

The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023

Vol. 17 No. 41

14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Teen escapes from Downey juvenile hall

■ County supervisors want security measures addressed at Downey's Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

By City News Service

DOWNEY — Following the second escape of a youth from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey since the facility reopened in July, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday directed probation officials to provide a report in two weeks on corrective actions and increased security measures being implemented at the facility.

"It is unacceptable that two young people have managed to escape from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in the last four months," Supervisors board Chair Janice Hahn said in a statement after introducing the emergency motion Tuesday. "Luckily, they were both apprehended almost immediately after their escape, but this cannot happen again."

The motion calls for the report by probation officials in two weeks to include "descriptions of additional security measures and policies being implemented by the Probation Department to prevent any future escape from the facility."

It also directs the county's chief probation officer to meet with Downey and South Gate officials to brief them on additional security measures. It also calls on the Office of the Inspector General to investigate the most recent escape, which occurred Saturday when a youth detainee allegedly assaulted a staff member, managed to obtain a set of keys then climbed over a fence.

That youth was detained within about 10 minutes, according to Hahn's office and probation officials.

Another youth escaped briefly from the facility about two weeks after it reopened in July.

Los Padrinos was renovated and reopened to replace Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar and Central Juvenile Hall in Lincoln Heights, both of which came under fire by state regulators for conditions that rendered them unfit to house pre-trial youth detainees.

College hosting meet & greet

NORWALK — Cerritos College is hosting a community meet and greet Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 am to 2 pm.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy activities, including a ceramics demonstration, Charlie Brown Christmas music performance, arts and crafts, games, and more.

Parking is free in Lot 10.

Norwalk moves toward solar energy

■ By turning to solar, Norwalk expects to save more than \$35.3 million over the next 30 years.

By Vincent Medina
Contributor

NORWALK — The Norwalk City Council has unanimously voted to approve the Sustainability Energy Efficiency and Infrastructure Improvement Project and initiate the installation of solar panel arrays at several municipal facilities during their Tuesday meeting.

"For many years, the city council has supported energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and infrastructure," said city manager Jesus M. Gomez. "This is also related to our goal number for sustainability recently added to our strategic plan."

Gomez explained the projected energy savings over 30 years are estimated at \$35,361,800. The project would cost approximately \$18.2 million, which includes the design-build contract for sports

field lighting and the initiation of solar panel implementation at six city facilities.

The city will cover \$6.2 million through different sources to finance the solar panel array portion, estimated at \$12 million. Approximately \$1.8 million has already been allocated in the fiscal year 2024 budget for park lighting and improvements, with an additional \$4.2 million to be requested later. This additional funding is expected to come from Proposition C and capital reserves.

The city plans to seek tax-exempt municipal lease financing for the solar panels at six locations. Syserco Energy Solutions has assisted the city in applying to Southern California Edison for rebates, securing a significant \$4 million to be used against the first debt service payment.

This rebate includes \$3 million from the Inflation Reduction Act and \$1 million from the energy community bonus.

Scott Mines, the general manager from Syserco Energy Solutions, assured the council



Norwalk City Council reviews a plan to install solar panel at city facilities during their meeting on Tuesday. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

of the solar panels' reliability.

"The materials that are specified here on the solar modules have a 30-year performance warranty that's associated with them," Mines explained. "The things that we're installing here are their equipment, that is tier one modules, which are companies that have been thoroughly tested and UL listed."

Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia noted the urgency of Norwalk's move towards solar energy. "Working towards reducing our carbon footprint is part of our sustainability plan. That's really what we're trying to do and even play a little bit of catch up when it comes to sustainability efforts."

Hahn details action plan in State of the County address

■ Supervisor Janice Hahn detailed her plan to address homelessness, public safety and mental health in her State of the County address.

By Janice Hahn
L.A. County Supervisor
Fourth District

On Thursday, the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce hosted my State of the County address at Crafted.

I talked about everything LA County — the role our 38 departments play in our residents' lives from the day we are born, with birth certificates issued by our Registrar-Recorder, to the day we die, with the work of our County Coroner.

But the bulk of my speech focused on how we are going to meet the challenges we face in public safety, homelessness, and mental health.

Public Safety

I talked about the investments we are making in the Sheriff's Department, the \$15 million effort to fight organized retail theft, and the new common sense gun policies we are putting in place to save lives by preventing guns from falling into the wrong hands.

Working Smarter to Create Housing

I talked about the humanitarian crisis on our streets and how we are creating housing faster by taking advantage of empty county buildings and converting motels that have seen better days into apartments for formerly unhoused residents.

This year we transformed the former Best Western in



Janice Hahn is applauded after delivering her State of the County speech in San Pedro. (Courtesy photo)

San Pedro into temporary housing for formerly homeless veterans with the addiction services, mental health support, and job training they need to put their lives back on track.

Every week, between five and 10 veterans are graduating from the program and moving into their own apartments. In fact, a veteran who attended the event just moved into permanent housing this week.

During the speech, I announced that we would be naming it the Louis Dominguez Veterans Center after a local veteran who served our country honorably in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart. Thank you, Louis, for your service.

Hiring an Army of Mental Health Workers

But if we are going to make a difference in this crisis, we need an army of mental

health workers to not only treat people in care facilities, but be on the streets every day working with people in encampments.

That's why we are offering loan forgiveness and bonuses to people who agree to work in the field instead of behind a desk. And because we know that mental health is not a nine-to-five problem, we are offering incentives to people who agree to work night shifts and weekends.

We are going to community colleges and holding hiring fairs where we can do background checks on-site and give people same-day offers.

It's working. In the past five months alone, we have hired 272 mental health professionals with the goal of hiring hundreds more in the coming months.

My address closed with a

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78° ☁️

Saturday 83° ☀️

Sunday 82° ☀️

ON THIS DAY

1775:

The United States Marine Corps was founded when the Continental Congress ordered that two battalions of marines be raised for service during the American Revolution.

1898:

The multiracial city government of Wilmington, North Carolina, was violently overthrown, and as many as 60 Black Americans were killed in a premeditated murder spree that was the culmination of an organized months-long statewide campaign by white supremacists.

1938:

On her radio show, Kate Smith sang "God Bless America" for the first time, introducing it to the country; the song was composed by Irving Berlin for a 1918 musical he wrote, but decided not to use it.

1958:

The Hope diamond, one of the largest blue diamonds known, was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., becoming one of its most-popular attractions.

1969:

The children's TV series Sesame Street—which featured a cast of puppet characters that included Elmo, Big Bird, and the Cookie Monster—debuted on the National Educational Television network (later PBS).

1983:

Bill Gates introduced Windows 1.0, the first major software release by Microsoft.

1990:

"Home Alone," written by John Hughes and starring Macaulay Culkin, had its world premiere; a huge hit, it spawned a number of sequels and became a TV staple during the Christmas holidays.



2017:

Taylor Swift released her sixth studio album, "Reputation."

BIRTHDAYS

Comedian **Sinbad** (67), comedian **Tracy Morgan** (55), "Grey's Anatomy" star **Ellen Pompeo** (54), rapper **Warren G** (53), country singer **Miranda Lambert** (40), Nickelodeon star **Josh Peck** (37), wrestler **Peyton Royce** (31) and actress **Zoey Deutch** (29).

Tax-saving benefits for veterans Veterans and PTSD

By Jeff Prang
Los Angeles County Assessor

As we prepare to give thanks this November on Thanksgiving Day, it's also important to remember those that have served our great nation in the military and honor their courage and valor this Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday and is celebrated Nov. 11. Veterans Day, as most of you know, is a tribute to military veterans

who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's not to be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who died while in service. Veterans Day honors all military veterans, including those still with us.

As a quick reminder, Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson, celebrating the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. That occurred on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. and formally recognized the "11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month" in 1918 that ended the war.

In 1954, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day to honor all veterans in all wars. We still celebrate this day, recognizing the tie with WWI, meaning we celebrate Veterans Day the same day every year – Nov. 11 – regardless of the day of the week it falls. If Veterans Day falls on the weekend, it can be celebrated on the Saturday or Sunday and on the following Monday.

Since it's a federal holiday, a bank holiday and a state holiday, federal and state employees get the day off from work.

Not only am I visiting with you about Veterans Day but to remind you that we have tax savings' programs available for veterans and if pending legislation passes, the exemptions could be expanded.

Here's how it works: If you are a single veteran with assets of less than \$5,000, a married veteran with assets of less than \$10,000, or an unmarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, you may apply for the Veterans' Exemption of \$4,000, which is applied to the assessed value of your property.

If you are a disabled veteran the exemption is even greater. If a veteran is blind in both eyes, has lost the use of two or more limbs, or is 100% disabled as a result of injury or disease incurred in military service, you may be eligible for a Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. You may be eligible for an exemption of up to \$150,000 of the assessed value of your home. The Veterans Administration must certify the veteran's disability. Unmarried surviving spouses of certain deceased veterans may also qualify.

Now to the legislation, Senate Constitutional Amendment 6 (SCA6), which would allow veterans to claim both the Homeowners' Exemption and the Veterans' Exemption or the Disabled Veterans' Exemption. As a reminder, the Homeowners' Exemption reduces your assessed value on your primary residence by \$7,000. That translates to an actual reduction of \$70 to a homeowners' tax bill. As of now, a veteran cannot claim the Veterans' Exemption or the Disabled Veterans' Exemption and the Homeowners' Exemption. If SCA6 continues to move through the legislative process and becomes law that will change. I will keep you posted on any developments.

We owe a tremendous debt to our veterans and I say thank you for all that you've done, all that you do and all that you will do. Our Democracy is built on your service.

My office offers other several tax-savings programs as well and the Veterans' Exemptions are just two examples. For additional property tax relief programs, visit assessor.lacounty.gov/exclusions-tax-relief or call 213/974-3211.

Contributed by
Kaiser Permanente

This Saturday, Nov. 11, America will observe Veterans Day to honor the men and women who served our country in war or peace, and recognize them for their sacrifices to protect our freedoms.

For many veterans who served in military conflicts, however, their service came at a high price, as many continue to experience nightmares or flashbacks caused by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Those veterans often have flashbacks, and many relive traumatic events experienced on the battlefield that have become seared in their memories and often negatively affect their mental health.

In one major study of 60,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, 13.5% of deployed and non-deployed veterans screened positive for PTSD, while other studies show the rate to be as high as 20% to 30%. As many as 500,000 U.S. troops who served in those wars may have been diagnosed with PTSD, according to the study.

"Veterans with PTSD are affected in a variety of ways," said Dr. Ashley Zucker, a psychiatrist with Kaiser Permanente Southern California. "They often share one thing in common, however. Those with PTSD often experience significant challenges when it comes to managing daily activities such as work, going to school or having healthy relationships with your spouse, children, friends and loved ones. That can often lead to social withdrawal, anxiety, shame, sleep disorders, or even suicide."

Dr. Zucker noted the simplest triggers can make someone with PTSD feel like their nervous system becomes hijacked by a panic reaction, and that can cause you to fight (get angry), flight (avoid) or freeze (feel numb).

She noted certain factors increase the chances of someone developing PTSD, including having directly experienced or repeatedly witnessed the aftermath of a very intense or long-lasting traumatic event, which is common among many veterans.

According to Dr. Zucker, doing the following may improve a person's path to recovery from PTSD:

- In times of anxiety, reassure and comfort yourself.
- Always attend scheduled counseling sessions and doctor's appointments.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine, nicotine and illegal drug use, as they can raise your anxiety level and cause problems with sleeping.
- Make sure you get sufficient rest.
- Exercise.
- Use proven relaxation techniques.
- Get involved in your community.

Because there are times when PTSD can cause severe anxiety and other mental health challenges, Dr. Zucker emphasized the importance of knowing when to seek help.

POET'S CORNER

Grass

Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo.
Shovel them under and let me work—

I am the grass; I cover all.

And pile them high at Gettysburg
And pile them high at Ypres and Verdun.
Shovel them under and let me work.

Two years, ten years, and passengers ask the conductor:

What place is this?

Where are we now?

I am the grass.

Let me work.

Carl Sandberg, Cornhuskers, Henry Holt, 1918

November 11 was originally named Armistice Day after World War I, then Veterans' Day. It honors those who have served in the military, in wartime or peacetime, with parades and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Poets try to measure the human effects of war. Sandberg won his first Pulitzer Prize for the book of poetry that included this poem. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.



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Lackluster Wi-Fi puts Cerritos College students at disadvantage

In the year 2023, dependable internet is a basic necessity for college campuses.

By Vanesa Molina

Vanesa Molina is a staff writer for Talon Marks, the student newspaper at Cerritos College.

Cerritos College needs better Wi-Fi as it disrupts us from being able to work efficiently during school.

We go to school to get work done and learn, but that's hard to do when we aren't provided with strong Wi-Fi that makes class run smoothly for us.

It's difficult when some apps aren't loading and we have to wait for our professors' lesson plans to load.

This is especially hard for students who try getting

work done in between classes since that may be the only time they can do their assignments.

It is a struggle to connect to Wi-Fi and even when it does connect, it isn't the greatest and we're tired of it.

It's frustrating having to sit down and wait for the internet to connect again, it wastes our time as we can be doing homework productively during that time but the Wi-Fi lags a lot and at times also freezes our screens and apps.

I have seen several students head to the nearby Starbucks just to get work done when they should just easily be doing that in school where it'd be more quiet rather than having to do their work somewhere loud.

It doesn't help that the signal is not good at school either, I've had my phone go on SOS plenty of times there.

I have tried to text my parents when something important is going on or I have to stay at school longer just so they won't worry and my messages won't send.

As a school, they should be providing us with strong Wi-Fi especially if a lot of their students are paying to be there. It is not fair to students paying for their education and they don't even receive good internet.

Some people just don't have the internet at home or some people just don't find it easy concentrating at home because of distractions like younger siblings, etc. So they decide to go to school to try to get work done, but it's a struggle.

Not to mention the lack of good Wi-Fi can also be dangerous. Say in case of an emergency if we need to call someone it won't be easy and since we do have school police it may be hard for them to be notified if something does go wrong.

School cameras might not work since appliances need internet and that is never good for the safety of the students, and that should be a priority.

No matter the issue, we need better Wi-Fi and the college should fund money for it as it will benefit all students with their grades and keep them safer.

VETERANS DAY: Celebrating 50 years of our all-volunteer U.S. Army

By Mario A. Guerra

Deacon Mario A. Guerra is the former mayor of Downey and currently serves as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He can be reached at www.marioaguerra.com

On this Veterans Day in 2023 we recognize all who have served our nation with honor and distinction. Veterans have earned our undying gratitude, and the American people must never forget their sacrifices.

Veterans Day is a reminder that the Army's people are its greatest strength and taking care of them and ensuring they are ready to fight and win our nation's wars is our top priority. Prospective soldiers observe how we take care of our soldiers and our veterans as they consider serving themselves.

The Army is committed to the success of our soldiers from pre-enlistment to post-separation. In fact, about half of the Department of Army Civilian force is made up of Army veterans. Duty to our country is a prime reason people want to serve in the Army, but the Army is also a good career – you can be all you can be in the Army. Soldiers are a diverse set of professionals who have unique skills and experiences, making them invaluable contributors to their organizations and communities once they are done with their service.

Despite all of this, only one percent of our nation serves in the military, and 61 percent of those who serve are more likely to have been exposed to military life through friends or family. It's an indicator that veterans have first-hand knowledge of the benefits of a military career and can bridge the gap between those who are familiar with military life and those who have never considered the military as a career.

If you are a veteran, I encourage you to share positive stories about your service this Veterans Day. Veteran stories connect Americans with the value of Army service and inspire the next generation to serve.

History of Veterans Day

For nearly a century, we have observed Veterans Day on the anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting along the Western Front in World War I on November 11, 1918.

In 1938, Congress made Armistice Day an official, annual national holiday. In 1954, its name was changed to Veterans Day.

While Memorial Day is a time to remember those who died in the service of their country, Veterans Day is a time to remember all those who have served – past and present.

All-Volunteer Force

Many of our surviving veterans are members of what we call the all-volunteer force. For those unfamiliar with the military, when we say we are an all-volunteer force, we don't mean that soldiers are not paid for their work. We mean that soldiers choose to serve. In the Army, you earn a paycheck and countless other valuable financial and educational benefits. More than that, the Army sets the conditions for being part of a close-knit community held together by life-long bonds with fellow soldiers and veterans, and a career path that has no limits.

You can "Be All You Can Be" in the Army, and the strength of our force is reflected in the quality and professionalism of our people.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the all-volunteer force. If you are a veteran who served your country, I want to personally say thank you for your commitment to keeping our country safe and for being part of the best Army in the world.

Soldiers for Life

In the Army, we consider our greatest asset to be our people. Our all-volunteer Army is a credit to Americans of all races, genders and creeds; and our common commitment to defense of, and love for, our country binds us, and unites us, together. That goes to the heart of what it means to be an American.

As a nation, we must ensure that the service and sacrifice of our veterans is never overlooked or forgotten. The Army believes that every soldier is a "Soldier for Life" and is committed to removing barriers to their success both in and out of the Army.

In the United States, we have about 18 million veterans who have served – about 7 percent of the adult population. Their service spans World War II to our latest conflicts in the Middle East. On Veterans Day, we honor the brave men and women from all walks of life who have stepped forward to defend our nation throughout our history.

The U.S. now has the largest population of young veterans since the Vietnam War. We owe it to these men and women to make sure they transition from active-duty careers with the skills and experience to find meaningful employment.

Regardless of the military branch in which our veterans have served – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or Space Force – this day belongs to them. Generations of patriots have dedicated themselves to the defense of our country to make us stronger and more resilient as a nation.

Soldiers live by the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. They do not leave behind their values and skills when they transition to civilian life, maintaining a life-long identification with the Army. Army Soldiers are not "former" soldiers, they are "Soldiers for Life" and uniquely qualified to advocate for and connect the public with the Army by telling their Army story.

The Army's Soldier for Life program works in communities across the country to create opportunities for our soldiers, veterans and families, and encourages veterans to remain connected to the Army.

Right now, all around the country, our Soldiers for Life and veterans from other services are teachers, doctors, engineers, social workers, community leaders, first responders and elected officials. They continue to serve our communities by making positive contributions, building stronger futures and inspiring future generations.

I'll end with this story that continues to inspire me. As Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, I get the privilege to meet a lot of heroes and brave people. I recently had the opportunity to have dinner with Captain Sam Brown.

Captain Sam Brown is the oldest of five children, and he quickly learned the importance of servant leadership, and his parents instilled in him an undying commitment to the service of others.

Sam always had a desire to serve his country but when he witnessed the 9/11 terrorist attacks, that desire became an ironclad resolve.

One year later, Sam was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

After graduating from West Point, he was commissioned as an infantry officer and was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Hood. In 2008, Sam was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Only four months into his deployment, Sam was on a mission when he received word that another nearby platoon had been ambushed.



So, he led his team into battle to provide support for his fellow soldiers.

Upon entering the engagement area, a roadside bomb detonated under the fuel tank of his vehicle, leaving him drenched in diesel and covered in flames.

He told me that as he laid there screaming in pain and calling for God and his mother, he finally gave up. He said he thought to himself, how long it would take to burn to death?

By the grace of God, Sam's gunner was able to extinguish the flames before they took his life. He said all he remembered hearing was the gunner saying to him, "Sir, I've got you now."

He woke up months later at Fort Sam Houston in one of the best Army burn hospitals in the world. His road to recovery was painful, both physically and mentally.

Following the injuries he sustained, Sam was medically retired from the US Army as a captain.

In the three years following the explosion in Afghanistan, Sam underwent intense physical rehabilitation and over a hundred surgeries to give him a new face. During this process of recovery, Sam recognized that God had given him a new life. A life that was intended to be dedicated to the service of God and country.

During the three years he spent in recovery, he wondered who would want him in this condition. He was a young, single man with a lot of disfigurement over most of his body.

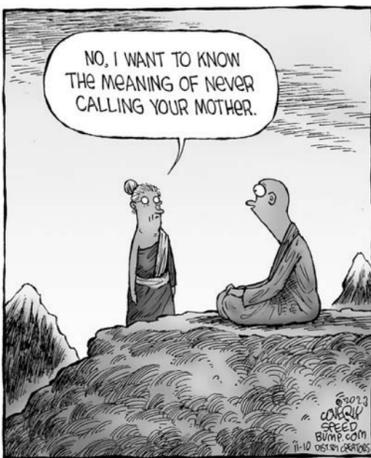
But as he told me, God had other plans. Since he couldn't feed himself for six months, an Army dietitian in the burn unit, 1st Lieutenant Amy Larsen, fed him almost daily. And she could see further than his skin.

Sam fell in love, but just as importantly, she did too. They ended up getting married and today have been married 14 years and have three beautiful kids. He went back to school and got a Masters from SMU and today is running his own successful company providing medicines for veterans in hard to reach areas of our country.

I smile every time I think of him and his family. I give thanks for his passion and love for our country. I am inspired by veterans like him and so many others.

Our nation's veterans throughout our history have kept us free, returned home and continued to serve our nation in a multitude of ways. Today, we say thank you to them all.

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@thedowneypatriot.com

The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

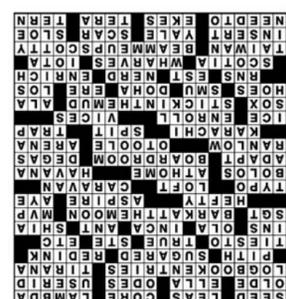
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
WOODWORK: In various shapes and sizes
by Mark McClain

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

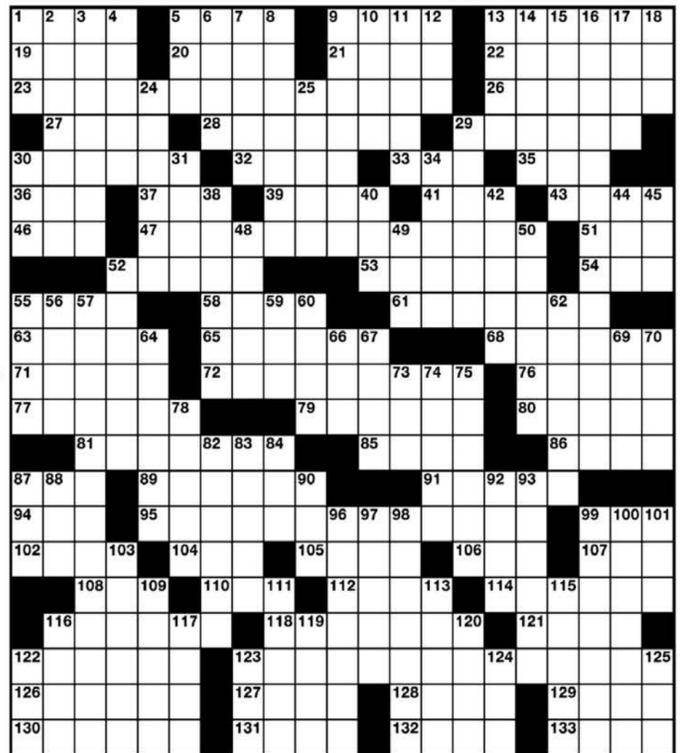
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at www.StanXwords.com

The word "van," in all its transportation meanings, is a shortened form of CARAVAN (61 Across). Brad Bird had directed his first film, Pixar's *The Incredibles*, three years before latest estimates, the nearly 15 million residents of KARACHI (81 Across) ranks #7 in world population, behind Istanbul at #6.



- | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Bird feeder contents | 80 Coliseum, for instance | 5 Astrological feline |
| 5 Bucolic fields | 81 Most populous city of Pakistan | 6 Rockies grazers | 7 Alaskan islander |
| 9 Central part | 85 Roasting rod | 8 Wine with fruit slices | 9 Fix |
| 13 Sorority letter | 86 Spy-fi plot element | 10 <i>Garfield</i> dog | 11 Oboist's supply |
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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

Kaiser health care workers ratify new contract

■ Union members voted to overwhelmingly approve their new labor deal, which runs through 2027.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES – Health care workers have ratified a new contract with Kaiser Permanente that union leaders say will bolster patient safety, make investments in the workforce, and set a higher standard for the health care industry nationwide, it was announced Thursday.

More than 85,000 Kaiser Permanente workers agreed to ratify a four-year contract with a 98.5% margin. The contract will be in effect until Sept. 30, 2027, at hundreds of Kaiser facilities, including those in Southern California and throughout the state.

The new contract comes after Kaiser workers walked off their jobs for a three-day strike in October. A tentative agreement was reached on Oct. 13 following meetings with acting U.S. Labor Secretary Julie Su, Kaiser and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions.

“This is more than a contract -- it signals a new day for frontline healthcare workers and for patient safety across Kaiser facilities,” Angelica Mateo, a licensed vocational nurse at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Clinics, said in a statement released Thursday. “When health care workers stand shoulder-to-shoulder to fight for our patients and our jobs, we can win.”

The new contract improves wages, hiring and training that union leaders say will allow Kaiser Permanente to recruit and retain experienced professionals and improve patient care.

Terms of the contract include:

- Addressing the staffing crisis by raising wages by 21% over four years to better retain current health care workers.
- Establishing a new healthcare worker minimum wage -- \$25 per hour in California and \$23 per hour in other states with Coalition union members.
- Protective terms around subcontracting and outsourcing, which will keep experienced health care workers in jobs and provide strong continuity of care for patients.
- A renewed commitment to and funding of the groundbreaking labor-management partnership where unionized frontline workers have a voice in decision-making.
- Implementation of a joint staffing process where frontline health care workers and managers work together at the department level on proper staffing models and plans needed to deliver care to patients.

-- A one-year accelerated hiring process that decreases internal delays to external hiring and invests in internal talent to meet staffing needs. This includes the elimination of duplicative testing requirements and reducing experience barriers for incumbent employees.

“Tens of thousands of health care workers have been fighting with one goal in mind: to finally have the resources they need to keep patients safe. Today, we celebrate a huge step forward in addressing persistent staffing problems,” Caroline Lucas, Executive Director of the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, said in a statement. “This new contract is not only a victory for Kaiser’s patients and employees, but for all frontline health care workers and those who rely on them in our moments of need. When health care workers win, we all win.”

Investigator allegedly stole from dead bodies

■ Adrian Munoz is accused of stealing a gold necklace and rare coins off a man who died of a heart attack.

LOS ANGELES – A man who worked as an investigator for the County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner has been charged with two counts of theft for allegedly removing a gold crucifix necklace from a dead man’s neck and keeping rare coins that were apparently linked to another man who was found dead, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced Wednesday.

Adrian Munoz, 34, of Los Angeles, is charged with one felony count of grand

theft of property and one misdemeanor count of petty theft of property, according to the DA’s office.

Surveillance video showed Munoz removing a gold crucifix necklace from the neck of a warehouse worker who died Jan. 6 of a heart attack at his job in South Los Angeles and placing it in his medical bag, according to the DA’s office, which alleges that Munoz did not return the necklace or document it in the property receipt.

Investigators who searched Munoz’s desk cubicle found rare antique coins with a receipt in the name of a man who had been discovered dead last November, the DA’s office

said. Munoz, who had worked for the medical examiner’s office since 2018, had handled that man’s death investigation, according to the DA’s office said.

In a statement, District Attorney George Gascón said an investigator with the medical examiner’s office “holds a position of immense trust and responsibility.”

“Their role is not just to unravel the case of death or help solve potential crimes, but also to provide closure and peace to grieving family members,” Gascón said. “The theft of items, potential family heirlooms and sentimental pieces from the deceased not

only violates this trust but desecrates the memory of a loved one. It’s a profound betrayal of the very essence of the role and the solemn duty owed to both the deceased and their bereaved families.”

Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Odey Ukpo said in the statement that his office “takes these allegations very seriously and is assisting law enforcement and the D.A.’s Office in the ongoing investigation.”

Munoz is currently on leave pending completion of the investigation, the medical examiner’s office said.

No arraignment date has been set yet for Munoz.

County agrees to pay reporter \$700K after arrest

■ The settlement comes after KPCC reporter Josie Huang was arrested while covering a 2020 protest.

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved a \$700,000 settlement with a local reporter who was tackled, handcuffed and arrested while covering an anti-law enforcement protest in Lynwood in 2020.

The board approved the settlement with Josie Huang unanimously, without comment. Huang was a reporter for KPCC and LAist.

Huang was arrested Sept.

12, 2020, as she was covering a confrontation involving a handful of protesters at the emergency room entrance of St. Francis Medical Center, where two deputies who had been shot in an ambush near a Compton transit station were being treated.

Video from the scene showed deputies pinning Huang to the ground and arresting her.

The sheriff’s department claimed she didn’t have proper media credentials, failed to properly identify herself as a reporter and was “interfering with a lawful arrest” of one of the protesters.

Then-sheriff Alex Villanueva later accused Huang of getting “right up on the shoulder” of a deputy trying to make an arrest, and said her actions were more “activism” than journalism.

But video from Huang’s cell phone subsequently surfaced, showing her repeatedly identifying herself as a reporter, shouting “KPCC,” and saying, “You’re hurting me” and crying out in apparent pain.

Huang was ultimately cited and released, and prosecutors declined to pursue any charges against her.

According to LAist, the

\$700,000 settlement is believed to be the largest of its type in the nation involving a journalist whose rights were violated while covering protests that erupted across the country following the death of George Floyd while being arrested by police in Minneapolis.

In a statement to LAist, Huang’s attorney, Katie Townsend, said, “It was our client’s goal to hold officials accountable for her unlawful arrest and to help prevent incidents like it from happening in the future. We are pleased that the settlement we reached with L.A. County ... does both.”

‘Wicked’ returning to Pantages

■ The popular Broadway musical is coming to the Pantages Theatre in December 2024.

HOLLYWOOD – “Wicked,” the wildly popular Broadway sensation, will return to the Pantages Theatre in December 2024 for a limited engagement, theater officials announced Monday.

“Wicked” will be included in the yet to be announced 2024-25 Broadway in Hollywood season. Current season ticket holders with renewable packages will have instant access to “Wicked” when they auto-renew into the new season.

“Wicked” is the winner of over 100 international awards including a Grammy Award and three Tony Awards. It

has been seen by nearly 65 million people worldwide and has grossed over \$5 billion in global sales.

“Wicked” looks at what happened in the Land of Oz but from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin, who is smart, fiery, misunderstood and possessing an extraordinary talent.

When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikelyst of friendships, until the world decides to call one “good” and the other one “wicked.”

For more details, visit BroadwayInHollywood.com/wicked

LEGALS

Council agenda, Item No. 14.

Theresa Devoy, CMC
City Clerk
November 8, 2023

The Norwalk Patriot
11/10/23

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

11/28/2023 11:00am

Cynthia Jennings
Household items

Brittany Masse
Household items

Gustavo Ramirez
Household items

Aron Devoy
Household items

Tameco Brewster
Household items

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

The Norwalk Patriot
11/10/23, 11/17/23

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER: 23NWCP00235

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MORTEZA HOSEIN POOR filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name MORTEZA HOSEIN POOR to Proposed name MORTEZA HOSEINPOUR
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: NOVEMBER 27, 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
JUNE 22, 2023
JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES
Judge of the Superior Court
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY
MORTEZA HOSEIN POOR
11112 ARLEE AVE
NORWALK, CA 90650
323-331-0168
ZAESTRAD@TIU.EDU

The Norwalk Patriot
10/27/23, 11/3/23, 11/10/23, 11/17/23

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ALFRED B. SAVEDRA

CASE NO. 23STPB11909

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ALFRED B. SAVEDRA.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by NATALIE TALAVERA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NATALIE TALAVERA 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

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
C. TRACY KAYSER - SBN 230022,
KAYSER LAW GROUP, APC
1407 N. BATAVIA ST., SUITE 103
ORANGE CA 92667
Telephone (714) 984-2004
BSC 224166
11/3, 11/10, 11/17/23
CNS-3753255#
THE NORWALK PATRIOT

CNS 3753255

The Norwalk Patriot
11/3/23, 11/10/23, 11/17/23

NOTICE OF AMENDED COMPETING PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MA DOLORES FAJARDO
CASE NO. 23STPB01953

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MA DOLORES FAJARDO.
AN AMENDED COMPETING PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CARLA FAJARDO in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE AMENDED COMPETING PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CARLA FAJARDO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE AMENDED COMPETING PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted

unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/10/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 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
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Telephone (714) 772-7400
BSC 224188
11/10, 11/17, 11/24/23
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7am-3pm

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Not a day goes by in my practice without several patients complaining about earwax. While we have all heard that we are absolutely NOT to



use cotton swabs to clean our ears, Unilever continues to profit

or earbuds may lead to excess earwax buildup. As we age, we tend to make more. The shape of the ear canal may make it more difficult for it to exit the ear canal naturally. If the earwax does get impacted, most health care practitioners can clean it out easily and quickly.

So, why shouldn't we use cotton swabs, or (shudder!) small objects like bobby pins or paper clips? Objects like these can push wax deeper into the ear canal, or even damage the ear canal or tympanic membrane.

Many of us have heard the rule; nothing smaller than your elbow in your ear!

Another idea to discard: Ear candles. Please don't. They can (obviously) cause injury from the lit candle or from the hot wax.

So, how should we clean our ears at home? Use cotton swabs only on the outside of the ear or, better yet, try wiping the area with a warm, damp washcloth.

Pharmacies sell over-the-counter ear drops like Debrox, which may contain mineral oil, baby oil, glycerin, hydrogen peroxide, or saline. You place the drops in the ear, wait for a few minutes, and then rinse with a bulb syringe.

If that doesn't take care of it, I urge you to visit your health practitioner.

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.

handsomely. Just what is proper ear care?

Let's be clear: Earwax in our ear canals is completely normal and good to have. Actually not wax at all, cerumen is a natural cleanser for the ears; moving from the inside of the ear canal to the outer part. Along the journey, it picks up dead skin cells, dirt, and even hair. It may have antibacterial and antifungal qualities.

Normal earwax varies - it can be dark brown, light brown, orange, yellow or off-white, and the texture and quantity vary from person to person. As with so many things, genetics plays a big role. Earwax can be wet or dry (the dry form is common among those with East Asian ancestry), and some of us have little or no earwax, causing the ears to be dry and itchy.

When a buildup of wax causes symptoms, including aching in the ear, fullness or ringing, impaired hearing, an odor, dizziness, or a cough, it needs to be cleaned out. Impacted earwax can even lead to an ear infection, which requires medical attention.

Hearing aids, earplugs,

Downey voters add two new faces to city council

■ Dorothy Pemberton, a civic volunteer, and Horacio Ortiz Jr., a restaurant owner, win in special elections with dismal voter turnout.

By Alex Dominguez and Eric Pierce
Staff Writer and editor

DOWNEY — A Dorothy Pemberton and Horacio Ortiz Jr. were elected to the Downey City Council on Tuesday, capping a tumultuous election season and bringing a semblance of stability to City Hall, at least for the next year.

Both Pemberton and Ortiz jumped out to early leads Tuesday and maintained them throughout the night.

Results are not yet official, pending confirmation from the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder.

At the time of writing, Ortiz held a comfortable lead in the race for the District 1 (southeast Downey) seat. Ortiz collected 754 votes (or 51.54%), ahead of Elvira Meraz, who mustered 587 (40.12%) votes.

Ramon Casas Jr. trailed far behind with just 8.34% of votes cast.

"We're still early on the results, but I'm pretty confident on where we're at," Ortiz said Wednesday morning. He called his campaign "a team effort."

"I want to do right by my city," said Ortiz. "This was the place where I was born and raised all my life. This is my home, and I want to make sure I



Dorothy Pemberton speaks with former mayor Rick Rodriguez (left) and campaign manager Hans Fritz on election night. Pemberton was elected to represent Downey's District 3. (Photos by Alex Dominguez)

take Downey to a new direction, and I'm pretty excited where Downey is heading."

Ortiz and his family own the chain of El Pescador restaurants, with Ortiz managing the Montebello location. He chairs Downey's planning commission and was notably the lone commissioner to vote against controversial sports bar Ojos Locos.

The District 1 seat was vacated last year after then-councilwoman Blanca Pacheco was elected to the state Assembly. Timothy Horn has been filling in on a temporary basis.

In District 3 (northwest

Downey), Pemberton captured 54.69% of votes cast, ahead of Gil Legaspi (36.21%) and Ernesto Valle (9.1%).

Pemberton and Legaspi, both real estate brokers, raised tens of thousands of dollars each to fund campaigns that turned increasingly hostile over the past several weeks.

"It took a village," Pemberton said of the results, "and I thank God for the outcome."

Pemberton led the recall of former Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez, who was booted from office in January over allegations that she failed to disclose her criminal record ahead of her 2020 election.

Pemberton will now finish the remainder of Alvarez's term, which expires in 2024.

In a statement posted to social media Wednesday, Legaspi said he intends to challenge Pemberton again next year.

Both Ortiz and Pemberton will need to seek re-election in the 2024 General Election if they choose to continue on the council.

Turnout for Tuesday's special elections were extremely low with only around 14% of 31,742 eligible voters casting a ballot.

Huntington Beach city manager retiring early

■ Al Zelinka will retire, less than two years after taking the job; police chief named interim city manager.

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Huntington Beach City Manager Al Zelinka has abruptly announced his retirement, just a year and a half after taking the job.

Norma Adams mourned by family

NORWALK — Norwalk resident Norma Adams died Dec. 3, 2021, it was announced this week.

She was born July 8, 1958 and is survived by three adult children, seven grandchildren, four sisters, both parents, many nieces and nephews, and many friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Derrick Adams.

"My decision to retire is based upon considerations culminating with a significant and challenging personal issue -- caregiving of my elderly mother," Zelinka said in a statement Wednesday. "This is requiring more time, attention and work schedule flexibility than possible while concurrently rendering professional services to the city of Huntington Beach."

The City Council voted to appoint Police Chief Eric Parra as the interim city manager Tuesday night. Parra will also remain police chief.

City Councilman Dan Kalmick said the move took him by surprise.

"When we hired Al he had wonderful ideas and we wanted to bring someone in from a larger city to bring Huntington Beach into the 21st century because we were still operating more like a small city," Kalmick said. "Al had the vision and wonderful ideas we could have implemented. He was the city manager for that moment."

But "with the new council he had a rocky bit and I'm not sure what happened last night," Kalmick told City News Service. "I don't know if he was forced out or decided to go."

Zelinka was previously Riverside's city manager.

The council voted unanimously to tab Parra to take over the job.

"I'm happy that Chief Parra has stepped up and operated as the city manager while we do a search for a permanent city manager," Kalmick said.

Parra's past experience as second in command for the Los Angeles County sheriff before coming to Huntington Beach will help him juggle both jobs, Kalmick said.

The councilman said he has some concerns about recruiting for a new city manager.

"I'm worried who will want to come to work here with the controversy this majority has created" on the council, said Kalmick.

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