



# The Downey Patriot



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Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014

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8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

SHARED STORIES:  
THE TIES THAT BIND

## Outhouses

*Elaine Held grew up in South Dakota at a time before the farms in the area had water for indoor plumbing, and using an outhouse in winter was a challenge. Throughout the year, outhouses were the source of much humor, or much aggravation, depending on one's point of view. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns*

By Elaine Held

For those who have not had the pleasurable experience of going to the bathroom in an outhouse I will relate some of my families stories.

Outhouses for toilets were necessary because there was no running water. I was in college when the farms in that area finally received running water in the houses. This also meant there was no running water to cook, do dishes or get a drink.

Grampa had a well and you pumped the water until it ran into whatever container you had to catch it. To get a drink, you pumped the water into a long handled dipper and everybody drank out of the same dipper. Obviously, we didn't know about germs.

Grampa had a drain in the bottom of the huge sink and then he would take the bucket outside and empty it when it became full. Doing the dishes was a chore! Gramma would heat water on the stove and then have to wash the dishes in a large container and then rinse each one from the pump.

An outhouse is a small building about the size of a phone booth. A board has been laid at the right height to sit and two holes have been cut out of the board to sit over. The material that is deposited grows in a pile and the odor grows accordingly. In the heat of the summer that can be overwhelming. In the freezing of the winter the experience takes on a new meaning of survival. You must do what you have to do very quickly or important parts of your body freeze.

The inside of the outhouse lent itself to being a place of horrors for a child. Spiders found this a favorite place to live along with other insects that bit. The first rule a child learned was to check for rattle snakes before entering. A Sears catalog was a must as a replacement for toilet paper.

During the night a trip outside was impossible to face for some people so they relied on a thunder jug, or a metal pot with a lid under your bed. This was emptied in the morning in the outhouse. When the hole dug for the outhouse was full the man of the house moved the outhouse and filled in the hole with lime and dirt. He then dug a new hole and placed the outhouse over the new hole.

Because of the nature of this appliance, it lends itself to many jokes and tricks. Halloween was a favorite for outhouse mania. My father told many a story of outhouses turned upside down, people harassed when using it and strange ways to paint them. All in good Halloween fun.

Then there were hi-jinks that were done for serious reasons. Carl Peterson had an outhouse behind his store on the main street for his customers use. The trouble was on Saturday night there was one drunk who always staggered by this particular outhouse on the way home and upon finding the door too difficult to maneuver would just use the side of the building to relieve himself. The result was an odor that could not be erased or washed off.

Carl did everything nice he could think of to stop the man, but to no avail. So he fell back on using a method not so nice. He wired an electrical wire to the wall and then to a battery. The next Saturday night Carl informed a nurse who lived in town he would like her to be in his store at 11:30 please. Of course, when the man relieved himself the arc of electricity went from the wall and followed the fluid to, well you know where.

Another popular prank was to wire a loud speaker system so when a lady would use Carl's outhouse the prankster would come over the loud speaker with something like, "Lady, I'm working down here!" The pranks were inventive and done often.

In those days it was like toilet papering a house. You did something to the outhouse that would require the owner to fix whatever you had thought up. It was the first tagging done by teenagers and it was the perfect target for any kind of mischief.

If I had not needed to use the outhouse for a toilet you could never have gotten me to go into such a place, but as a farm child it was one of the things you had to do. Some people of that time had such an attachment to outhouses they saved them when indoor bathrooms became available. The outhouse on my grandfather's farm sits just as the last Halloween prank left it, painted with white and purple swirls with faces mixed in.

I often think of what it was like to use an outhouse when I hear today's mothers talking about how they sterilize their bathrooms so their children won't come down with some disease. We have come a long way, baby.



PHOTO BY JOHN ZANDER

Downey police officers passed out hundreds of toys and gifts at its "Code 3 Toy Delivery" throughout Downey last week.

Members of the Downey Police Officers Association, along with their family members, the Downey Police Explorers and members of the Miss Downey Court, delivered the gifts to numerous locations throughout Downey.

"It's an event we all look forward to and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces is priceless," said Cpl. Mike Pope, president of the DPOA. "Favorite part of my job."

Titan Two helped deliver the toys on a flatbed tow truck, and also donated money for toys.

## Mason Freeborn brings sci-fi into the 21st century

• Science fiction author published a collection of 50 science fiction short stories.

By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Mason Freeborn can see Earth's future. Well, not literally, but envisioning that is what this 38-year-old science fiction writer does best.

"That's how I have fun," he said. "Like the Wizard of Oz, I like to sit behind the veil and pull levers."

Inspired by American, sci-fi novelist Philip K. Dick, who wrote several short stories that later became popular movies like Blade Runner, Total Recall, and Minority Report, Freeborn translated his love of science, space, and technology into a book he entitled "Chaos Weaving."

Completed while on a nearly three-year road trip, the collection of about 50 short stories centers around sentient android life in a world like, yet completely unlike, ours. Freeborn said it's about envisioning a "far-off future of maelstrom" interweaving into the present.

"It's almost alternate realities that we could face," he said. "If we continue down this path, this is the reality of a plague-ridden world, or a world where plastic has taken over and there's plastic monsters coming out of the ocean. I like to push those envelopes a little bit."

Freeborn trails the adventures of many androids, some in love, and others in rage, but all of them crossing the line of robotic sentience.

"In the book, robots understand every word made. They understand love and compassion. They need love, even as robots," Freeborn said. "I guess I'm interested in that whole singularity thing. When will robots take over and that intelligence factor get pushed?"

Born Alan Karalian, Freeborn is a native of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, a suburb 20 miles northwest of Metro Detroit. In 1991, the then-16-year-old moved to Orange County, California, but his interest in science formed much earlier than that.

"I remember being scared by

a robot in the 2nd grade. Some elementary school kids built it with cardboard boxes and spray-painted it silver," he said. "I was scared and intrigued."

In addition to being a huge Star Wars and Star Trek fan, Freeborn said he also loved remote control cars and everything robotics as a kid.

"It's not hard to extrapolate that into Terminator," he said with a laugh. "I've always been a passionate science guy that doesn't have the degrees in science – just tinkering, taking things apart, and making the parents mad."

That tinkering is perhaps what led him to use the pen name Mason Freeborn.

"In a backwards sense, I like to build worlds, I like to create – and Mason Freeborn sounds like a great creator's name," he said. "I want to inspire the kids of the future. I'm old enough now – in my fifth stage of life. My incurred knowledge needs to be put into these books."

What rolls around in Freeborn's mind is abstract fantasy that would delight any lover of robotics, technology, and alien space adventures. Standout stories include: a hardware store owner in Alaska blowing up a fissure to draw a sales rush, audio-based bombs, and karma magnets that pull humans toward or away from eternal damnation.

"There are lots of religious and spiritual implications from my stories, but I like to have fun thinking about the concepts," he said.

Freeborn's fascination with the topic also inspired him to produce several space-themed albums of instrumental lounge music of the future.

"I come up with so much stuff on a daily basis," said Freeborn, who admitted to sleeping to sci-fi films every night. "I realized I was losing gold so I got addicted to 3 a.m. sticky note pads."

Freeborn stopped by Staples and purchased an arts & crafts supply box of highlighters and glue sticks. He now takes every short story idea and glues it inside his notebook.

"I feel like a kid gluing stuff in here," he said.

In 1998, Freeborn earned his



bachelor's degree in visual arts multimedia from the University of California, San Diego. Ever since, he's worked mostly in graphic design, but like many others, Freeborn's life was disrupted after the Great Recession began.

"In 2008, my graphic design business failed and I got evicted from my place in San Diego," he said.

The eviction forced Freeborn onto a more than two year road trip that included a stop in Downey where the former NASA site provided a backdrop for his sci-fi prose.

"I stayed in a friend's garage for two months, taking walks with a recorder," he said. "I'd play with words in my head and read the dictionary [for ideas]. It was therapy in a way for me."

Freeborn continued: "Having a product shrink wrapped represents two years of my life tittering on the edge of the unknown, but it's now real."

While Freeborn knows his work might only be limited to a niche audience, he hopes to enthrall those who may not be the stereotypical nerd.

"Yes, science is nerdy. [But] science is great, and that's why Bill Gates is the richest man on planet earth," he said.

While Freeborn may not share in present riches, the artistic wordsmith is more than content telling future stories.

"Chaos Weaving" is now available on Amazon.com and the iTunes Store. To hear more of our conversation with Mason Freeborn, go to thedowneypatriot.com.

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 65°



Saturday 69°



Sunday 72°



### Things To Do



**R Kelly** - The "King of R&B" performs his hits, including "Bump N Grind," "Ignition (Remix)" and "I Believe I Can Fly."

Saturday, Saban Theatre, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. (two shows), prices start at \$65



**Gabriel Iglesias** - The fluffy comic stops in L.A. as part of his Unity Through Laughter world tour.

Saturday, Nokia Theatre, 7 p.m., tickets start at \$39.50

### Throwback Thursday



In honor of Downey's second centennial, Downey officials buried a time capsule in 1973, to be opened in 2073.

### Facebook Conversation



#### Stolen Christmas decorations

**Jerry Hernandez:** That sucks. What kind of jerks do we have running around here?

**Marci Coromac:** This is our first year putting up a few decorations. So sad that we had to padlock our snowflakes to try to discourage someone from stealing them.

**Kathy Papantonopoulos:** Someone stole a reindeer from my parents yard tonight on Gallatin and Downey Sanford Bridge. I'm worried they will come back to steal the rest!

**Constantino Ontiveros:** Stupid thieves, may their private parts dry up and fall off.

**Linsey Hansen:** Brighter side of the story: some neighbors have kindly given us some decorations. It made me cry knowing that there are still good decent people out there! Thank you.

### Tweet of the Week

**@elitepromogroup:** Downey HS was in the news again on @KTLA Student was brutally beaten by a fellow student in locker room. 16 yr old in custody

## Downey soliciting upscale hotel for Firestone Boulevard

• Hotel development would be built on publicly-owned land next to Dunkin' Donuts.

By Eric Pierce  
Editor

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey is progressing in plans to develop a parcel of publicly-owned land on Firestone Boulevard into a name-brand hotel and banquet facility.

Developers have until Feb. 20 to submit their development proposals for the irregular L-shaped property located at 9066 Firestone Blvd., between the new Dunkin' Donuts restaurant and apparel outlet Fallas Parades.

According to a document posted on the city's website, Downey is seeking:

- a name-brand hotel with at least 120 rooms;
- minimum 3,000 square feet of meeting space;

• a business center with full computer and media capabilities and free wireless internet;

- a fitness center;
- at minimum a continental breakfast style buffet but preferably a full-service, 24-hour restaurant with room service from a recognized on-site restaurant operator;
- a swimming pool and/or whirlpool; and
- a rooftop lounge with 360-degree view of Downey.

The city also prefers that all guest rooms be equipped with cable television, telephone, free wireless internet, a mini-bar, "large" desk paired with "comfortable" workstation chairs, and "large" bathrooms.

"The city of Downey has set specific goals for the hotel project: create a sense of place reflective of the city's view to revitalize Firestone Boulevard [and] enhance the customer experience through the provision of passenger conveniences,

quality services and amenities," the city wrote in a request for proposals document issued to local developers.

This hotel development will not impact another hotel slated to open at the Promenade development, said Community Development Director Aldo Schindler.

Downey currently has eight hotels and inns – not including motels – offering a combined 485 rooms.

The largest hotel is the Embassy Suites, with 219 guestrooms. It is also the only hotel in Downey with a minimum three-star rating.

In the request for proposals, Downey pitched itself as a large city "with a small town atmosphere."

It also noted that the city's mean household income is \$73,605, and the homeownership rate for single family residences is approximately 51 percent, according to the U.S. Census.

# Norwalk gets 15 acres for park space

NORWALK – President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last week which includes an amendment that facilitates the transfer of a portion of the U.S. Air Force Norwalk Defense Fuel Supply Point, also known as the Norwalk Tank Farm, to the City of Norwalk.

The amendment was introduced as a stand-alone bill by Rep. Linda Sánchez (CA-38) earlier this year and then later included as part of the NDAA legislation.

The Dec. 19 passage is the final step in a long process to have 15 of the 51 acres at the site designated for public use and transferred to the City of Norwalk free of cost.

“Today’s news means the people of Norwalk can look forward to enjoying a new recreational space

in their community,” said Rep. Sánchez. “For over 20 years, local leaders have tirelessly advocated for an opportunity to transform the blighted space. I am pleased that my staff and I were able to provide the support necessary to have their efforts come to fruition.

“I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Norwalk as we explore options to transform the 15 acres of land into a space our community can enjoy.”

Located next to Holifield Park, the Norwalk Defense Fuel Supply Point was used by the U.S. Air Force to store jet fuel supplies from the 1950’s until 2001.

For years, the City of Norwalk has advocated to have a portion of the land allocated as open space for the community.



“Rarely does an opportunity arise where a single piece of legislation can so dramatically transform an obsolete asset into a dynamic community resource,” said Mayor Marcel Rodarte. “We applaud the efforts of Rep. Sanchez and the support of the US Air Force to help our community see progress on its long-standing vision to revitalize the area.

“This is well-crafted legislation that is a win-win-win for everyone, especially the public,” the mayor added.

Norwalk officials said the city has been working with the Air Force for more than two decades on efforts to clean up the fuel tank property

and convey it to the city.

“Extensive environmental restoration has been underway at the Norwalk Tank Farm site since 1994 and continues today,” city officials said in a statement.

A private firm built the tank farm in the 1920s at the southeast corner of Norwalk Boulevard and Excelsior Drive.

The U.S. Air Force acquired the depot in 1951.

When it operated, the tank farm had 12 fuel storage tanks capable of holding 38 million gallons.

The facility provided fuel for military facilities in California, Arizona and Nevada.

*The staff at Los Amigos Golf course would like to thank everyone that came to the toy drive on*



*December 4, everyone had a great time. We appreciated all your support. The toys will be donated on December 24 and will make a lot of children very happy. We*

*would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.*

*For information on your next event call (562) 923-9696*

## CRIME REPORT

Thursday, Dec. 11

At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to the area of Ryerson Street and Imperial Highway regarding a robbery investigation. Officers spoke with the victims who reported a male suspect approached them and demanded cash from them. Both victims refused and fought with the suspect. Officers located the suspect who had fled on foot. As officers were conducting their investigation they learned the suspect was responsible for vandalism at Apollo Park with extensive graffiti several weeks earlier. The suspect was booked for robbery.

Saturday, Dec. 13

At 10:25 a.m., officers responded to the 7100 block of Firestone Blvd regarding an assault with a deadly weapon investigation. Officers spoke with the male victim who reported he returned to the location he had parked his bicycle and found it missing. Moments later, he observed a male suspect on his bike riding towards him. The victim stopped the suspect and demanded his bike. The suspect refused and the two began fighting over the bicycle. During the fight, the suspect produced a 4” folding knife and stabbed the victim in the left bicep. Downey officers arrested the suspect for assault with a deadly weapon. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Sunday, Dec. 14

At 1:05 a.m., officers responded to a report of a stabbing at a residence in the 9800 block of Priscilla. The victim was attending a house party at the location when a fight broke out. The victim attempted to break up the fight and was stabbed twice in the lower back. The suspect fled the scene prior to officers’ arrival. The wounds were not life threatening and the victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Downey detectives are investigating.

At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to the 11900 block of Old River School Road regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim had several of his identifiable work items stolen from his vehicle. Shortly afterward, Downey officers responded to a trespass call in the 11800 block of Pomeroy Rd. The officers found the suspect wearing a jacket similar to the one stolen from the victim a short time prior. Officers gave chase on foot through several yards and as they were chasing the suspect he discarded the jacket as he ran. After searching, it appeared the suspect escaped the containment area. Detectives are investigating.

Information provided by Downey Police Department.

### Christmas tree pick-ups start Saturday

DOWNEY – CalMet Services will begin picking up Christmas trees Saturday, and collection will continue until Jan. 16.

Trees should be left curbside with all tree stands and decorations removed. Trees over 4 ft. tall should be cut in half.

Do not place trees in bags; flocked trees are OK.

Commercial accounts such as businesses and apartments should call CalMet at (562) 259-1239 ext. 7 to arrange free pick-up. Trees should be set out at the curb, not by trash bins.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the city’s public works yard, located behind Independence Park.

All trees will be taken to the Puente Hills Landfill, where they are composted or ground up and used as landfill covers.

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# Beatles musical coming to Downey Theatre

• "In My Life" recreates the Beatles' rise to fame in the 1960s, all the way to their final live performance.

**DOWNEY** - When the touring show "In My Life - A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles" comes to the Downey Civic Theatre on Jan. 16, be on the lookout for two quartets -- not just one.

The California High School (Whittier) string quartet has been chosen to join the professional actors on stage to add an element of orchestral texture to the evening.

"In My Life" is the musical retelling of the Beatles story through the eyes of manager Brian Epstein and featuring the live music of tribute band Abbey Road.

The band features Chris Paul Overall ("Paul"), Nathaniel Bott ("John"), Jesse Wilder ("George") and Axel Clarke ("Ringo"). Brian Epstein is played by Murphy Martin.

The production includes multimedia, period costumes and vintage instruments. It has toured for years, with a critic for the *Orange County Register* at one point declaring, "If you see one tribute show, see this one -- smart and loads of fun."

California High School senior Isabella Sierra and juniors Drew Kirkpatrick, Dawn Anoché and Ariel Ramos join the band for the songs "Eleanor Rigby," "Yesterday," "A Day in the Life," "Hello Goodbye," and "Hey Jude."

In a special touch, "Yesterday" is played as a scene in which the Paul McCartney character plays the song for the first time for Beatles producer George Martin, with the songwriter explaining that he envisioned a string-quartet accompaniment.

The producers of "In My Life" approached California High School orchestra teacher Stephen Hill and invited the school's quartet to perform with the show.

"In My Life" producers look for talented ensembles who can hold their own with a rock band in front of an audience. The show commonly uses a local quartet to augment the production while on tour.

All quartet members are Beatles fans.

When Ramos was four years old, she was given a Barbie stereo which played the song "I Want To Hold Your Hand."

"I've been a Beatles fan ever since," she said. Her favorite Fab Four tune is "Yesterday."

Kirkpatrick's favorite Beatles song is "Yesterday." "I'm very excited about performing this song in the show," he said.

Anoché's favorite Beatles song is also "Yesterday."

"I was surprised and pleased to learn we get to play "Yesterday" in this show," she said. "My earliest memories are of cleaning house with my mother with Beatles music blasting in the background."

"In My Life" takes the audience back to February 1964, when



The music of Abbey Road, a Beatles tribute band, is used in "In My Life."

Americans saw the Beatles for the first time on the Ed Sullivan Show, playing "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

Progressing through their various musical stages, the audience re-experiences the psychedelic era of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," the creation of the haunting "Yesterday" and the raucous rock and roll of "Revolution."

More than just a Beatles tribute concert, "In My Life" gives the audience a chance to "be there" at pivotal moments in the extraordinary career of the Beatles - from Liverpool's legendary Cavern Club, to the Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium's 50,000-plus screaming fans and their final live performance on the rooftop of their Apple Corp

offices.

With manager Brian Epstein serving as Narrator, "In My Life" allows the audience to get a glimpse inside the world of the Beatles from their point of view, as well as hear some of the greatest songs ever written.

"In My Life - A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles" comes to the Downey Civic Theatre on Friday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$55 and may be purchased online at [downeytheatre.com](http://downeytheatre.com), by phone at (562) 861-8211 or at the box office.

The show is appropriate for all ages. The California High School string quartet will accompany on stage with five songs.

# Cerritos residents cast in 'Camelot'

**CERRITOS** - Two Cerritos boys have been cast as Tom of Warwick in the upcoming production of the award-winning musical "Camelot" at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, January 9, 8 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 10, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The production, about the legend of King Arthur, is recommended for ages 10 and older.

Eric Han, 12, and Amario McGuire, 9, will portray Tom of Warwick, a young boy destined to be

a knight. He wants to fight for what is right and gives King Arthur hope for the future.

Han, a Whitney High School seventh-grader, has been featured in the local productions "The Lorax" and Stars on Ice. Han will appear in the Friday night "Camelot" performance.

A fourth-grader at Our Lady of Fatima, McGuire has appeared in Stagelight Productions' "Peter Pan," "Charlie Brown," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream

Coat," and "Wizard of Oz." McGuire performs in the Saturday matinee and evening shows.

The 2014-2015 national tour of Lerner & Loewe's "Camelot" re-imagines the tale of King Arthur, Guenevere, and Lancelot.

Taught well by Merlin, King Arthur, with queen Guenevere, rules the kingdom of Camelot with new ideals, bringing peace to a troubled land.

With the addition of Sir Lancelot to the Knights of the Round Table,

one of the most fabled love triangles of all time ensues. Mordred, the king's illegitimate son, catches on and, seeing a kingdom in chaos, attempts to destroy Camelot.



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- #3 Buyers have more time to look for a home during the Holidays during the weekdays!
- #4 January is traditionally the month for employees to begin new jobs. Since transferees cannot wait until Spring to buy, you must be on the market now to capture that market!
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## Change in U.S. policy toward Cuba

**Sen. Marco Rubio:** [Last week's] announcement initiating a dramatic change in U.S. policy toward Cuba is just the latest in a long line of failed attempts by President Obama to appease rogue regimes at all cost.

Like all Americans, I rejoice at the fact that Alan Gross will be able to return to his family after five years in captivity. Although he is supposedly being released on humanitarian grounds, his inclusion in a swap involving intelligence agents furthers the Cuban narrative about his work in Cuba. In contrast, the Cuban Five were spies operating against our nation on American soil. They were indicted and prosecuted in a court of law for the crimes of espionage and were linked to the murder of the humanitarian pilots of Brothers to the Rescue. There should be no equivalence between the two, and Gross should have been released unconditionally.

The President's decision to reward the Castro regime and begin the path toward the normalization of relations with Cuba is inexplicable. Cuba's record is clear. Just as when President Eisenhower severed diplomatic relations with Cuba, the Castro family still controls the country, the economy and all levers of power. This administration's attempts to loosen restrictions on travel in recent years have only served to benefit the regime. While business interests seeking to line their pockets, aided by the editorial page of The New York Times, have begun a significant campaign to paper over the facts about the regime in Havana, the reality is clear. Cuba, like Syria, Iran, and Sudan, remains a state sponsor of terrorism. It continues to actively work with regimes like North Korea to illegally traffic weapons in our hemisphere in violation of several United Nations Security Council Resolutions. It colludes with America's enemies, near and far, to threaten us and everything we hold dear. But most importantly, the regime's brutal treatment of the Cuban people has continued unabated. Dissidents are harassed, imprisoned and even killed. Access to information is restricted and controlled by the regime. That is why even more than just putting U.S. national security at risk, President Obama is letting down the Cuban people, who still yearn to be free.

I intend to use my role as incoming Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Western Hemisphere subcommittee to make every effort to block this dangerous and desperate attempt by the President to burnish his legacy at the Cuban people's expense. Appeasing the Castro brothers will only cause other tyrants from Caracas to Tehran to Pyongyang to see that they can take advantage of President Obama's naiveté during his final two years in office. As a result, America will be less safe as a result of the President's change in policy.

When America is unwilling to advocate for individual liberty and freedom of political expression 90 miles from our shores, it represents a terrible setback for the hopes of all oppressed people around the globe.

**Sen. Rand Paul:** Senator Marco Rubio is acting like an isolationist who wants to retreat to our borders and perhaps build a moat. I reject this isolationism.

**U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry:** President Obama's decision to begin normalizing relations with Cuba will advance United States' interests and those of the Cuban people. The 11 million people of this island nation have waited far too long — over half a century — to fulfill their democratic aspirations and build closer ties with the rest of the world in the 21st century. Our new U.S. policy on Cuba reflects the reality that past policies — although well-intentioned — no longer suit today's situation. The president's announcement reflects a historic turning of the page on enmities born of a different era and toward a brighter and more promising future.

Early in his administration, the president took steps to ease restrictions on Cuban-American visits and remittances that opened new pathways for family reunification — and later expanded this to include religious, academic and cultural exchanges for all Americans. Last week's decision builds boldly on those initial measures and will increase communications, commerce and travel between our two countries. The State Department will lead discussions to restore regular diplomatic relations with Cuba for the first time since 1961 and re-establish an embassy in Havana. In our bilateral discussions, the United States will seek to advance cooperation on issues of mutual interest, including counter-narcotics, migration, combating trafficking-in-persons, the Ebola crisis and shared environmental challenges.

The president has made clear that a critical focus of these actions will include continued strong support for improved human-rights conditions and democratic reforms in Cuba. The promotion of democracy supports universal human rights by empowering civil society and supporting the freedom of individuals to exercise their freedoms of speech and assembly. For these reasons, we welcome Cuba's decision to release more than 50 political prisoners, expand Internet access for Cuba's citizens and allow better human-rights monitoring by the International Red Cross and United Nations. Our firm support for progress in these areas will be unwavering, and we will continue to implement programs to promote positive change in Cuba.

As Albert Einstein said long ago, it's just not rational to continue doing the same thing in the expectation of obtaining a different result. Since U.S.-Cuban relations were frozen, the world has been transformed; the Cold War ended a quarter century ago. Over time the U.S. effort to isolate Cuba began to have the reverse effect of isolating the United States especially in the Western Hemisphere. Meanwhile, Cuban leaders used our stance as a source of propaganda, to justify policies that have no place in the 21st century. It has been an open secret that the relationship has been in a rut that benefits no one on either side. The time has come to cease looking backward and to begin to move forward in the interests of both freedom-loving Cubans and the United States.

What, specifically, has the president decided to do?

First, he has authorized U.S. officials to expand travel, increase remittances and grow bilateral trade. To facilitate this and ensure proper oversight, the Treasury Department will also make banking easier and

allow the use of U.S. debit and credit cards in Cuba. In addition, it will strengthen the monitoring and transparency of financial flows between the United States and Cuba by allowing American financial institutions to open correspondent accounts at Cuban banks. One effect of all of the changes will be to increase the ability of Americans to provide business training and other support for Cuba's nascent private sector, which already includes 500,000 employees. In this regard, the Commerce Department will ease current export limits on a variety of products that would help Cuban small businesses grow such as construction firms, agricultural companies, automobile repair and others.

Second, the president's decision will support new efforts to tear down the digital wall that isolates Cubans. The country has an Internet penetration rate of 5 percent, among the lowest in the world. Prices are high, and services are limited. Under the new policy, we will permit the sale of technology that will begin to unleash the transformative effects of the Internet on the island.

Third, the president has ordered reforms in the application of U.S. sanctions to Cubans in third countries.

Fourth, the president has asked the State Department to review Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism to ensure that any such designation is guided entirely by the facts and law.

All this is in addition to the start of talks aimed at the restoration of normal diplomatic relations. Next month, Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson will lead the U.S. delegation to the next round of U.S.-Cuba Migration talks, and the Commerce Department will lead a business delegation to the country in the coming months. In the spring, President Obama will travel to Panama for the 2015 Summit of the Americas, where we are encouraging full participation by representatives of Cuban civil society. Meanwhile, the United States has welcomed home USAID subcontractor Alan Gross, who was wrongfully jailed in Cuba for more than five years, and also an American intelligence agent who had been imprisoned for two decades.

President Obama's announcement last week is forward-looking and emphasizes the value of people-to-people relations, increased commerce, more communications and respectful dialogue. It will enhance our ability to have a positive impact on events inside Cuba and to help improve the lives of the Cuban people. It will put American businesses on a more equal footing. And it will enhance the standing of our own country in the hemisphere and around the world.

**Sen. Robert Menendez:** [Last week's] policy announcement is misguided and fails to understand the nature of the regime in Cuba that has exerted its authoritarian control over the Cuban people for 55 years. No one wishes that the reality in Cuba was more different than the Cuban people and Cuban-Americans that have fled the island in search of freedom. In November, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights & National Reconciliation (CCHR) documented 398 political arrests by the Castro regime. This brings the total number of political arrests during the first eleven months of this year to 8,410. This is a regime that imprisoned an American citizen for five years for distributing communications equipment on the island. Releasing political prisoners today in Cuba is meaningless if tomorrow these individuals can be arrested again and denied the right to peacefully pursue change in their own country.

It is a fallacy that Cuba will reform just because the American President believes that if he extends his hand in peace that the Castro brothers suddenly will unclench their fists. A majority of democratic activists on the island, including many that I have met with, have been explicit that they want the U.S. to become open to Cuba only when there is reciprocal movement by the Castro government. They understand that the Castros will not accede to change in any other way.

The United States has just thrown the Cuban regime an economic lifeline. With the collapse of the Venezuelan economy, Cuba is losing its main benefactor, but will now receive the support of the United States, the greatest democracy in the world. This is a reward that a totalitarian regime does not deserve and this announcement only perpetuates the Castro regime's decades of repression.

[Last week's] regulatory changes, which are clearly intended to circumvent the intent and spirit of U.S. law and the U.S. Congress, present a false narrative about Cuba that suggests that the U.S., and not the regime, is responsible for their economic failure. Cuba's economic struggles are 100 percent attributable to a half century of failed political and economic experiments that have suffocated Cuban entrepreneurs. In Cuba, private business is controlled by the Cuban government, with the benefits flowing to the regime's political and military leadership. Cuba has had political and economic relations with most of the world, but companies choose not to engage because of political, economic and even criminal risks associated with investment on the island, as exhibited by the arbitrary arrests of foreign investors from Canada, England and Panama in recent years.

To suggest that Cuba should be taken off the list of state sponsors of

## Merry Christmas, My Friend

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.  
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,  
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.  
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.  
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,  
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,  
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.  
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.  
I soon understood, this was more than a man.  
For I realized the families that I saw that night,  
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,  
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,  
because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.  
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.  
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.  
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,  
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.  
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,  
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.  
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,  
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,  
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,  
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure!"  
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,  
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

Lance Cpl. James M. Schmidt

terrorism is alarming while Cuba harbors American fugitives, such as Joanne Chesimard, who is on the FBI's list of Most Wanted Terrorists for murdering New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and despite Cuba's colluding with North Korea to smuggle jets, missile batteries, and arms through the Panama Canal.

With respect to the President's decision to attend the Summit of the Americas, I'm extraordinarily disappointed that we intend to violate our own principles, laid down in the Inter-American Democratic Charter in 2001, on the Summit being a forum for the hemisphere's democratically-elected leaders. This action disavows the Charter and sends a global message about the low priority we place on democracy and respect for human and civil rights.

When the new Congress convenes in January, I urge incoming Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker to hold hearings on this dramatic and mistaken change of policy."

## Now it's time to focus on growing the economy

By Lee H. Hamilton

Recent economic news has been broadly reassuring. Retail sales are strong, November saw the best job gains in three years, the federal deficit is shrinking, the stock market is robust, and the Fed is expressing enough faith in the economy that an interest rate bump next year is considered a certainty.

Yet the public remains unconvinced. This is partly because perceptions haven't caught up to reality. For many middle- and lower-class families, economic circumstances have not changed very much. Average wages, adjusted for inflation, have not risen in keeping with the good economic news. The median net worth of households is actually a bit less than it was in 2010, just after the official end of the recession — and the gap between the wealthy and the rest of us is wider than ever.

Strong numbers do, however, offer one unambiguous piece of good news: The pressure on policy makers to focus on near-term or immediate problems has eased, which means they can now focus on the fundamental question of economic growth. That's where their attention should turn.

A strong economy that is growing for everyone, not just the people at the top, offers many benefits. The quality of people's lives improves. Political problems become more manageable. More people have greater economic opportunity. There's more social mobility and more tolerance of diversity.

Because the economy is always at or near the top of voters' concerns, the temptation for the policy-maker is to support another tax cut or the next move to stimulate the economy in the short term. Now is the time for policy-makers to resist this and try to understand the large forces — technology, automation, globalization — that drive our economy. As Princeton economist Alan Blinder, political strategist Al From and others have pointed out, the key is to concentrate on creating the environment in the country for sustained, non-inflationary economic growth.

To begin with, we have a chance to get our fiscal house in order and pursue long-term deficit reduction. This is a crucial early step for government to take in creating a sound environment for economic growth.

This means modernizing entitlement spending and shaping a tax-reform package that focuses on investments to boost productivity and help the economy to grow for everyone, through research and development, job training, upgrading skills as well as technology, and reducing outsourcing.

At the same time, it means eliminating public subsidies to individual enterprises. That money can be spent on boosting the economic skills of ordinary Americans through education and training. Policies aimed at strengthening our education system from pre-kindergarten to graduate school, and at promoting lifelong learning and a workforce capable of upgrading its skills to meet changing needs, will have a far more salutary effect on our economy than singling out politically connected enterprises for tax and other benefits.

There are other steps government policy-makers can take to improve broad economic growth. We need to expand trade through open markets and simplify the regulatory structure so that it protects Americans without burdening companies beyond reason. And we must address our nation's deferred infrastructure needs, which hinder the smooth functioning of every business that relies on transporting its goods.

The same applies to reforming government itself. A government that does not work well — that wastes money, fails its regulatory responsibilities, and cannot make timely decisions — undermines economic growth. You can see this, for instance, in our current inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform: We cannot increase economic growth without the people our labor force needs, from mathematicians and engineers to migrant farm workers.

Finally, policy-makers need to remember that economic growth means providing a ladder out of poverty for the truly needy. Providing opportunity for low-income Americans through the Earned Income Tax Credit and programs to upgrade their skills is vital. No one who works full time should be poor in this country.

Free, competitive markets are the best way to deliver goods and services to Americans. Government must not get in the way of that system. Nor should it stand idle. The right response by government to our economic challenges is not to focus on the immediate economic problems of the day, but to invest in economic growth for all.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### City Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.  
 1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.: Emergency Preparedness Committee, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: City Council, Council Chamber.  
 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.  
 4th Mon., 5 p.m.: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.  
 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, for info call 304-3439  
 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Paul Sheets at 714-618-1142.  
 10 a.m.: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.  
 12 p.m.: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo, for information e-mail Diane Davis at dianedavis4sc@gmail.com.  
 6 p.m.: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, for info call Karika Austin 260-3856.  
 7 p.m.: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., for info call 923-1932.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 a.m.: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.  
 2nd Tues., 3:30 p.m.: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7117.  
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: Sertoma Club, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call 927-6438.  
 2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.  
 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
 3rd Tues., 6 p.m.: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, for information call 544-0372.  
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, for info. call John Fiorenza 652-4399.

#### Wednesdays

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
 1 p.m.: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
 7 p.m.: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.  
 1st Weds., 11 a.m.: Woman's Club of Downey, for information call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, at Community Center, for information call Cindy 803-4048.  
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.  
 2nd Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Anita 861-3414.  
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.  
 3rd Weds., - Downey Dog Obedience Club, at Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.  
 3rd Weds., 10 a.m.: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, for information call (310) 322-2342.  
 3rd Weds., 6 p.m.: American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.  
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: Retired Federal Employees, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.  
 4th Weds., 7:30 p.m.: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, at First Presbyterian Church of Downey, call Brian 419-5420.  
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.  
 7:30 a.m.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.  
 9:30 a.m.: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 p.m.: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
 12 p.m.: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.  
 6:30 p.m.: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.  
 7 p.m.: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.  
 1st Thurs., 12:00 noon: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call James Vanlengan 310-1335.  
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 p.m.: Lions Club, at Coco's, for information call Lenora (310) 283-9825.  
 3rd Thurs., 4 p.m.: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.  
 3rd Thurs., 6 p.m.: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, for information call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.  
 4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.  
 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

#### Fridays

7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618  
 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. 622-3785.

#### Saturdays

9 a.m.: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, for information call 904-7246.  
 4th Sat., 12:00 p.m.: Downey Arts Coalition, for information email contact@downeyarts.org.

## On This Day...

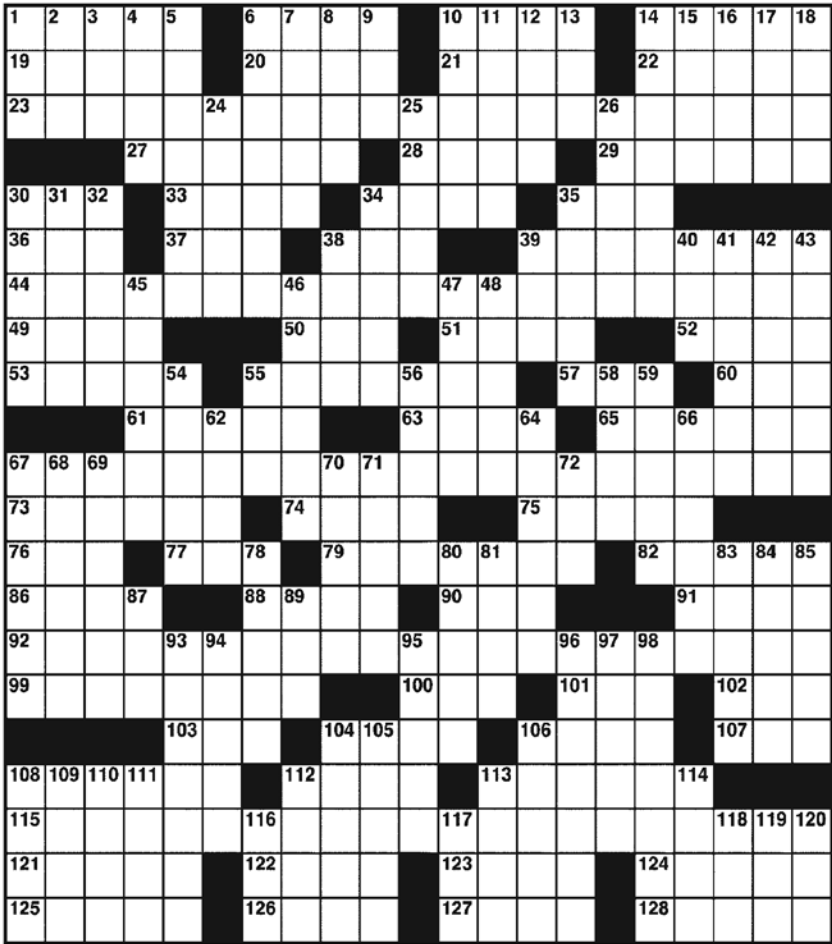
**Dec. 25, 336:** The first recorded celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.  
**1818:** "Silent Night" was performed for the first time, at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.  
**1977:** Comedian Charlie Chaplin died at age 88.  
**1995:** Singer Dean Martin died at age 78.  
**2006:** Singer James Brown died at age 73.  
**Birthdays:** Singer Jimmy Buffett (68), baseball hall of famer Rickey Henderson (56) and singer Dido (43).

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**HOLIDAY QUINTET: From five familiar tunes**  
 by S.N.

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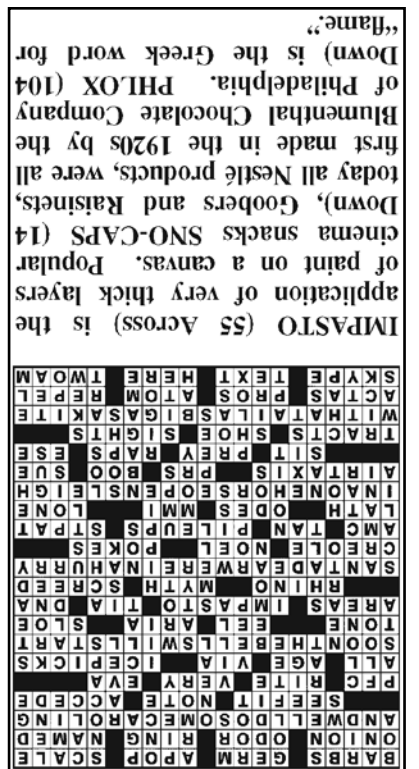
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Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



speech problems or double vision. If it ruptures, there could be severe headaches, neck pain and stiffness.

•An estimated six million people in the United States have unruptured cerebral aneurysms. That represents about 1 in 50 people! Of these, about 30,000 rupture each year, and about 40% of them are deadly. Of those who survive, more than half have permanent brain damage.

•They're most likely to occur in women between the ages of 35 to 60.

•Cerebral aneurysms can cause a subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). Its major symptom is a terrible headache. A subarachnoid hemorrhage is extremely rare, but is very high risk if missed. It is detected by performing a CT scan, and early diagnosis is critical.

### 2. ABDOMINAL, OR AORTIC ANEURYSMS

•Symptoms can include back pain, swelling, vomiting, and loss of circulation in the lower extremities.

•Every year, about 11,000 people in the United States die of a ruptured abdominal aneurysm.

•Abdominal aneurysms tend to occur after age 55, and affect more men than women.

What can we do to prevent an aneurysm? Some risk factors can't be avoided - including genetics, age, and some infections. However, other major risk factors can be controlled or minimized, including diabetes, obesity, hypertension, smoking, alcoholism, high cholesterol, copper deficiency, kidney disease and syphilis.

Note that this is an extremely rare condition, but it often presents in a dramatic manner and can be deadly. Time is of the essence; get help fast.

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

Our heart beats about 100,000 times every day. That comes to about three billion times in a lifetime. It will pump about 800 million pints of blood - enough to fill three super tankers. Each muscle contraction has enough strength that it takes only about 20 seconds to circulate blood throughout our entire vascular system, and in total, that comes to about 12,000 miles per day.

Given the sheer immensity of our vascular system, and the force under which it operates, it's remarkable that these blood vessels do their job for a lifetime, and with such amazing efficiency. While malfunctions are highly unusual, one of these rare complications is the aneurysm.

An aneurysm is a bulge resulting from a weakening of the wall of a blood vessel. As an aneurysm gets larger, the risk of a tear increases. If the aneurysm ruptures, the loss of blood can be deadly.

How is an aneurysm diagnosed? It might be from life-threatening complications from sudden major blood loss, or it might even be spotted on a routine x-ray. The danger depends on where it is, how big it is, and whether it has ruptured.

An aneurysm can occur in any blood vessel, but two common types can be particularly dangerous:

### 1. CEREBRAL ANEURYSMS

•A cerebral aneurysm causes symptoms when the bulge in the blood vessel pushes on a structure in the brain. It could result in fatigue, loss of perception or balance,

## CDC: Ebola remains an epidemic

After more than a year of Ebola transmission in Guinea and more than 7 months of transmission in Liberia and Sierra Leone, there is still much to be done to stop the world's first Ebola epidemic, CDC director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. reported from his second visit to the three affected nations.

Dr. Frieden last week returned from West Africa, where he spoke with patients and staff; met with many of CDC's 170 staff working in each of the countries; and met with the presidents, health ministers, and Ebola leadership of each country. He described the situation as both inspiring and sobering.

"It is inspiring to see how much better the response has become in the past two months, how much international commitment there is, and, most importantly, how hard people from each of the three countries are working to stop Ebola," Dr. Frieden said. "But it is sobering that Ebola continues to spread rapidly in Sierra Leone and that in parts of Monrovia and Conakry Ebola is spreading unabated. Improvements in contact tracing are urgently needed."

At a telebriefing held to discuss the results of his trip to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Dr. Frieden described progress in some areas but continued growth in Ebola cases in other areas. Lingering unmet needs throughout the region continue to challenge response efforts.

"In Liberia, the outbreak has slowed dramatically and at the moment the country has the upper hand against the virus, in part due to improvements in access to Ebola Treatment Units and Community Care Centers, safe burials, and community engagement," Dr. Frieden said. "But the outbreak continues to surge in Sierra Leone, and there has been a troubling spread in Guinea's capital city. We've got a long way to go and this is no time to relax our grip on the response."

During his week in West Africa, Dr. Frieden witnessed the hard work and expertise of the more than 150 CDC experts who are in the field each day, including running laboratories for Ebola testing, tracking cases and contacts, advising hospitals on infection control practices, training front-line health workers, and developing health messages to encourage changes in the type of behaviors contributing to virus spread.

"CDC staff are committed to this cause because they understand the urgency in stamping out Ebola in West Africa. I am inspired by their dedication," Dr. Frieden said. "Stopping this outbreak at its source in West Africa is essential in order to protect Americans. That is why CDC is on the ground," Dr. Frieden said.

The recent approval of \$1.2 billion to strengthen international response and preparedness, as well as \$571 million for domestic preparedness, is crucial to stop Ebola and improve the United States' ability to quickly respond to health threats like Ebola in the future.

### Ebola survivors

The case fatality rate in West Africa's ongoing Ebola epidemic - estimates range from 60 percent to 70 percent of those hospitalized - hides a hopeful statistic: the fact that many Ebola patients survive. There now are thousands of Ebola survivors.

In this epidemic as in past Ebola outbreaks, survivors often face stigma, income loss, and both grief and survivor guilt over the loss of family and friends. Many if not all of their possessions have been destroyed to prevent disease transmission. In some cases, families have been reluctant to accept orphaned children.

Two reports in the December 12 early release issue of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) detail programs in Liberia and Sierra Leone to help Ebola survivors reintegrate with their communities and resume their lives. As survivors are thought to have some protective immunity to the strain of Ebola that sickened them, many survivors now

work as caregivers for other Ebola patients.

"Nothing says more about the resilience of the human spirit than Ebola survivors who become role models for their communities," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "They show others that Ebola can be defeated and provide care, support, and inspiration for others stricken by this terrible disease."

According to an August 2014 survey by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation, CDC, and other partners, 96 percent of the general population reported at least some discriminatory attitude toward people with Ebola. This stigma discourages people from seeking Ebola testing and treatment and increases the already difficult task of contact tracing. It extends to Ebola survivors, who may be shunned by their communities.

CDC staff joined a consortium of members of the Sierra Leonean government, nongovernment organizations, and donor agencies to assess the needs of Ebola survivors. The group performed a study of three districts heavily affected by Ebola, convened a National Survivor Conference, conducted focus groups with survivors, and observed counseling sessions at a survivor wellness center.

The study found that survivors faced immediate and long-term concerns about physical and mental health, stigma, psychosocial issues including shame and survival guilt, reintegration needs, and financial needs. Despite these needs, survivors reported inadequate counseling, community reintegration, and material support.

Survivors showed great interest in contributing to the Ebola response through activities such as sharing their stories directly through radio and other broadcast media. They also expressed interest in participating in direct Ebola care and treatment support in and providing spiritual support to other Ebola patients to give them hope. Survivors said that supporting themselves with this work would help restore their own dignity.

The consortium now is coordinating financial and psychosocial support for survivors. This support includes a "survivor packet" that includes cash, bedding, clothing, and other essentials of daily living. Counselors will accompany survivors when returning to their home villages to facilitate reintegration, and trained counselors are speaking with local traditional authorities and other community members about the importance of survivor acceptance. Survivor support centers are being established at the district level, and plans are underway to integrate survivors into Ebola response activities.

In August 2014, the Firestone District of Liberia, where Firestone Liberia Inc. provides health care to 80,000 residents, enrolled their first patient in a model Ebola survivor reintegration program. The program was designed to offer survivors psychosocial support as well as to lessen stigma, provide hope, and motivate community members to report suspect Ebola cases and to seek care early in the course of disease.

"Well-coordinated survivor reintegration programs help stop the spread of Ebola and heal communities," Dr. Frieden said. "Businesses can follow Firestone's excellent example and contribute to the effort to get to zero in this Ebola epidemic."

From August through October, 2014, 22 patients with laboratory-confirmed Ebola recovered from their illness at the Firestone Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU). During the three days between their first negative Ebola test and a second test confirming that they were Ebola free, survivors were transferred to a recovery room in the ETU and given education and counseling.

Contributed by the Centers for Disease Control.

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Two longtime BFFs recently celebrated their 90th birthdays together. Michigan native Mary Graef, left, and Lola Sanford, a Colorado native, both were born in December of 1924. Both married Navy World War II veterans in the 1940s and moved to Suva Street in Downey in the 1960s.

The two neighbors lived two doors from each other and had nine children, all of whom graduated from Gallatin, East (now Doty) and Downey High School.

"Everyone who knows Mary and/or Lola (or meets them for the first time) says they cannot believe they are 90," said Pat Sanford. "They both look, act and feel great and look so young – it must be the Downey water!"

Mary and Lola are still active, playing bridge, doing yoga and taking exercise classes.



Heather Curtis Roulston, a Downey High alum, is shown with a copy of The Downey Patriot in front of their new business in Julian, Calif. She and her husband are proud owners of the Candied Apple Pastry Company.



Vijay Patel won a hole-in-one contest at a Downey Chamber of Commerce golf tournament recently. In lieu of a Nissan Frontier truck, he chose the cash payment. He is pictured with Tim Hutcherson and Mohammad Basith of Downey Nissan.



Patient safety advocates Tim and Tammy Smick, of Downey, were recently honored by the Consumer Attorneys of California for their

advocacy work on Prop 46. Although the proposition was defeated, the Smicks said their "resolve to improve patient safety in California will continue."



Miss Teen Downey Princess Mikayla Minnig competed in her first 5K run Sunday, finishing with a time of 35:47. She participated in the Los Angeles Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell run, which raises funds for juvenile arthritis research.

Mikayla is one of 300,000 children nationwide diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, a painful chronic disease. To learn more, visit Mikayla's Facebook page, Change for Arthritis, or go to arthritis.org.



Students from Downey Adult School's Dental Assisting program graduated Dec. 11 during a ceremony in the school's Harriett Paine Events Center.

Students who went "above and beyond" during the program were honored during the ceremony, which also included a slideshow presentation showcasing students' work in the community.

"The event beautifully celebrated the achievements of all the graduates and acknowledged their accomplishments in jump-starting their careers in the dental field," said adult school Principal Blanca Rochin.



The Downey Rose Float Association seeks the public's help to decorate their 63rd consecutive entry in the 126th Annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. The float site is located on Rancho Los Amigos hospital grounds, at 13030 Erickson Ave. Volunteers are needed between 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Dec. 26-30. Children 16 and under need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

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\* THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES PG-13 (10:00, 11:35, 1:05, 2:50, 4:10), 6:05, 7:25, 9:20, 10:40

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The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 15502 WILDER AVENUE, NORWALK, CA 90650. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$315,066.49 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Priority Posting and Publishing at 714-573-1965 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA05001543-14-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: December 17, 2014 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA05001543-14-1 17100 Cretette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 949-252-4288 Army Lemus Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.priorityposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Priority Posting and Publishing AT 714-573-1965 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P1124463 12/25/11, 01/08/2015

ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/21/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 01/07/2015 at 11:00 AM, The Mortgage Law Firm, PLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 05/06/2005, as Instrument No. 05 1068335, in book xx, page xx, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of California, executed by William K. Blake, An Unmarried Man, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States), by the fountain located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766. All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State, described as: FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE DEED OF TRUST. APN 8019-010-011 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11246 Dalwood Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$248,884.51 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and written Notice of Default and Election to Sell, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Dated: 12/10/2014 THE MORTGAGE LAW FIRM, PLC Adriana Rivas/Authorized Signatory OR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-730-2727 The Mortgage Law Firm, PLC, is attempting to collect debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site - www.servicelinkASAP.com - for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: 120052. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. A-FN4500353 12/18/2014, 12/25/2014, 01/01/2015

**The Downey Patriot 12/18/14, 12/25/14, 1/1/15**

Trustee Sale No.: 00000004742235 Title Order No.: FHA/VA/PMI No.: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/26/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 05/05/2004 as Instrument No. 04 1120063 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA, EXECUTED BY: EUNICE JUNGSOOK YANG, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 01/07/2015 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8718 MELVA STREET, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242 APN#: 6261-017-032 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$560,082.26. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000004742235. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: NATIONWIDE POSTING & PUBLICATION A DIVISION OF FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY 5005 WINDPLAY DRIVE, SUITE 1 EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762-9334 916-939-0772 www.nationwideposting.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP

IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP as Trustee Dated: 12/12/2014 NPP0239566 To: THE DOWNEY PATRIOT 12/18/2014, 12/25/2014, 01/01/2015

**The Downey Patriot 12/18/14, 12/25/14, 1/1/15**

ORDER: 5920670 TS#: 140901 A. P. NUMBER: 8018-010-003 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 1/18/2014 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that C.N.A. FORECLOSURE SERVICE, INC. A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by Gloria E. Aguilar, a married woman as her sole and separate property Recorded on 1/31/2014 as Instrument No. 20140109020, of Official records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 9/08/2014 as Instrument No. 2014-09340456 of said Official Records, WILL SELL on 1/08/2015 Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA at 9:00 a.m. AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to

be: 11812 Gard Avenue, Norwalk, CA The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$26,366.81 (estimated). In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the

county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call telephone number for information regarding the trustee's sale 714-573-1965 or visit this Internet Web site www.Priorityposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 140901. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR SALES INFORMATION CALL : 714-573-1965 C/O C.N.A. FORECLOSURE SERVICES, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION as said Trustee, 2020 CAMINO DEL RIO N. #230 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108 (619) 297-6740 DATE: 12/15/2014 KIMBERLY CURRAN TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER P1123984 12/18, 12/25, 01/01/2015

**The Downey Patriot 12/18/14, 12/25/14, 1/1/15**

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## Need to run a Legal Notice?

The Downey Patriot is a newspaper of general circulation – and has been adjudicated in the County and the City. We can take any and all legal ads.

**Contact The Downey Patriot we can help!**

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The Downey Conservancy issued a certificate of congratulations to Carlo Paolucci in recognition of the 50th anniversary of his restaurant, Carlo's Pizza House, on Dec. 14.



The Mighty Flames won the Downey AYSO 2014 U10 girls championship. Top row: Alyssa, Paulina, Brielle, Marley and Coach Jorge. Bottom: Jackie, Emily, Cyanne, Emily and Gabby.



The Glacier Freeze are the Downey AYSO 2014 U14 boys champions. The team is coached by Herman Lucas.



Yolanda Arnold and Miji Vellakkattel came from the LA District Attorney's Office to speak with Downey Adult School's Advanced ESL students about domestic violence.

Yolanda, the wife of DUSD teacher Russ Arnold, has been a paralegal for the Violent Crimes Division for over 25 years; she works closely with Deputy District Attorney Miji Vellakkattel. Both are shown in the picture.

The presentation was during the evening ESL class, so both generously gave of their time to come after work & speak to the class. They showed a Power Point presentation about the definition of domestic violence, the cycle of domestic violence, and resources for victims. Mr. Vellakkattel spoke about domestic violence laws in California and the consequences of these crimes.

Mr. Arnold, who is also a night supervisor at the Adult School, told Julie Meuret-Kalousek about his wife's job; the teacher contacted Yolanda Arnold and she eagerly agreed to come to the class. She surprised the class by bringing Mr. Vellakkattel. His engaging presentation kept 55 students listening closely to every word.

A question and answer period followed the presentation, which wrapped up a night full of important and practical information. Both of these speakers are passionate about their jobs and it showed!  
Contributed by Downey Adult School

### Rose Float holding general elections

DOWNEY –Downey Rose Float Association General Elections will be held at the general meeting on Jan. 28.

Below are the positions and nominees for the current year:

- President- Sue England
- 1st Vice President- Jennifer DeKay
- 2nd Vice President- Sarah Kendall
- 3rd Vice President- Judy Artherton
- Treasurer- Misty Hausmann
- Corresponding/Recording Secretary- Pam Chambers
- Board of Directors:
- Mary Skill
- Andrew Malarkey
- Kelley Roberts
- Reggie Donahue
- Jeff Shadic

The meeting will be held at the Barbara Riley Center at 7 p.m. Only current Rose Float members are eligible to vote.



On Dec. 14, Downey's AYSO boys U12 team, the Trojans, won the 2014 Commissioner's Cup, winning the championship game, 3-0. The team includes David, Jacob, Marco, Ryan, Axel, Alessandro, Eylaza, Shane, Joshua, Danny, David and Tyler. Coaches include Ruben, Carlos and Chris.

### Free formal dresses for girls

DOWNEY – High school girls who cannot afford a gown for winter formal can receive a formal dress, shoes and jewelry at no cost, courtesy of the Assistance League of Downey.

"Winter formals are fast approaching and we want you to look your best," the Assistance League said.

The giveaways will take place Jan. 3 and Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Casa de Parley Johnson House, 7749 Florence Ave.

Donations of new and gently-used dresses are also accepted and can be dropped off at the Second Tyme Around thrift shop on Downey Avenue in downtown Downey.

For more information, call Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

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### Evdokia Sergieff mourned

DOWNEY – Evdokia Sergieff, 87, passed away quietly at home on Dec. 16.

Born March 3, 1927 in Russia, daughter of the late Feodor and Evdokia Sergieff, she emigrated to the United States in 1956. She was a sewing machine operator for many years until her retirement in 1989.

She is survived by her two sons and their wives, Mike and Betsy Sergieff, and Trifin and Barbara Sergieff; four grandchildren, Christopher, Trifin and Cain Sergieff, and Valerie Sergieff Didear; three great-grandchildren; and a niece, nephew and their families.

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The CENTURY 21 My Real Estate Team goes above and beyond in supporting Easter Seals of Southern California. This year they raised \$15,575 for the charity. "Our agents are very committed to giving back to the community and helping make a difference to those who need it the most" said Steve Roberson Broker/Owner of Century 21 My Real Estate Co. "It is very rewarding to be able to give to others, and as always we shall continue to support Easter Seals of Southern California and other local charities in the years ahead."

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"Cristian Ripoll is a real professional! Everything went smooth & Cristian is a real nice guy!" - Jorge Rodriguez

"Brian Holden did a fabulous job, was helpful & easy to work with!" - Rochelle Stevenson

#### FEATURED PROPERTY

**Entertainers Delight**  
Gorgeous modern home with an open kitchen featuring granite counters and custom made granite tile floors. The property also features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, skylights a pool and a newer roof and many other upgrades! This is a must see! Call Today For Info!!!!

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**Downey Home With Large Lot!!!**  
Great Downey Home with long driveway, RV parking and Detached 2 car garage. This nice property offers 4 bedrooms and 3 bath. Large private backyard with a sparkling pool over setting on 17,527 SQ FT Lot. Cover patio with built in BBQ.

**Nice Downey Condo!!!**  
Very nice and clean condo. Updated kitchen. Fireplace in living room, laminated wood floors, new window coverings, dining area off kitchen. This is not an FHA approved complex.

**North Downey!!!**  
Nice 2 bed, 3 bath Downey Condo! New flooring, new paint, new blinds, some updates in kitchen and baths. Large bedrooms with walk in closets, area pool, patio 2 car garage with security gate. Very nice.

**Splish Splash!**  
Amazing 2005 custom rebuilt pool home located in Orange estates, this fabulous home features 4 bedroom 4 baths, 2 car detached garage. To many features to mention. Call For More Info!

**Great Mobile Home**  
Very neat and clean unit - Nice senior park - Utility room- office can be 3rd bedroom - Extra large bedrooms and closets.

**North Downey!!!**  
Nice ranch style 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home in great neighborhood. Property features new exterior paint, new front landscaping with new front sprinklers. Also, this home has a large den and family room. This is a must see! Call Today For Info!!!!

**IN ESCROW**

**Great Downey Home!**  
This lovely family home in Orange Estates has 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms and a large eat in kitchen. The covered patio with wood burning fireplace is excellent for entertaining, barbequing or just a quiet place to relax. Call for more info!

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**Wishing You happy holidays**

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Priced at: \$905,000  
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**Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2015.**

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**MICHAEL BERDELIS**  
"THE 24 HOUR AGENT"  
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24 Hour Real Estate



## 2014 YEAR-END MARKET UPDATE

### Average Sales Price in Southern California 2013 vs 2014



Prices increased about 10% around Southern California with L.A. County going up 8.7% and Orange County increasing 4.1%. In general, Downey and the surrounding cities have increased approximately 30% in the past 2-3 years but is still 30% less than the height of the market in 2006.

### Downey Home Prices 2005-2014



As of the 3rd quarter 2014, the average sales price in Downey was \$487,000, which is up 7.3% from last year and 29.2% higher than our city's low in 2011. Condos increased 12.2% in the past year for an average of \$258,000, which is 38% above the valley of 2012.

**Call Michael for a FREE Market Evaluation to see how much your home is worth in 2015**

**Available**

**Large Guest House, Large Lot!**  
3 BD, 2 BA, 2,000 sq. ft. main house w/ a 2 BD, 1 BA 700 sq. ft. guest house on a 13,837 sq. ft. lot w/a circular driveway & a 2 car detached garage. The home was remodeled 10 years ago with newer kitchen and bathrooms.  
Priced at: \$749,000

**Available**

**Warm & Friendly**  
Northwest Downey!  
3 BD, 2 BA, 1,893 sq. ft. living space, remodeled kitchen and bathroom, hardwood floors, central air & heat, and family room with fireplace.  
Priced at: \$559,900

**Available**

**Custom Built Home in Orange Estates**  
5 BD, 3 BA pool home near Furman Park on a 10,000+ sq ft lot with 2 car detached garage. The home has a large living room and formal dining area, family room with fireplace and master bedroom with 3/4 BA.  
Priced at: \$849,950

**Available**

**Remodeled Downey Home**  
3 BD, 2 BA, large master BD with private bath, newer laminate hardwood floors, newer dual pane windows, 2-year new roof, and new landscaping with sprinklers front and back.  
Priced at: \$424,988