and career-

training programs accountable. Even before the pandemic brought the student loan problem into sharp relief, millions of student borrowers were in default, a burden that often falls disproportionately on those who dropped out of college and those who attended schools that charge for largely valueless degrees, or those that produce a negative return on investment.

The Department of Education has taken steps to hold accountable career-training programs that don't deliver for students. Proposed regulations would strip eligibility for federal aid dollars from career-oriented programs that leave students deeply indebted or without quality job opportunities, and provide more transparency on outcomes and value for all programs. But to realize the goals of those regulations — protecting both students and taxpayers from wasting time and money in programs that never pay off — they must be finalized this year by the Department of Education and enforced quickly. More than 2.5 million students enroll in a college or university for the first time each year; more time spent putting new rules into effect could mean billions of dollars wasted for those who find themselves in low-value programs in the meantime.

The administration must also work with Congress to craft lasting solutions to increase the return on investment for higher education. Working only through executive action and regulations leaves progress fleeting, vulnerable to backtracking under a different administration.

Republicans introduced legislation earlier this year that would increase transparency into both the costs of enrolling in college and the outcomes that students can expect from their programs, including the likelihood of graduation and what they can expect to earn after college. Even more significant, the bill would altogether prevent federal dollars from going to programs where most students are no better off for having attended, as measured by the wages they earn later in life. Every loan made to a student seeking a degree from a low-quality or predatory institution compounds the country's higher education debt, and the administration ought to focus on the root of the problem:

institutions that take money from students but provide little of value in exchange.

Finally, the Department of Education can also take action to reform the work of state regulators and accrediting agencies that oversee colleges that are at a high risk of predatory behavior, poor outcomes and even closure. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of students were left stranded when their institutions closed abruptly. And each year, more than 700,000 students pay for pricey degrees from schools with poor outcomes. Yet states and accreditors have taken relatively few actions against these colleges to compel their improvement, instead rubber-stamping their mediocre results and ensuring their continued ability to enroll unsuspecting students and access billions in federal dollars.

Greater oversight of these colleges is badly overdue, and a rigorous regulatory focus on colleges with low graduation rates and high default rates would improve students' lives. The administration should increase the requirements for states and accreditors to act in the face of poor quality, encouraging them to hold institutions' feet to the fire and spark real change in how well they serve students. But today, this work is barely underway; the administration needs to stay focused on it.

Much of successful governing is deciding not only what to do, but what not to do. In higher education, the White House should recognize that it is fighting an unwinnable battle on mass student loan cancellation — something the Supreme Court made abundantly clear in its recent ruling. With less than half of the president's term remaining, losing this fight a second time poses long-term risks to Biden's higher education agenda.

Meanwhile, the administration can notch clear wins today, ones that will leave millions of Americans better off. By focusing on predatory actors within higher education and improving the oversight of risky colleges, the administration would improve our higher education system — and advance policy changes that can stand the test of time.

# New life for local newspapers

By Jim Hightower

*Jim Hightower is a syndicated columnist and talk radio host.*

How about a little bit of good news for a change? Specifically, good news about news.

The demise of local newspapers has been a very depressing story in the last few years, with several thousand of them gobbled up by Wall Street profiteers. Those money powers loot the publications' assets, then callously shut down each community's paper or reduce them to empty news shells. So that's that — local print journalism is passe, right?

Wrong! High-spirited, community-minded subscribers in places like Glen Rose (Texas), Hamburg (Iowa), Portland (Maine)

and International Falls (Minnesota) are humming an upbeat tune of regeneration that could be titled "Not Dead Yet!"

In Maine, for example, five of the state's six daily papers and 17 weeklies were sinking under the ownership of an investment group.

But all were recently bought by the National Trust for Local News ([nationaltrustforlocalnews.org](http://nationaltrustforlocalnews.org)), a nonprofit started two years ago. The Trust is turning each publication over to local nonprofit owners and helping them find ways to become sustainable.

Another new effort, called Cherry Road Media, has bought 77 rural papers in 17 states, most from the predatory Gannett conglomerate that wanted to dump them. Cherry Road's business

plan is simple, old-time genius — return editorial decision-making to local people and journalists who know the town, be an active presence and participant in community affairs, make the locals responsible for sustaining their town's paper — and most important, reinvest profits in real local journalism that advances democracy.

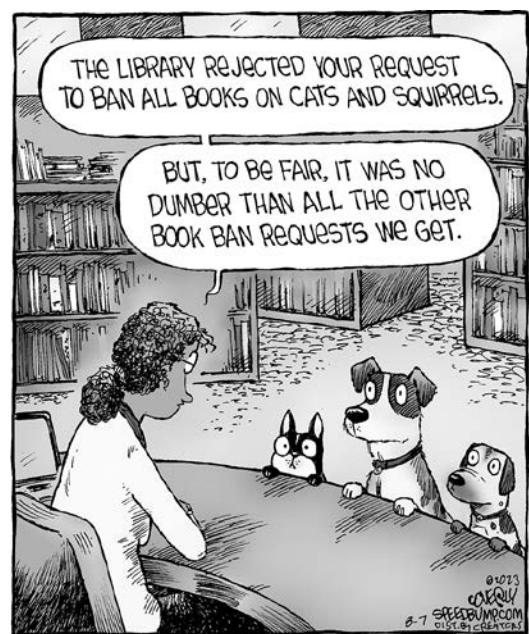
In both of these new initiatives, the foremost mission is to serve the common good of the communities, not to pad the wealth of a few distant financiers.

To learn more about these models (and how you might implement something similar in your town), contact Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues: [ruraljournalism.org](http://ruraljournalism.org).

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

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## PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman ([www.StanXwords.com](http://www.StanXwords.com))

### ANNIVERSARIANS: Wedding-wise

by Mark McClain

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.

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The Norwalk Patriot

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# LA homelessness lawsuit moves toward trial

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** - A federal appeals court has rejected Los Angeles County's bid to compel a judge to sign off on a settlement agreement with a coalition of downtown business owners and residents who say local government has not done enough to help remedy the homelessness crisis -- setting the stage for a November trial, according to papers obtained Tuesday.

In its March 2020 lawsuit, the L.A. Alliance for Human Rights alleged that inaction by the city and county of Los Angeles has created a dangerous environment in the Skid Row area and beyond.

The plaintiffs settled with the city last June in an agreement approved by U.S. District Judge David Carter, who is overseeing the case.

In April, Carter -- for the second time in five months -- rejected the county's settlement offer, denying the county and the alliance's joint stipulation to dismiss the case, saying he needed more "oversight and enforcement powers."

The county then attempted to stay proceedings while it prepared to appeal Carter's denial to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, but Carter also denied that effort.

In its petition to the Ninth Circuit, filed in May, the county asked for a stay in proceedings and an order to compel Carter to vacate his April order, enforce the settlement agreement and dismiss the case.

The county argued in the petition that Carter's "rulings and the court's conduct are unprecedented. They are also clearly erroneous and exceed the bounds" of the district court's authority.

In an order issued Friday, the appeals court denied the county's request for a "writ of mandamus" requiring Carter to grant its settlement agreement and permanently dismiss the case.

According to the appellate court's order, the county "has not demonstrated a clear and indisputable right to the extraordinary remedy of a writ of mandamus directing the district court to dismiss the action with

prejudice."

The request for a stay in the proceedings was also denied.

Mira Hashmall, an outside attorney representing L.A. County in the lawsuit, said the county is "understandably disappointed" by the 9th Circuit's ruling on the appeal.

Despite the ruling, she said, the county "is prepared to continue litigating this case in court even as it makes combating homelessness its top priority."

Hashmall said previously that the county pledged \$1.1 billion in additional public funds and resources to address and prevent homelessness during the three years of litigation. The revised settlement offer that Carter rejected would have provided an extra 700 new mental health and substance use disorder beds, bringing the total number of these types of beds to 1,000.

Both the county and the L.A. Alliance told Carter at the April 20 hearing that they were satisfied with the terms of the agreement and believed that while it wouldn't be enough to fix the homelessness crisis, it



(Getty Images)

should be enough to resolve the lawsuit.

But Carter balked at the number of mental health beds

that would be created by the agreement and said greater accountability and court oversight were needed.

A Nov. 6 trial date has been tentatively scheduled in Los Angeles federal court.

## LA County board moves forward with hotel worker protection ordinance

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** - Despite cost concerns from business and hotel representatives, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed its attorneys Tuesday to draft an ordinance requiring hotels in unincorporated areas to provide various protections for workers, including "panic button" devices and restrictions on daily working hours.

The proposed ordinance, which will be brought back to the board for final approval once it is drafted, will be mirrored after those already in place in cities including Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Glendale and West Hollywood.

The city of Los Angeles adopted its ordinance last year after it was submitted through a petition drive initiative backed by members of the Unite Here

Local 11 union, which is currently striking against dozens of Southland hotels seeking higher wages and benefits.

"Hotel workers who work by themselves in guest rooms are vulnerable to inappropriate, threatening, and sometimes criminal behavior, including sexual assault," according to a motion by county Supervisors Lindsey Horvath and Hilda Solis. "Ensuring that hotel workers are equipped with personal security devices and supported in their ability to report criminal and threatening behavior to the proper authorities will promote their personal safety from criminal threats and improve public safety overall."

The motion also contends that hotel housekeepers are often given "overly burdensome room cleaning quotas," forcing them to work long hours, while other workers are "frequently assigned

unexpected and mandatory overtime, which limits their ability to meet family and personal commitments."

During Tuesday's meeting, Horvath said the county "must do everything we can to protect the safety of our hotel workers and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect."

Solis noted that women "make up the vast majority of hotel workers in the county of Los Angeles, especially immigrant women and women of color."

The board motion instructs county attorneys to draft and return to the board with an ordinance that would require:

-- personal security devices for employees who work in guest rooms or restrooms by themselves;

-- training for hotel workers on the use of the personal security devices;

-- prohibiting hotel employers from taking adverse actions against workers who report threats or violence incidents to law enforcement;

-- hotels with less than 40 guest rooms could not require a room attendant to clean rooms amounting to more than 4,500 square feet in an eight-hour workday, unless the worker is paid double their salary for extra hours;

-- hotels with 40 or more rooms could not require an attendant to clean rooms amounting to more than 3,500 square feet in any eight-hour workday, unless the worker receives double pay for extra hours;

-- preventing workers from working more than 10 hours in a day, unless the worker consents in writing; and

-- requiring hotels to contract with a certified

Public Housekeeping Training Organization to provide housekeeping training to new employees.

Several hotel-industry representatives spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance, citing the costs of the regulations and the difficulty adhering to the square-footage requirements.

Robin Wolfe, a hotel general manager in Marina del Rey, told the board the requirements would force hotels to hire additional housekeeping staff, while also calling the double-time penalties for exceeding the requirements "excessive."

She urged the board "to please study the impact on areas that have already implemented this ordinance."

A representative for the Marina del Rey Tourism Board said the regulation will lead to

an increase in hotel rates, while a Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce official said the rules will be burdensome to small businesses, noting the cost of purchasing and maintaining panic button systems, and warning that those costs could lead to workers being laid off.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger abstained from the vote, expressing concerns about the economics of the proposed ordinance "and how it's going to impact the industry."

"I don't want to see people laid off as a result," Barger said.

She said she fully supports protecting the safety of workers, "but I want to make sure we have the economics as it relates to the impact it's going to have."

The measure passed on the 3-0 vote, with Barger abstaining and Supervisor Holly Mitchell absent.

## Downey mayor elected NALEO second vice president

**DOWNEY** - Downey Mayor Claudia M. Frometa has been elected second vice president of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the first time an elected official from the Southeast Los Angeles County region has been named to the position.

Frometa previously served as treasurer of NALEO, a non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 7,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.

"I'm humbled and honored to represent our city in this capacity," said Frometa.

In addition to Frometa, NALEO's executive board includes the Honorable E. Junior Maldonado (president), New York state senator Gustavo Rivera (first vice president), New Mexico Commission of Public Records member Brian Colon (secretary) and Coconino County treasurer Sarah Benatar (treasurer).



Downey Mayor Claudia Frometa

## LA County gas prices hit highest point since November

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** - The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline in Los Angeles County rose Tuesday for the 16th consecutive day, increasing six-tenths of a cent to \$5.162, its highest amount since Nov. 25.

The average price has increased 19 cents over the past 16 days, including three-tenths of a cent Monday, according to figures from the AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. The streak of increases follows a run of six decreases in seven days totaling 2.2 cents.

The average price is 5.2 cents more than one week ago and 21.9 cents higher than one month ago but 32 cents less than one year ago. It has dropped \$1.332 since rising to a record \$6.494 on Oct. 5.

The Orange County average price rose for the eighth

consecutive day and 14th time in 15 days, increasing two-tenths of a cent to \$5.104, its highest amount since Nov. 22. It has risen 20.3 cents over the past 15 days, including four-tenths of a cent Monday.

The Orange County average price is 5.9 cents more than one week ago and 22.1 cents higher than one month ago but 26.8 cents less than one year ago. It has dropped \$1.355 since rising to a record \$6.459 on Oct. 5.

The national average price dropped a half-cent to \$3.824, its second decrease in four days following a 17-day streak of increases totaling 26.8 cents. It decreased two-tenths of a cent Sunday and was unchanged Saturday and Monday.

The national average price is 4.4 cents more than one week ago and 28.6 cents higher than one month ago but 23.5 cents less than one year ago. It has dropped \$1.192 since rising to a record

\$5.016 on June 14, 2022.

"Average gasoline prices continued to move up last week thanks to a continued rise in oil and continued pressure from hot weather that impacted refineries," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, which provides real-time gas price information from more than 150,000 stations.

"However, the pace of increases has started to slow down over the last few days, and for now, appears to have hit a peak over the weekend and is beginning to gently fall. But with oil remaining under pressure from Saudi Arabia extending its 1 million barrel per day production cut into September, the respite from gasoline rising may not last long."

"Plus there remain unknowns about hurricane season that will likely become more active in the weeks ahead."

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