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Health providers face few consequences for violating privacy laws

By Charles Ornstein and Annie Waldman

When CVS Health customers complained to the company about privacy violations, some of the calls and letters made their way to Joseph Fenity. One patient's medication was delivered to his neighbor, revealing he had cancer. Another was upset because a pharmacist had yelled personal information across the counter.

Fenity worked on a small team that dealt with complaints directed to the company president's office, assuring customers their situations were rare. "I sincerely apologize on behalf of CVS Health," Fenity says he'd respond. "This is not how we handle things. The breach of your protected health information was an isolated incident and we'll do better."

In fact, Fenity learned — partly from battling CVS over the privacy of his own medical information — that was "a lie."

CVS is among hundreds of health providers nationwide that repeatedly violated the federal patient privacy law known as HIPAA between 2011 and 2014, a ProPublica analysis of federal data shows. Other well-known repeat offenders include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Walgreens, Kaiser Permanente and Walmart.

And yet, the agency tasked with enforcing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act took no punitive action against these providers, ProPublica found.

In more than 200 instances over those four years, that agency, the Office for Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, reminded CVS of its obligations under the law or accepted its pledges to improve privacy protections. (CVS did pay a \$2.25 million penalty in 2009 for dumping prescription bottles in unsecured dumpsters.)

To be sure, the organizations with the most HIPAA violations are all large health care providers with many locations that serve millions

See **PRIVACY** page 2

Police officers come through on Christmas Eve

DOWNEY — Downey police officers went above and beyond the call of duty last week after a vehicle break-in left a Downey family without Christmas presents.

"Three days before Christmas a family in Downey had their car stolen from in front of their house on Brookshire Ave during the middle of the night," explained Cpl. Mike Pope, president of the Downey Police Officers Association. "The parents had just bought presents for the kids and left all of the presents inside of their car in order to surprise their children on Christmas day.

"I received the information from the Watch Commander that night. The Downey Police Officer's Association pitched in and bought new toys and gift cards for their three kids. One officer even bought a new Xbox for the family.

"Officer M. Hill and I delivered the gifts to the family on Christmas Eve and their kids were able to at least enjoy some new toys even during their time of dilemma.

"It is such a pleasure to help people out that are truly in need and the family was truly appreciative of receiving their gifts. It made our Christmas even that more special."

Volunteers work non-stop on Downey's Rose Parade float



Photo by Gordon Sodemati

By Alex Dominguez Contributor

DOWNEY — With the 127th Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade looming around the corner, the Downey Rose Float Association has been working almost nonstop throughout the week to ensure that Downey's entry will be ready to roll down Colorado Boulevard.

In accordance with this year's parade theme, "Find Your Adventure," this year's float is entitled "Exploring the Everglades," taking inspiration from the Florida Everglades. Measuring at 55 feet long and 18 feet tall, the float will feature three panthers and five blue herons, three of which will be animated. Downey's float will also be covered in thousands of flowers and various plant life of different species. Downey Royalty will also be onboard.

Construction Chair Kelley Roberts believes that the float's theme will help it stand out amongst other floats this year.

"The Tournament of Roses is partnered with the National Parks Service, celebrating their centennial anniversary," said Roberts. "I think we are one of the few if not the only float that really focused on one of our national parks."

Exploring the Everglades has been a year-long process starting from design and building up to Friday's Parade. Jason Redfox says that he started designing in January.

"I started by building a model. From the model we went into a sketch, from the sketch we went to a color rendering," said Redfox. "From there we use the model, it's built to scale, to build the float. We try to match the float as close as we can to the model."

According to Redfox, some building took place in August, however construction really took off around September and October. Redfox said that only a handful of people, around ten, are involved in the building of the float. However, much more manpower is used in the final weeks before parade day.

"There are thousands of man hours between Christmas and New Year's," said Redfox. "That's when

we have volunteers down here who do decorating, the seeds, cutting the flowers, all that stuff."

This past week, Downey Rose Float Association has invited members of the community to come and help put the finishing touches on the float. Roberts described the last week before the parade as "college hell week on steroids."

"If we didn't have volunteers there wouldn't be a float in the parade," said Roberts. "If all goes well I'd like to see 100 [people] a day."

Downey's floats have had history with winning awards in the parade, however according to Roberts's that is not necessarily the goal this year.

"You always want to win an award, right?" said Roberts. "...There's no particular award we're going for on this one, we're just trying to knock their socks off."

The Rose Parade will air at 8 a.m. PST Friday morning. Check your local listings to find out how to watch. Downey's Float will also spend a few days in the Embassy Suites parking lot for community members who are interested in seeing the float and purchasing flowers.

Downey students host robotics competition



The Spartan Design Alpha team from Stauffer Middle School finished fourth in a robotics competition last month.

DOWNEY — Warren High School hosted Downey Unified's second VEX Robotics Competition on Nov. 21, titled "Nothing But Net!"

Taking place inside the Downey High School gymnasium, the competition featured 24 teams from the middle and high school levels, including teams that traveled from as far as Ventura County.

The goal of the competition was for an alliance of two robots to work

collaboratively to launch foam balls into nets located on the corners of a 12-by-12 ft. arena. The event consisted of five qualifying rounds followed by an elimination round that determined the final winning alliance of robots.

Downey Unified was represented with seven total teams: three from Stauffer Middle School, three from Warren and one from Downey High. All Downey teams advanced to the elimination round of 16; Stauffer

Middle School's three teams made it through the semi-finals and two of their teams made it into the finals.

The Striking Vikings team from Downey High finished third overall and Spartan Design Alpha from Stauffer finished fourth overall out of the 24 teams who competed.

"Overall six Downey Unified teams ranked in the top 16," said DUSD assistant superintendent Roger Brossmer, who was in attendance that afternoon. "This great success, especially from our middle school students, paves the way for more Downey Unified robotics teams to compete in tournaments like this in the near future."

The scrimmage was organized by the Warren High School robotics teams in hopes to continue the trend of hosting robotics tournaments within Downey Unified for years to come.

Multiple Downey Unified schools are also collaborating to organize VEX Robotics Leagues and be the eventual host for an official state qualifier. Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test on the playing field as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and more.

Tournaments are held year-

round at the regional, state, and national levels; local champions go on to compete against the best in the world at the VEX Robotics World Championship each April.

In addition to having a great time and building robots, through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition and their work within their team, students learn academic and life skills, better preparing them to be college and career ready, globally competitive and citizens of strong character, DUSD officials said.

The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the ultimate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activity for middle and high school students. Each year an engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, use the VEX Robotics Design System to build innovative robots designed to score the most points possible in qualification matches, elimination matches and skills challenges.

The VEX platform is expanding and is now found in middle schools, high schools and university labs around the globe.

HUMANS OF DOWNEY: KELLEY ROBERTS



Photo and story by Steve Mansell, DowneyDailyPhotos.com

"I am the Construction Chairman for the Downey Rose Float Association and have been for over 25 years. I started decorating floats 36 years ago. My neighbor and his sister were going to come down and decorate a Rose Parade float. I wanted to go. My parents said, 'No. You're on restriction.' So I faked a pout, stormed to my room, closed the door, jumped out the window, then over the fence, met my neighbor on the next block and went to decorate a float. They were a little upset when I got back but they said I could have been doing something worse. I've been down here ever since.

"Back in 2000, I designed and built a roller coaster on our Rose Parade float and then I rode in it at the Rose Parade. We plan for every little part of the parade. Except for one thing that year. Where we were positioned in the parade was in the back. So when you're moving forward on Orange Grove, you move forward, you stop, you move forward then you stop. Well, the float weighed 40 to 45 thousand pounds. By starting - stopping, starting - stopping, it put a little more load on the transmission that we hadn't planned on.

"Now, as we're coming up to that famous turn onto Colorado Blvd. The one with all the grandstands and the TV cameras, I'm riding the roller coaster around and my brother is screaming at me, 'The transmission is boiling over.' I could only talk to him for a brief 2 seconds every time I came around to his spot. So I told him, 'I don't care... whatever you got...get me past camera.' So, I heard him yell through the float, 'Give me all the water. If I don't get the water, I'm going to pee on this transmission.' But once we got past that famous turn, it's mostly down hill with a few spots of up hill. After the turn it's a constant flow. It's not start - stop - start - stop. So, it was less stress on the transmission. Of course, I had to get rid of that transmission when we got done."

-Kelley Roberts

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 67°

Saturday 68°

Sunday 64°

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

What are your New Year's resolutions?

Kathy Adams Vaughn: Clean out cupboards and get rid of stuff.

Donna Marie Nunez: This time Save my phone pictures, Read more, Restart my scrap booking.

Alicia Edquist: Take time to enjoy my family, friends and outdoors. Also to get a job working in social media for a news outlet.

Javier Vargas: Bring happiness and good health to everybody in this world

Patty Barba-Vasquez: Get out of debt. Try to live stress free, create more family memories

Chris Moore: Show my family more love, and be better than I was in 2015!

Victor Felix: Graduate from Cerritos College and gain about 15lbs.

Laura Nieves Ocegueda: Train for and run my first marathon. Drop an additional 25 lb

Anthony Coronel: To make a greater impact for the betterment in mankind.

Joaquin Meza: To not allow my depression to get the worst of me.

Linda Cabrales-Mena: Be a better person!

Sylvia Blush: Be kinder to myself.

Martinez James: Be closer to God.

Jason Bohr: Vote in another Democrat as President who can keep us going down on the right track and keep the Republicans away for ruining this country.

Mirna Ayala: At least drop about 20 lbs, have more energy to keep up for my twins. Print and sort out all of their pictures

Frank Case: Open more minds and plant more seeds.

Linda H. Rodriguez: Enjoy my parents! My kids!

Reach us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@bwslife: If you are interested in seeing a Rose Float being constructed & decorated. You should go see the Downey Rose Float. #RoseParade

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PRIVACY: VA hospitals caught violating HIPAA laws

Continued from page 1

of patients each year. In statements, they said they take privacy seriously. (Walmart declined to comment.)

"CVS Health is strongly committed to protecting the privacy of our patients' health information," CVS spokesman Mike DeAngelis wrote. "We have established rigorous privacy policies and procedures throughout the Company to safeguard patient information."

Over the course of this year, ProPublica has reported on loopholes in HIPAA and the federal government's lax enforcement of the law. A story earlier in December detailed how the Office for Civil Rights only rarely imposed sanctions for small-scale privacy breaches that caused lasting harm.

The data analyzed for this story shows the problem goes beyond isolated incidents, carrying few consequences even for those who violate the law the most.

"The patterns you've identified makes a person wonder how far a company has to go before HHS recognizes a pattern of noncompliance," said Joy Pritts, a health information privacy and security consultant who served as chief privacy officer for HHS' Office of the National Coordinator for Healthcare Information Technology until last year.

Pritts said the government is supposed to take into account a health provider's prior track record of following the law when deciding whether to pursue fines for privacy violations. "You have to ask whether that's happening," she said.

The VA was the most persistent HIPAA violator in the data. Time and again, records show, VA employees snooped on one another and on patients they weren't treating. One employee accessed her ex-husband's medical record more than 260 times. Another employee peeked at the records of a patient 61 times and posted details on Facebook. A third improperly shared a vet's health information with his parole officer.

All told, VA hospitals, clinics and pharmacies violated the law 220 times from 2011 to 2014. For this story, ProPublica counted as violations those complaints that resulted in either corrective-action plans submitted by a health provider or "technical assistance" provided by the Office for Civil Rights on how to comply with the law.

The VA has never been called out publicly by the Office for Civil Rights or sanctioned for its string of violations.

The VA would not make an official available for an interview, but said in a written statement that it "takes veteran privacy and the privacy of medical or health records very seriously."

"The challenges VA is facing are similar to those experienced across public and private sectors, and we are continuously striving to better protect veteran data," its statement said, adding that it provides training to staff, investigates complaints and conducts audits of who accesses health records.

Some privacy problems—whether inadvertent or the deliberate acts of rogue employees—are to be expected. But repeated complaints may signal organizational failures, experts say.

"I don't think it's a defense to just say, 'We do a billion prescriptions a year,'" said Mark Rothstein, chair of law and medicine and the founding director of the Institute for Bioethics, Health Policy and Law at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. "They need to be more

assertive to try to figure out what's wrong. It may be true that you can't get down to zero, but you need to make a really good faith effort to follow up on the complaints that were filed."

OCR has broad latitude in deciding how to handle complaints. It can resolve them privately and informally, as it has chosen to do in the vast majority of instances. It also has the authority to impose fines of up to \$50,000 per violation, with an annual maximum of \$1.5 million. In the most egregious cases, the agency can file criminal charges against violators. It is free to post complaints online, if it protects patients' identities.

Deven McGraw, deputy director for health information privacy at the Office for Civil Rights, said the agency's top priority has been investigating breaches that affect at least 500 people, which providers are required by law to report promptly. "Often, when we take a look into those breaches, what we find is that they were not accidents," she said. "What contributed to the breach of thousands, if not tens of thousands of records, was systemic noncompliance ... over a period of sometimes years."

Still, McGraw acknowledged, more can be done about health providers with multiple HIPAA violations.

"I don't like the idea of repeat offenders not being called to task for that behavior and I would like to see us doing more in this regard," she said, adding that the office's case management system in the past was an impediment but is now being fixed to proactively flag them.

Although the Office for Civil Rights receives thousands of complaints a year — nearly 18,000 in 2014 — it issues only a handful of financial penalties. The agency posts details online about the fines violators have agreed to pay (fewer than 30 since 2009), as well as a listing of large breaches. But that represents a tiny share of the incidents investigated by the office; the rest has been hidden from the public.

Asked why the office did not post details of repeat violations online, spokeswoman Rachel Seeger wrote in an email: "Entities who are the subject of complaints are not necessarily guilty of a crime or a civil wrong. Our office makes public details of cases that result in settlements and formal corrective action agreements or civil monetary penalties on our website."

Despite the VA's status as the top serial HIPAA violator in ProPublica's analysis, McGraw said, "that doesn't mean that we treat them any differently in terms of our overall enforcement philosophy."

Using data provided by OCR under the Freedom of Information Act, ProPublica is launching a new tool, HIPAA Helper, which allows users to look up reports of privacy violations by provider for the first time. OCR's material often referred to the same entities by multiple names. CVS was listed as "CVS," "Pharmacy, CVS," "Caremark, CVS," "CVS Caremark" and more. Kaiser Permanente was identified as "Kaiser Foundation Hospital," "Kaiser Hospital," "Kaiser Permanente," and even "KP." We have standardized organizations' names to make searching easier.

The database also includes the large breaches self-reported by health providers to the Office for Civil Rights, privacy incidents logged separately by the VA and violations cited by the California Department of Public Health, which can impose its own fines against hospitals for failing to protect

patient privacy.

Two reports issued this fall by the HHS inspector general faulted the Office for Civil Rights' case-tracking system for its inability to track repeat offenders.

The Office for Civil Rights said it is taking steps to fix those problems.

To gain a better understanding of the nature of the complaints received by OCR, ProPublica requested dozens of letters sent by the office to health providers detailing the allegations and how they were resolved.

In the case of CVS, common complaints included giving drugs to the wrong patients, speaking too loudly when discussing health information in front of customers, and faxing medical information to the wrong places (including to random strangers).

Many of the letters culminate with the admonition: "Should OCR receive a similar allegation of noncompliance against CVS in the future, OCR may initiate a formal investigation of that matter."

But that doesn't seem to have happened.

DeAngelis, the CVS spokesman, said the company's 200,000 employees who work in pharmacies, medical clinics and call centers are required to complete privacy training when they are hired and every year afterward. That's in addition to regular on-the-job training on privacy practices, he wrote.

Walgreens ranked third for the number of privacy complaints resolved with corrective actions or technical assistance, ProPublica's analysis showed. Spokesman Jim Graham said in an email that the company "takes the privacy and security of our customers' information very seriously. Walgreens thoroughly investigates any concern about privacy regardless of how it is brought to our attention and will voluntarily improve practices if necessary."

Beyond the cases in OCR's data, there have been other incidents indicating that Walgreens sometimes struggles with patient privacy. In 2013, an Indiana jury ordered the company and one of its pharmacists to pay \$1.44 million because the pharmacist looked in a patient's prescription records and told her ex-boyfriend that she had stopped taking birth control pills before becoming pregnant. The verdict was upheld by the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Nicolas Terry, a professor and executive director of the Hall Center for Law and Health at Indiana University's law school, said the Office for Civil Rights has moved more aggressively in recent years to impose fines against health providers that have had large-scale breaches or have done "dumb things," such as a cardiology group that used a publicly accessible online scheduling system. Still, he said, the agency could do more.

Downey to canvass neighborhoods, count homeless residents

DOWNEY — The city of Downey has signed an agreement to participate in the 2016 Homeless Count, an annual tally of local homeless residents.

"We are so pleased to be an official participant in the Homeless Count [next] year, in order to ensure we have the appropriate services ready to help," said Mayor Alex Saab. "We feel strongly about demonstrating our commitment to care for our neighbors."

The count involves dozens of volunteers walking Downey neighborhoods to count and interact with homeless neighbors. The count will take place Jan. 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. It starts with a volunteer orientation at First Baptist Church of Downey.

If you are interested in volunteering with the count, call Kim Barnette of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority at (213) 507-0169.

"If you see the same offender continuing along the same line of conduct, then at some point, you've got to ramp up and say, 'You are not taking the hint that we are dropping,' Terry said.

For patients whose medical information is exposed, the effects can be far-reaching.

The breach involving Fenity occurred in September 2014, when he couldn't refill a prescription for a controlled substance — a medication to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder — at a CVS pharmacy and called the company's helpline (as required) for permission to get the drug elsewhere.

All CVS employee calls were routed to the center in San Antonio where Fenity worked, and he soon discovered that a co-worker who assisted with the call hadn't kept his inquiry confidential. Walking down a hall a couple of days later, Fenity heard the co-worker mention his name and the medical lingo used to describe controlled substance overrides.

Deeply shaken, he told a supervisor and, after investigating, the company fired the co-worker and counseled two others who were told the information. Fenity remained so anxious and embarrassed by the incident that he took a leave of absence. (He was terminated this August for not returning.)

"It was incredibly difficult for me to reassure members that we would appropriately handle their [personal health information] or take accountability by working to avoid any additional HIPAA violations when I was experiencing the complete opposite," he said in an email.

After trying to resolve the issue within the company, he filed a privacy complaint against CVS with the Office for Civil Rights. He said he believes the company's systems for protecting his health data were — and still are — inadequate. It is pending.

CVS's DeAngelis said the company investigated Fenity's complaint promptly and fired the employee to blame.

DeAngelis also noted that employees can request that their calls be routed to a single employee who "would be the only representative authorized to access their prescription account. In fact, following Mr. Fenity's incident, this option was offered to him and he accepted."

Fenity can still recall the chill of realizing the information about his medication was out.

"It's like feeling your clothes have been ripped off in the middle of work," he said. "That's what it feels like. You feel so exposed."

Charles Ornstein and Annie Waldman are reporters with ProPublica, an independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest.

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**E-waste collection
Jan. 30**

DOWNEY – Warren High's girls soccer team will be collecting unwanted electronic waste Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the school parking lot.

Items that can be dropped include computers, DVD players, printers, monitors, cell phones, video game consoles, mixed metals, telephones, televisions, electric cords, remote controls and similar items.

Appliances such as refrigerators and ovens, along with batteries and light bulbs, can not be accepted.

Money from the fundraiser will help the team purchase new uniforms, equipment and make field improvements.

**Garcia brings back
'There Ought to be
a Law' contest**

DOWNEY – Assemblymember Cristina Garcia has announced the start of her third "There Ought to be a Law" contest for residents of the 58th Assembly District.

Residents are encouraged to submit their ideas for a new state law.

"Start brainstorming, or, if you already have an idea, you can submit your ideas and proposals for a new state law on my website," Garcia said.

"Entries can touch on a wide range of issues that can be addressed by legislation and will improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and throughout the state of California.

"The contest is open to residents of the 58th Assembly District and people of all ages are encouraged to enter. I highly encourage all high school and college students to participate."

The winner will have the opportunity to travel to Sacramento, testify before an Assembly Committee on the merits of the bill and have lunch with the Assemblymember. The deadline is Jan. 20, 2016.

The last two winners of Garcia's "There Ought to be a Law" contest bill ideas are now effective law.

**SPORTS BRIEFS: Warren girls' soccer ranked
20th in California, 74th in the nation**



Estela Sanchez scored three goals to lead Warren High's girls varsity soccer team to a win in the opening game of the NOCC tournament.

Caitlin Headley and Viviana Garcia each added goals for a 6-0 shutout. Photo courtesy Warren High.

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Warren High School girls' soccer team currently has an overall record of 8-2-2 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they travel to Paramount on 1/12 to play the Lady Pirates.

The Lady Bears competed in the Best in the West Tournament from 12/12-19. Games were held at both Downey and Warren High Schools and featured several of the area's best teams. After a strong start to their season, the Lady Bears are currently ranked 74th in the nation and 20th in California.

The Lady Bears defeated Canyon (4-3-2) 2-1 on 12/12 at 9:20 a.m., defeated La Quinta (3-4-5) 2-0 six hours later at 3:20 p.m. on 12/12 and defeated Saint Joseph (1-6-2) 4-1 on 12/15. Warren defeated Pasadena Poly (6-1-2) 2-1 on 12/19 and tied Vista Murrieta (11-1-2) 1-1 on 12/19.

The Lady Bears are currently

competing in the North Orange County Tournament. Warren tied Rio Mesa (4-2-3) 1-1 on 12/28, defeated Sunny Hills (8-2) 2-1 on 12/29 at 11:00 a.m. and were defeated by Mayfair (9-1-2) 1-0 at 3:30 p.m. on 12/29. Warren will travel to Ocean View (5-2-3) on 1/5 before they start S.G.V.L. play on 1/12. The Lady Bears will host Gahr on 1/14, will host Dominguez on 1/21 and will travel to Lynwood on 1/26.

Cross-town rival Downey will once again be the team to beat in San Gabriel Valley League play. The Lady Bears were co-champions with Downey last year after finishing league play at 8-1-1.

Coach Dussan, her staff and players are looking forward to the start of the 2016 league season and hope to keep last year's success going.

The Downey High School girls' basketball team currently has an overall record of 9-4 and will start S.G.V.L. play on January 13 when they travel to Dominguez.

The Lady Vikings played in the Arroyo Tournament 12/15-19 where they went 2-2. Downey defeated San Marino 50-19 on 12/15, were defeated by Sonora 60-29 on 12/16, were defeated by Arcadia 56-47 on 12/18 and defeated Palos Verdes 36-33 on 12/19.

The Lady Vikings defeated La Serna 61-37 on 12/22 and are currently playing in the Maxpreps Holiday Classic in the Palm Springs area. Downey defeated San Juan Hills 51-33 at Shadow Hills High School on 12/26 and defeated Indio 54-41 on 12/28.

The Lady Vikings were defeated by Woodinville 48-42 on 12/29 and concluded the Maxpreps Tournament on 12/30 against Kelso of Washington (score unavailable at press time).

Downey will travel to Mater Dei on 1/5, will host Schurr on 1/7 and will travel to Dominguez on 1/13 for their S.G.V.L. opener. The Lady Vikings will host Lynwood on 1/15

and will travel to cross-town rival Warren on 1/20 for the first of their two meetings. Freshman standout point guard Surie Camacho is averaging 9.2 ppg, 4.2 apg and 2.2 rpg thus far this preseason.

Coach Harris, his staff and players are looking forward to the start of league play. Lynwood and Warren will once again be the teams to beat. Lynwood is the 2015 S.G.V.L. champion.

The Warren High School boys' basketball team currently has an overall record of 8-3 and will begin S.G.V.L. play on January 13 when they host Paramount.

The Bears competed in the Fairmont Prep Husky Classic Tournament from 12/8-12 where they went 3-1. Warren defeated Scotch College of Australia 48-27 on 12/8, defeated Fairmont Prep 78-63 on 12/9, defeated Aquinas 65-45 on 12/11 and were defeated by Walnut 60-43 on 12/12.

The Bears are currently competing in the Maxpreps Holiday Classic Tournament in the Palm Springs area. Warren was defeated by Rancho Cucamonga 62-51 at Rancho Mirage on 12/26 and defeated Antelope Valley 58-40 at Cathedral City High School on 12/28. Warren defeated Benicia 64-35 on 12/29 and played Ponderosa on 12/30 (score unavailable at press time).

Warren will also compete in the 2nd Annual Massey Classic in early January where they are scheduled to play Cabrillo on 1/2 and Long Beach Wilson on 1/4. The Bears will travel to La Salle on 1/6, will host Renaissance Academy on 1/9 and will host Paramount on 1/13 in their S.G.V.L. opener. Warren will travel to Gahr on 1/15 and will host cross-town rival Downey on 1/20.

The Bears have been led this season by freshman Jeremiah Turley and sophomore Andre Fields' 12 ppg each, respectively. Warren, as a team, is averaging 57 points per game.

Interestingly, of the 14 players Warren has listed on their roster, three are seniors, five are juniors, one is a sophomore and five are freshmen. It is safe to say that Warren's future looks bright.

The Downey High School wrestling team hosted the Downey Invitational Wrestling Tournament last week and won their tournament.

The Vikings finished first with 236 points, Long Beach Millikan finished second with 201 points, Pioneer Valley finished third with 178 points, John Glenn finished fourth with 154 points and Walnut finished fifth with 108 points, respectively.

Downey had 13 wrestlers place in the top eight of their respective weight classes. Jonathan Prata finished first and Seiji Lopez finished second at 106 pounds. Dilan Ajtun finished second at 113 pounds, Roland Dominguez finished second at 120 pounds and Matthew Morales


finished eighth at 126 pounds.

Armando Padilla finished first at 132 pounds and was selected as the TMI lower weight MVP of the tournament. Adrian Segovia finished third at 138 pounds and Gregory Lopez finished sixth at 145 pounds. Pablo Ochoa finished second at 152 pounds, Nic Arellano finished third at 160 pounds and Adrian Guerra finished fourth at 182 pounds.

Immanuel Bravo finished fifth at 195 pounds and Brady Russel finished seventh at 220 pounds. Downey had a top 8 placer in 12 of 14 weight classes.

Coach Soto, his staff and wrestlers are looking forward to the start of the 2016 S.G.V.L. dual meet season. The Vikings are once again the team to beat. Paramount and cross-town rival Warren will look to challenge Downey for league supremacy. The Vikings are the defending 2015 S.G.V.L. and C.I.F. Western Division Dual Meet champions.

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**HUMANS OF DOWNEY:
ALEXANDRA**

"I was blessed with two loving parents that were very giving. One Christmas I asked my mom, 'Why are you going to work? Stay home, all the moms stay home.' She replied, 'No no, I need to go to work so you can live in this nice house and go to your private school. I'm still here.'"

"I feel like I had a super woman for a mom. She ran her business, she ran home to feed us, ate dinner with us."

"Another Christmas she was so tired Christmas Eve that she couldn't wrap all the presents so she put them in the bathtub to hide them. I remember going in there in the middle of the night and I noticed something popping out of the tub, so I went over to see what it was. I found all my toys the day before Christmas. She said, 'Wow, Santa must of come early. He knows how good you are.'"

"I like to give others presents year round. I teach my kids to give not just at Christmas, but when it will help others. When people least expect it."

"I know an older lady who lives in her car and I know where she stations the car. Our kids were saying, 'I know Santa isn't going to her house because she doesn't have one so Santa can't go there.' My daughter said, 'Can we wrap some gifts and give them to her?' I thought that was nice and it came from her. So we did that last year and we are planning on doing it again this year. So tonight we'll wrap some gifts and drop them off to her."

"We know of some random people that live under a bridge and near the freeway. When people think, 'Well, who should I give to?'; you don't have to know their names. I don't like to give presents to people I know because it's like expected. I'd rather give to a random person that doesn't know me. I just get more pleasure out of it. I feel that it isn't an obligation but it came from my heart."

-Alexandra (owner of Ocean Breeze Spa Salon, Downey)



Photo and story by Steve Mansell, DowneyDailyPhotos.com

College's food drive brings in more than 1,400 donations

WHITTIER - Rio Hondo College students shattered all previous records for their annual canned-food drive, collecting more than 1,400 cans by the campaign's official end at noon Wednesday, Nov. 25.

The drive, led by the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College (ASRHC), had been expected to collect a record-setting around 800 cans - about 200 more than in 2014. But donations surged in the last several days, more than doubling the 599 cans donated last year.

In 2014, the students also doubled collection totals, making this year's achievement a boost of at least 365 percent over two years.

"We're going to need to set some higher goals," ASRHS President William Ashby said Wednesday. "Our old ones just won't do any more."

Ashby's team helped inspire the surge by offering a \$150 prize to the student club that donated the most cans. The funds can be used to support club activities or events. The competition was so fierce, Ashby said members of two student groups continued to bring in cans until even past the official deadline.

The food was donated to the Whittier Interfaith Food Center, which distributes food to the area's neediest residents.

"It is quite moving to see the giving nature of our students, faculty and staff demonstrated in the student canned food drive," said Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "It's a great indicator of the compassion at Rio Hondo College for our surrounding communities."

The student government hasn't concluded its holiday giving, either. On Monday, as the food drive was winding down, Ashby's team launched its annual toy drive. The drive aims to collect 150 toys - 50 more than 2014 - to donate to the Interfaith Food Center.

"Efforts like the canned-food drive and toy drive showcase the 'community' in community college," said Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro. "They make me proud to be a part of Rio Hondo College."

\$22 million settlement reached to clean up hazardous site in South Gate

SOUTH GATE - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday announced that a group of 40 parties have agreed to conduct the cleanup of the Cooper Drum site in South Gate, 10 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles.

The settlement requires an estimated \$15 million to construct the additional groundwater treatment system needed, including wells, piping and treatment costs, plus \$7 million to reimburse EPA for its past cleanup actions at the Superfund site.

"Today's settlement is a binding commitment to pursue the final cleanup of this former industrial site," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Our goal is to protect the residents of South Gate from the toxic chemicals that have contaminated their local groundwater."

Cooper Drum is a 3.8 acre site located in a commercial, industrial and residential area of South Gate. From 1974 until its closure in 1992, the Cooper Drum Company reconditioned used steel drums from industrial customers, such as chemical manufacturers, chemical packagers and oil companies.

The 55 gallon steel drums, which contained residual oils and solvents, were washed and prepared for reuse. Residual wastes from the drums, primarily volatile organic compounds such as trichloroethylene (TCE), spilled and leaked on the site,



contaminating soils and groundwater.

Cooper Drum was placed on Superfund's National Priorities List in 2001.

Over the last 14 years, EPA has overseen the design, construction and operation of soil and groundwater treatment systems aimed at cleaning up TCE, lead, PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons, authorities said.

The site's soil vapor extraction system, which has been operating since 2011, has removed over 742 pounds of chemicals from affected soils. The groundwater extraction system has treated more than 17 million gallons of contaminated groundwater since 2012.

All water that is served to the residents and businesses in South Gate meets state and federal drinking water standards, officials said.

Drinking high levels of TCE may cause damage to the nervous system,

liver and lungs. PCBs are a known human carcinogen and may cause a variety of other adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems. Long term exposure to lead can lead to kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Between 2001 and 2009, EPA's cleanup activities at the Cooper Drum site relied on public funding. In 2009, agency investigators were able to identify former customers of the drum reconditioning business. Since then, the settling parties, known as the Cooper Drum Cooperating Parties Group, have funded the cleanup and worked cooperatively with EPA.

This is the final phase of work for the site for known conditions, and implements the cleanup selected in the Record of Decision in September 2002.

The settlement, lodged in Federal District Court on Dec. 29 as a consent

decreed, will be posted in the Federal Register and available for public comment for a period of 30 days. The consent decree can be viewed on the Justice Department website.

Southern California's I-710 freeway passes through 15 cities and unincorporated areas including South Gate, where the effects of pollution are disproportionately higher than in other areas of Los Angeles County.

Approximately one million people, about 70% of whom are minority and low-income households, are severely impacted by industrial activities and goods movement in the area. In a multi-year effort, federal, state, and local governments and nonprofit organizations are working together to improve the environmental and public health conditions for residents along this corridor.

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Picking up trash

Dear Editor:

In regards to the recent letters about trash appearing in the Patriot, in which our local citizens complained about trash littering their neighborhoods:

On my block of Richeon Street, between Rundell and Quill Drive, there is practically no trash. On most days I sally forth from my humble abode to get in my exercise walk of approximately 2 miles, and upon returning to my area, I pick up trash. I'm not a youth. I'm 76.

Our society is rife with exercise establishments, in which there are numerous people running on treadmills and otherwise expending great amounts of energy on the exercise equipment. Perhaps some of this wasted energy could be redirected toward performing a task which needs doing, such as picking up trash.

Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest "because it's there." I pick up trash for the same reason. In a weird sort of way, I find it psychologically pleasing.

**Jack Russell
Downey**

Traffic lights

Dear Editor:

Last weekend I enjoyed "Star Wars" at the new Cinemark movie theater. The theater is a wonderful addition to Downey.

However, something must be done about the traffic signals on Lakewood Boulevard adjacent to the complex. It took me 10 minutes to move between Alameda and Columbia Way, and this was with minimal traffic.

Can these lights be synced together?

**Estela Rodriguez
Downey**

Lack of spirituality

Dear Editor:

The problem with our country is that we need to re-educate ourselves to the fact that we are spiritual beings, because the problems that we have in our society stem from a lack of spirituality.

Greed, corruption, gun violence, domestic violence, and violence to those that can not speak up for themselves, especially the animals, and of course children, but one must remember that animals are children, and worthy of our protection, to dismiss this notion is to embrace Nazism and oppression.

We have a national anthem. I think we should have a national video, "Earthlings."

We will never fix the problems that we face today as a nation, with the same mentality that brought on this national crisis.

**Patty Jackson
Downey**

Congress

Dear Editor:

I hope everyone closely read "Sadly Congress Seems OK with Being Weak" by Lee Hamilton (*Downey Patriot*, 12/17/15) telling us that Congress only works less than one-half of the year (so many holidays). Don't know if that's a blessing or a curse.

Just think how much more they could put us in debt working full-time. (Currently every man, woman and child in America owes \$232,000 to pay off our debt). But if they were there full-time, they might have had time to read the over 2,000 pages of the budget, assuming they are literate.

If they only work one-half of the year, why are we paying them a full year's wages?

But why should they work? Just turn over all power to the President. I have an idea! Why don't they retire? They will still receive the same pay as they receive for not working now. However, if they retire they should only receive half pay when they retire. I've wondered why we pay them now for only signing a horrendous spending bill at the President's bidding. However, they do consider more tax money, as does the California Legislature who just recently voted themselves a \$5,000 a year raise. I understand they only get \$142 a day spending money!

Did one ever consider that we have cut our military back to pre-1942 standards, when they give Planned Parenthood a half billion every year to kill babies? Wouldn't you think this could go toward upgrading our military? The babies aren't threatening terrorism, so why kill them?

We are bringing Syrians into the U.S., having no idea if some will plan another 9/11 or San Bernardino. Of course, the UN will vet them. Hope they're as good as the ones who allowed the San Bernardino terrorists to enter. But we can't expect Homeland Security or our other worthless government officials to do that. As Mr. Hamilton says, "They fail repeatedly to do the kind of oversight of federal agencies that could eliminate wasted resources."

Our Supreme Court deals with abortions, same sex marriage, affirmative action, but take heart. America seems to be headed for legalization of marijuana. So our lazy Congress now should be finding out how much tax money is needed to establish rehab facilities. They're expensive. Wouldn't it be nice if they considered the lives of our youth above tax money for drugs? California's Democrats will have it on their platform in 2016. It's illegal in the U.S. but who cares as long as it brings in tax money for them to spend?

Mr. Hamilton is right. Congress, stand up and take back your co-equal part of the government or get out and let someone who likes the U.S. in.

People, are you going to take action or just sit it out like Congress? If you care at all, you will go to the phone and dial (866) 220-0044 and make your views known to anyone in Congress. I don't mean once, I mean several times a day and more than one day.

If you don't you're going to get just what you deserve.

**Elsa Van Leuven
Downey**

Ted Cruz's year of achievements

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) this week released a powerful video and comprehensive review highlighting his efforts to break the Washington Cartel and address critical issues facing the American people in the 114th Congress.

Below is a brief outline of the video, which can be watched on Cruz's website.

Breaking the Washington Cartel

Delivered a speech at The Heritage Foundation revealing the cronyism that runs deep in Washington, powered by the Washington Cartel of establishment politicians and corporate lobbyists who continue to benefit big government and big business at the expense of millions of Americans.

Delivered a powerful speech on the Senate floor shining a light on the corrupt deal struck by Senate Republican leadership to allow the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Issued a statement highlighting Republican leadership's tendencies to side with Democrats.

Penning an op-ed for POLITICO, describing the Republican Party's surrender politics.

Protecting Americans from IRS Abuse

Introduced two bills to protect Americans from partisan abuses and political targeting by the IRS.

Sent a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, asking for information regarding the tax-exempt status of The PeaceWorks Network Foundation, most commonly known by the name "OneVoice," after several media reports indicated OneVoice, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, had been using its resources to influence the outcome of the Israeli elections.

Sent a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen asking him to confirm that his agency will respect America's longstanding principle of religious liberty in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* requiring a nationwide redefinition of marriage.

Held a hearing on the IRS' targeting of conservative groups.

Stopping Illegal Immigration

Questioned U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah Saldaña in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary hearing regarding the Administration's failure to enforce immigration law against criminal illegal aliens.

Introduced "Kate's Law," the Establishing Mandatory Minimums for Illegal Reentry Act of 2015, to amend federal law to impose a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for any illegal reentry offense.

Reintroduced Kate's Law and placed the bill directly on the Senate calendar.

Asked for unanimous consent to pass Kate's Law.

Delivered a speech on the Senate floor citing the Obama Administration's persistent negligence of immigration law enforcement and bolstering the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act as a small step in the right direction.

Introduced the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, to end sanctuary cities and combat illegal reentry.

Blocking the Catastrophic Iran Nuclear Deal

Filed an amendment with Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to the Iran

Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, which would require affirmative Congressional approval of any Iranian nuclear deal before sanctions relief can occur.

Sent a letter to President Obama declaring his intention to hold reauthorizing legislation and block nominees for the U.S. State Department unless the President provides written assurances that he will block any U.N. Security Council resolution approving the Iranian nuclear deal until the statutory timeline for Congressional review has run its course.

Introduced legislation clarifying the congressional review period for the Iran Nuclear Deal.

Released a video rejecting the Iran Nuclear Deal.

Delivered a speech on the Senate floor strongly opposing the Administration's Iran nuclear deal and urging 42 Democrats to reconsider their stances on this catastrophic agreement.

Sent a letter to Leader McConnell and Speaker Boehner outlining the legal approach to prevent the Iran nuclear deal from taking effect.

Bolstering National Security

Introduced two bills to protect national security and support men and women in uniform.

Held a press conference with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on national security legislation.

Sent a letter to the Obama Administration demanding the immigration history of the San Bernardino attackers.

Requested unanimous consent on his Expatriate Terrorist Act and Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, both of which would protect the safety and security of the American people.

Penning an op-ed for The Washington Times, emphasizing the need for his Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015.

Delivered a national security address at The Heritage Foundation, detailing strategic points to keep America safe at home and strong abroad, while protecting Americans' liberty.

Redirecting Taxpayer Funds from Planned Parenthood

Called for an investigation into Planned Parenthood following reports that Planned Parenthood is selling body parts of aborted babies.

Sent letters to Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Cate Dyer, CEO of StemExpress. The letters requested documents and additional information from NIH and StemExpress in order to determine their potential involvement in Planned Parenthood's possible illegal conduct.

Spoke at the Students for Life of America #WomenBetrayed Rally at the U.S. Capitol, where he called on the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce the criminal laws and investigate Planned Parenthood.

Penning an op-ed for USA Today, urging congressional action to block Planned Parenthood funding and calling for the Department of Justice to launch an investigation into potential criminal actions within the abortion industry.

Applauded Texas for dropping Planned Parenthood from its Medicaid program.

Continued fighting against federal funding for Planned Parenthood after an undercover video surfaced featuring a Texas abortion provider.

Republicans know nothing about Syria

By John Kiriakou

Like many political animals, I was glued to the latest Republican presidential debate.

For the most part, there were no surprises: Donald Trump railed against Muslims, Chris Christie lamented that the NSA can't intercept Americans' phone calls and emails as easily as it used to, Ben Carson remained confused about foreign policy, and Carly Fiorina yelled loudly that nobody was paying any attention to her.

That's great entertainment. But one ongoing theme bothered me — a lot. It seemed to me that none of the Republicans running for president had even the vaguest understanding of what's happening in Syria.

I learned during my nearly 15 years of working on the Middle East at the CIA — and after earning my college degree in Middle Eastern Studies — that nothing in that region is easily accomplished. Almost no issues are black and white. Alliances shift constantly, and sometimes politics makes for strange bedfellows.

Syria is no exception.

The debate theme was basically this: The Islamic State is bad, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is bad, and "moderate" Syrian rebels are good. In a perfect world, that would indeed be the case. But it's not a perfect world, and that's not the reality of Syria today.

Certainly, we can all agree that the Islamic State is a dangerous and desperate terrorist group that must be stopped. But at what cost? Why is it up to the United States to send troops to fight a foreign civil war?

We've been at war for the past 14 years in that part of the world. Isn't it time to stop fighting over there?

And what of Assad? He's a ruthless dictator, to be sure. And the civil war he helped set in motion has claimed the lives of more than 200,000 of his own countrymen — and forced nearly 12 million more to flee their homes as refugees or internally displaced people within Syria.

But he's also the only one protecting religious minorities like Alawites,

Druze, and Christians in Syria — the latter of whom make up about 10 percent of the population, including notable minorities in both the Syrian parliament and cabinet. Unlike many people elsewhere in the region, Syrians of all traditions were generally free to practice their faith before the war began.

This also used to be the case in Iraq under Saddam Hussein, despite his own ruthlessness. By now most Iraqi Christians have fled the country. Church leaders have been kidnapped and murdered. And you're more likely to meet an Iraqi Christian in Detroit than in Baghdad.

And those "moderate" rebels? Maybe a few are freedom-loving secularists. But many more are hardcore Islamists like the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. They aren't any more interested in democracy than Assad or the Islamic State itself.

There is, however, a solution. And it doesn't involve killing more people, stumbling into other countries' civil wars, or "carpet bombing" the Middle East, as Ted Cruz proposed. It's called diplomacy.

The United States has national security interests in Syria: We want to stop the Islamic State. The Russians and Iranians have interests, too: They want to support and protect their friend Assad. The Turks have an interest in protecting their border. The Jordanians have an interest in resettling Syrian refugees back in Syria.

Doesn't it make sense, then, to call for peace talks that would include Moscow, Damascus, Amman, and other regional capitals? Doesn't it make sense for the international community to work together to bring peace and stability back to the region?

Assad is no choir boy. But we should be talking to him, too. There's no dealing with the Islamic State while this war is still underway.

OtherWords columnist John Kiriakou is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and the winner of the 2015 PEN Center USA First Amendment award.

Broadband rents are too damn high

By Dana Floberg

As the digital revolution hurtles ahead, low-income communities across the United States aren't reaping many of its benefits.

The less you make, the less likely it is that you're hooked up at home. This is especially true if you lack a high school diploma. And the already steep cost of Internet access is continuing to climb.

A recent Brookings Institution report explores these inequities, identifying critical gaps in broadband adoption. The study breaks down broadband adoption data by metropolitan areas, revealing not just national trends but also local ones.

The average adoption rate for America's 100 largest metropolitan areas is a little higher than the national average of 75 percent. But even among these larger populations, major disparities exist. San Jose and Seattle may have more than 80 percent of their metro populations online, but Lakeland, Florida and Greensboro, North Carolina hover around 64 percent. There's no cohesive national broadband picture.

The researchers found significant correlations between income, education levels, and adoption rates. Nearly 90 percent of households earning \$50,000 or more have broadband, while less than 47 percent of households making under \$20,000 do. Many other studies have had similar findings.

When you control for other factors, income and education appear to be two of the most significant factors driving broadband adoption.

Meanwhile, adoption rates continue to grow unevenly across the country. While 58 of the 100 biggest metro areas saw significant gains from 2013 to 2014, the other 42 areas didn't. At this rate, the invisible hand of the market

won't push us towards universal access.

If the digital divide won't solve itself, how can we fix it?

Brookings recommends a multi-pronged approach that includes targeted income assistance for those who can't afford exorbitant broadband prices, as well as digital skills training.

Many Internet service providers would like to focus exclusively on digital literacy. Instead of admitting that their near-monopoly status has allowed them to set astronomical prices, they'd rather accuse struggling families of not being digitally savvy enough to even want broadband access.

Digital skills are important, but they can't undo the economics. When so many households can't afford access to what Brookings calls the "defining infrastructure of the 21st century," we need to start asking hard questions about why that is.

The Brookings report builds off the growing body of evidence telling us what our wallets already know: Broadband prices are too damn high. In fact, U.S. Internet users pay far more for broadband than consumers in many European and Asian countries — often for much slower connections.

Here's the deal: Monopolistic cable companies have every incentive to squeeze their customers. Families struggling to pay for school supplies can't afford these luxury prices. To ensure universal high-speed Internet access, our policymakers must address this fundamental problem.

Dana Floberg is a policy fellow for Free Press. An earlier version of this op-ed appeared on her organization's blog at FreePress.net.

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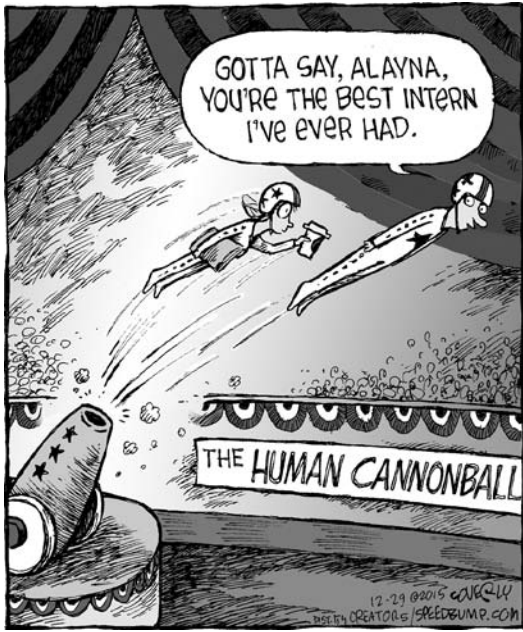
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Tuesday, Jan. 5: Gangs Out of Downey meeting, City Hall, 7:30 a.m.

CITY MEETINGS

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Paul Sheets at 714-618-1142.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call William Medina 413-3477.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, call Karika Austin 260-3856.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 905-7103.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Cafe 'N Stuff, call 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Cindy 803-4048.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Anita 861-3414.
 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, at Apollo Park, call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call (310) 604-0725.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Armida Lugo, (562) 715-6142.
 3rd Wed., 6 pm: American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, call Barbara 863-2192.
 4th Wed., 12:00 pm: Retired Federal Employees, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.
 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 pm: Lions Club, at Coco's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

On This Day...

Dec. 31, 1985: Rock singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

1993: Entertainer Barbra Streisand performed her first paid concert in 22 years, singing to a sellout crowd at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

1997: Michael Kennedy, 39-year-old son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident on Aspen Mountain in Colorado.

BIRTHDAYS: Actor Anthony Hopkins (78), actor Ben Kingsley (72), actor Val Kilmer (56), pop singer Psy (38), skateboarder Paul Rodriguez Jr. (31) and gymnast Gabby Douglas (20).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

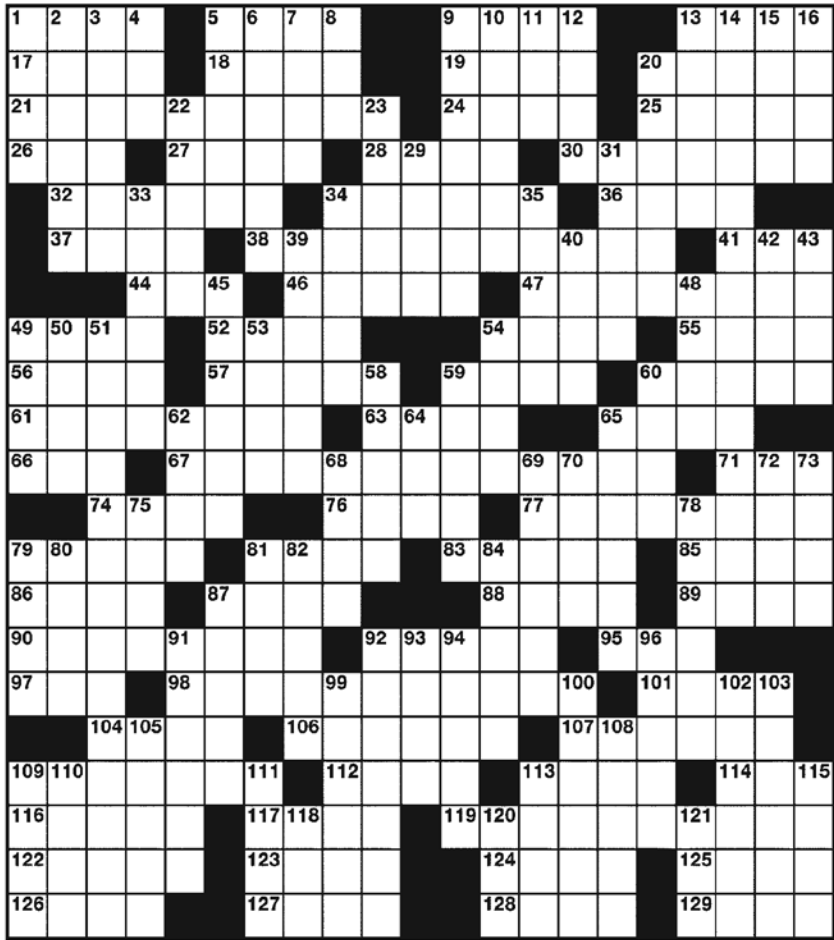
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

BACK IN OFFICE: Explained at 119 Across

by Fred Piscop

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| 18 Holiday lead-ins | 86 Worker protection agcy. | 10 Be equal (to) |
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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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Suspects charged in car chase that ended in Downey

DOWNEY – A driver and his two passengers were arraigned last week on charges of identity theft and recklessly evading pursuing officers in a high-speed chase that concluded in Downey.

David Bryan Brown, 45, Jessica Smith Roten, 55, and Corey Dillon Richardson, 22, all of Anaheim, are each charged with one felony count of identity theft by retaining information on 10 or more victims with the intent to defraud.

A witness contacted the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCS), who began investigating this case. OCS deputies located the vehicle on the northbound Interstate 5 and attempted to stop the vehicle.

Brown is accused of refusing to stop and driving recklessly away from pursuing OCS deputies including driving into oncoming traffic, failing to stop at traffic lights and stop signs and nearly hitting other vehicles. Roten and Richardson are accused of throwing the stolen items out of the car windows while the pursuit was underway.

The pursuit ended at the AM/PM gas station at Lakewood Boulevard and Florence Avenue, where the suspects were arrested by Downey Police.

Brown is also charged with one felony count of evading while driving recklessly and sentencing enhancement allegations for prior prison convictions for the unlawful taking of a vehicle on two separate instances in 1993, possession of a controlled substance in 1994, second degree burglary in 1995, attempted grand theft, unlawful taking of a vehicle and evading while driving recklessly in 1996, receiving stolen property and possession of a controlled substance in 2000, second degree burglary and receiving stolen property in 2001, receiving a stolen vehicle and receiving stolen property in 2003, possession of a controlled substance in 2005, buying or receiving a stolen vehicle in 2006, second degree burglary in 2008, possession of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property in 2008, all in Orange County.

If convicted, Brown faces a maximum sentence of 12 years and eight months in prison.

Basketball player accused of taking someone else's car from valet

HOLLYWOOD – A professional basketball player pleaded not guilty Wednesday on a charge that he took someone's luxury sports car from a hotel valet earlier this month, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jeff Adrien, 29, was charged with one felony count of driving or taking a vehicle without consent. He is due back on Jan. 28 in Department 50 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center to set a date for his preliminary hearing.

On Dec. 7, a guest left his vehicle with a hotel valet and when he returned he was told his car had already been taken. A short time later, the victim allegedly saw Adrien driving his vehicle and pulling into the hotel parking lot.

The valets attempted to speak with Adrien but he walked away, prosecutors said. The vehicle also had some damage.

If convicted as charged, Adrien faces up to three years in jail. Adrien played for the Minnesota Timberwolves last year.

Man gets prison for attempted rape

ALHAMBRA – A 34-year-old man was sentenced Tuesday to six years in state prison for assaulting a woman in March.

At his court appearance, defendant Rudy Anthony Gallegos of Los Angeles pleaded no contest to a felony count of assault with intent to commit a sex crime.

In addition to the prison sentence, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jared Moses also ordered Gallegos to register as a lifetime sex offender.

Deputy District Attorney Presciliano Duran, who prosecuted the case, said in the early afternoon of March 3, Gallegos abruptly assaulted a woman as she was walking in Alhambra.

According to the prosecutor, the defendant struggled with the victim, pulled her to the ground and began to take off her clothes.

The woman screamed and three passersby heard her cries, the prosecutor said. They ran to the victim, pulled Gallegos off of her and subdued the defendant until police arrived, the prosecutor added.

Father charged with kidnapping daughter

PALM SPRINGS – The father of a two-year-old daughter who went missing on Christmas Eve during a supervised visit was arraigned this week on kidnapping and child stealing charges.

Jack Perry, 31, was arraigned Wednesday at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 30. Prosecutors asked that his bail be set at \$1 million.

Perry was arrested Monday in Palm Springs after he allegedly took his daughter, Lucia, from a shopping mall during a supervised visit. He is charged with one felony count each of kidnapping and child stealing.

Deputy District Attorney Deanne Castorena with the Child Abduction Unit is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Perry faces up to 14 years in state prison.

Suspect linked to more than a dozen robberies

RESEDA – A Reseda man faces 24 felony counts in connection with a string of armed robberies in the West San Fernando Valley.

Deputy District Attorney Kaveh Faturechi said Jason Paul Holman, 34, faces 21 counts of robbery in the second degree and one count each of kidnapping for robbery, attempted robbery of the second degree and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Holman pleaded not guilty last week and is due back in court on Jan. 7.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant robbed employees at more than a dozen locations between July 7, 2014 and Dec. 20. The locations included various fast food restaurants and gas stations, the prosecutor said.

During a Dec. 13 robbery, Holman allegedly forced a store clerk back inside the business so he could rob him, the prosecutor added.

The defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison if convicted as charged.

Driver convicted of DUI crash that killed elderly woman

LANCASTER – A 26-year-old man was found guilty last week of crashing into a Lancaster home, killing a 71-year-old woman who was in her bedroom.

Deputy District Attorney Sun Chung said a jury found Aaron Daniel Benson of Lancaster guilty of one count each of murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury within 10 years of another DUI offense and driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol content causing injury within 10 years of another DUI offense.

Benson faces 15 years to life in state prison at a hearing scheduled on Feb. 2 in Department A20 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

Benson was driving with a blood alcohol level that was more than twice the legal limit on West Avenue J-12 when he crashed into Patricia Ann Holmes' bedroom on March 29, according to court testimony. Holmes, who was lying in her bed at the time, died as a result of the injuries, the prosecutor said.

Benson had previously been convicted for driving under the influence in 2011.

The jury deliberated for a day before returning with the guilty verdicts.

Gang members accused of fatally stabbing gang rival

PLACENTIA – A Placentia criminal street gang member who was arrested in central California was brought back to Orange County to be arraigned on charges for the attempted murder of a gang rival.

The Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) is seeking to enjoin Erick Adonis Ferman, 19, Placentia, and Matthew Luis Zavala, 20, Fullerton, in a gang injunction. Ferman and Zavala are each charged with one felony count of attempted murder, and one felony count of street terrorism with a sentencing enhancement for criminal street gang activity.

Zavala also faces sentencing enhancement allegations for two prior strike convictions for vandalism with damage of \$400 or more with a sentencing enhancement for criminal street gang activity in 2014, both in Orange County.

Zavala is currently being held on \$500,000 bail. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 51 years to life in state prison.

Ferman faces a maximum sentence of 19 years in state prison. He was apprehended on an arrest warrant by officers from the Fullerton Police Department (FPD) and members of the U.S. Marshals Service in central California on Dec. 27.

Three additional co-defendants have been charged in this case: Cynthia Barron-Juarez, 20, of Garden Grove; Lexus Marie Cobos, 19, of Anaheim; and Vincent Matthew Duran, 19, of Placentia.

On Dec. 6, at approximately 1 a.m., Zavala, Ferman, and Duran are accused of entering a convenience store in Fullerton, where they spotted a member of a rival street gang. The three allegedly started a verbal argument with the victim and then assaulted him outside the store.

During the altercation, Zavala, Ferman and Duran allegedly stabbed the victim. Zavala and Duran fled in a stolen vehicle, authorities said.

Man accused of torturing, killing children's mother on Christmas

POMONA – A Pomona man was charged Tuesday with the torture and murder of the mother of his children during a domestic dispute on Christmas Day.

Clarence Durell Dear, 51, was scheduled to be arraigned at the Pomona Branch of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Prosecutors asked that he be held without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Joy Roberts with the Arson Unit is prosecuting the case.

Dear is charged with dousing the 41-year-old victim, Dawn H., with a flammable liquid and setting her on fire. The incident occurred shortly before 2 p.m. Friday in the 1500 block of Cordova Street. The victim later died at a nearby hospital.

Dear is charged with one count of murder with the special circumstance of torture. He also is charged with one count of cruelty to a child, the couple's 12-year-old son.

The special circumstance makes Dear eligible for the death penalty. Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek death.

Drivers plead no contest after illegal street race kills two spectators

CHATSWORTH – The driver of a vehicle that crashed during an illegal street race, killing two spectators, entered no contest pleas last week for causing their deaths.

Karen Gary Balyan, 44, pleaded no contest to two felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and admitted to fleeing the scene during the commission of the crime, and no contest to one misdemeanor count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Co-defendant Israel Valenzuela, 39, also entered a no contest plea to two felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 4. Balyan faces a sentence of 12 years in state prison. Valenzuela faces 180 days in jail and five years formal probation.

On Feb. 26, Balyan drove Gevorgyan's vehicle while racing Valenzuela during an illegal street contest near Plummer Street and Canoga Avenue in Chatsworth, according to court testimony. Within seconds of the beginning of the race, Balyan lost control of the vehicle that slammed into a curb and struck three people, killing two of them.

Father, son convicted of embezzling \$300K from employees

SANTA ANA – A father and son were convicted Tuesday of embezzling over \$300,000 from employee wages on public works jobs.

Daniel Jacob Siapin, 60, and his son Gabriel Daniel Siapin, 37, both of La Habra Heights, pleaded guilty to a court offer of 28 felony counts of taking and receiving a portion of worker's wage on public works, and 32 felony counts of recording a false and forged instrument with a sentencing enhancement for property loss over \$200,000.

Daniel Siapin's California state contractor's license was revoked by the court. Daniel Siapin and Gabriel Siapin are each expected to be sentenced to 90 days in jail, three years formal probation, ordered to pay over \$227,000 in restitution, and are prohibited from working on any other public works contracts at their sentencing on April 11.

At the time of the crime, Daniel Siapin owned Siapin Horticulture, a landscaping, irrigation, and maintenance company, which he ran with his son Gabriel Siapin.

The defendants violated the law on a public works job, which requires a minimum "prevailing wage" be paid to workers. Prevailing wage consists of a base salary and "fringe benefits," or benefits in addition to base pay such as vacation pay and pension money. Fringe benefits must be paid directly to the worker or may be put into a fund for later withdrawal by the worker if they do not work a full 40 hours a week.

The California Labor Commissioner's office and the Orange County District Attorney (OCDA) received a complaint alleging underpayments of prevailing wages to workers on the Lakeside Middle School alterations project located in Lakeside, California. In a collaborative effort, the California Labor Commissioner provided Orange County with evidence to support allegations of underpayments of fringe benefits to workers on three different projects, including Lakeside.

In February 2010, the City of Los Angeles Compliance Department and Center for Contract Compliance assessed penalties and wage fines against the defendants' company for not paying their employees the prevailing wage on a public works job. A civil assessment was levied against the defendants.

In June 2010, both Daniel and Gabriel Siapin met with employees and offered to contract with a third party administrator to hold the employees' fringe benefits in a savings account.

Between 2011 and February 2013, Siapin and Siapin failed to deposit over \$300,000 in employee fringe benefits into the savings account from work performed in Orange County and other Southern California counties. The defendants instead embezzled the money meant for employee fringe benefits.

The State Labor Commissioner's office levied civil wage and penalty assessments for past wages following a 17-month in-depth investigation.

"Prevailing wage laws ensure that workers on public works projects are paid a just day's pay for a hard day's work, and those who violate those laws engage in wage theft," said Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su. "Wage theft is a crime and my office is working with District Attorneys across the State to investigate and prosecute these cases. I am proud of and grateful for our collaboration with the Orange County District Attorney to bring scrofula employers to justice."

The OCDA and the Labor Commissioner work together on joint investigations to ensure that all labor laws are enforced on public works jobs, including payment to workers of the wages they've earned. The Labor Commissioner's office, also known as DIR's Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, adjudicates wage claims, investigates discrimination and public works complaints and enforces state labor law.

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Downey High School cheerleaders, dancers and ASB filled more than 150 bags with gloves, socks, beanies, non-perishable snacks and hygienic products for donation to local homeless residents.

Every bag was decorated with personal messages, and the bags were distributed along with blankets.

Pet adoptions will be discounted to only \$14 at SEACA on Feb. 13.

The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, first set of vaccinations, and flea treatment.

The special rate applies to all dogs and cats 1 year and older.



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In Bellflower, special education students get prepared for college and careers

BELLFLOWER – Mayfair High School senior Jacob Neale's career plan is to one day work in the retail market – a passion that has led him to three internships over the last year and which is influencing his plans to attend Cerritos Community College.

Bellflower High School senior Pedro Rodriguez isn't as certain about the future, but he's doing what he can to prepare for college and to develop the skills he will need to build a career.

"I know someday I'm going to be on my own," Rodriguez said. "I have to be ready for that."

Neale and Rodriguez are part of the Bellflower Unified School District special education program, which provides customized educational guidance for nearly 1,650 preK-12 and adult transition students who grapple with a variety of challenges, ranging from autism, specific learning disabilities, or other conditions that lead them to learn differently, to severe physical and mental disabilities. About 500 special education students attend District high schools.

"Our students – special education as well as general education – deserve every opportunity to prepare for college and careers," Bellflower Unified Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. "These programs ensure that happens."

As a result, the District offers two programs funded by state grants designed to teach special education students employment skills and to transition to college courses that lead to self-supporting careers – WorkAbility and the Transition Partnership Program. Bellflower Unified is in the process of applying for new grants for the programs and is expanding its staffing.

WorkAbility prepares students for job interviews, to craft resumes,

to dress for work and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. The program starts middle school students on career exploration and provides training and a limited number of internship opportunities for students age 16 and older.

Neale has interned for about a month each with community partners Dollar Tree and Hot Topic during the 2014-15 school year and for CVS over the summer.

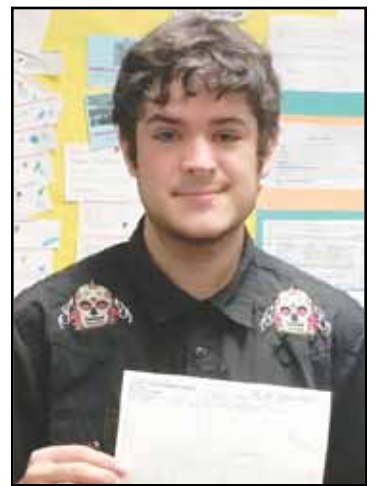
"I learned how to communicate with customers and other coworkers. I learned how to take direction and to be on time, to dress up nicely," he said. "I want to do retail or customer service, maybe working for TJ MAXX or Forever 21, somewhere like that."

Rodriguez interned with the YMCA over the summer. He guided children on the playground and helped with food preparation – tasks with which he is familiar thanks to the time he has spent watching over his 10 nieces and nephews.

The two students also participate in the Transition Partnership Program, an effort that provides training to prepare juniors and seniors for careers after they graduate from Bellflower Unified. The program works with colleges, apprenticeships and adult schools. The program, which takes in a limited number of students each year, currently has openings.

Cerritos College partners through the program with Bellflower Unified, helping students determine which classes to take to prepare for careers and how to access services to ensure their success. BUSD Special Education Coordinator Irene Ramirez and her team help students fill out admissions paperwork and bring 50 students to the college for its Senior Preview Days each spring.

Neale said one of the strengths of



Mayfair High School senior Jacob Neale holds up the first check he received for an internship through the Bellflower Unified School District's WorkAbility program for students in special education programs. Neale worked at Dollar Tree during one of three internships.

the program is the passion shown by Ramirez and her team.

"They helped prepare me," he said. "They are very helpful with the interview process and the daily workday and how we should act, plus any applications we need to fill out. It really is very helpful."

Both students said a key lesson they learned was to look interviewers in the eye and communicate clearly their ideas and goals.

Ramirez, a 20-year BUSD employee, has coordinated WorkAbility and the Transitions Partnership Program since 2013. She said the District has hired a full-time transition specialist to ensure students have resources at Bellflower and Mayfair high schools, and is seeking a part-time team member.

"It's a richly rewarding effort to see these students gain the skills and move toward independence," Ramirez said. "We teach them they need to learn to earn and gain the skills to pay the bills."

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 CONCUSSION (11:00, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35)
 DADDY'S HOME (11:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50, 12:30, 3:00, 3:45, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15)
 JOY (11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20)
 POINT BREAK (11:30, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30)
 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP (10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45)
 SISTERS (11:20, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:35)
 ★ STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (9:15, 11:45, 12:30, 3:00, 3:45, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15)
 Mon to Thu: (11:45, 12:30, 3:00, 3:45, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15)
 ★ STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (10:15, 1:30, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15, Sun to Thu: (10:15, 1:30, 4:45), 8:00)
 Times for Friday-Thursday, January 1-7, 2016
 Bargain Matinee () SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/NO PASSES ★

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10-year-old Bellflower boy raises \$1,000 for sheriff's deputies

BELLFLOWER – Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies, Esther Lindstrom Elementary leaders and classmates recognized fifth-grader Diego Ulloa on Dec. 15 for raising \$1,000 for the deputies as a thank-you for the protection they provide to his family and their local business.

Diego sought donations from the Bellflower Noon Lions Club – where his father is a member – on three separate occasions. He also knocked on more than 20 doors in his Bellflower neighborhood to help his cause over the last two months.

“Diego is a dedicated and passionate child,” Lindstrom Principal Bonnie Carter said. “I’m so proud of his accomplishment – it’s a great example for all our students.”

During the assembly, sheriff's officials from the department's Lakewood Station presented Diego with a sweatshirt and pennant. The station serves Bellflower, where Diego's family operates a car dealership.

“I’m really grateful for the deputies,” said Diego, 10. “Whenever we have a problem, they always come and take care of it. I wanted to be sure they had the latest equipment.”

The funds will be used by the department to buy tactical gear. The donation is enough to supply one officer.

“Diego's civic engagement is one of the best lessons we could teach any of our students, and a great example of the type of community-focused education we pursue at Bellflower Unified,” said Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs.

Authenticity

Dora Silvers is a long-time member of the class whose stories of ordinary events reflect her keen observation dry sense of humor. 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 Dora Silvers

During dinner at my table I noticed a lovely ring on Mary's finger. Mary said she bought it in the lobby that morning, at a sale. She said it was only \$5.95.

It was really pretty, ruby red and amber. I said to Sally “That is a lovely ring.” Sally said Mary only wears authentic jewelry.

That reminded me of the time I was selling bunk beds, complete with mattresses. I had put an ad in the paper. At 7:30 one morning my doorbell rang.

A very well dressed lady said “I am interested in buying your bunk beds.” I invited her into the bedroom.

She said, “I have boys sleeping on my garage floor. I could really use them.” She added, “I will give you twenty dollars.”

I said “No, forty dollars.” She agreed.

I helped her take them out to her car. She had a lovely light green Cadillac. We put the beds in the trunk, and the mattresses in the back seat. Then she put the rails from the back to the front window. I went in the house and brought out a dish towel, as I was afraid the metal rail might crack the window.

She opened her purse and gave me the forty dollars. Then she said “They are not authentic maple.”

I walked away and thought to myself, “Boys are sleeping on the garage floor, but the beds are not authentic maple.” What a shame.”

The lady was dressed to the hilt, with high heels and a lovely dress. Here I was in my tennis shoes and sweat pants. What a contrast.

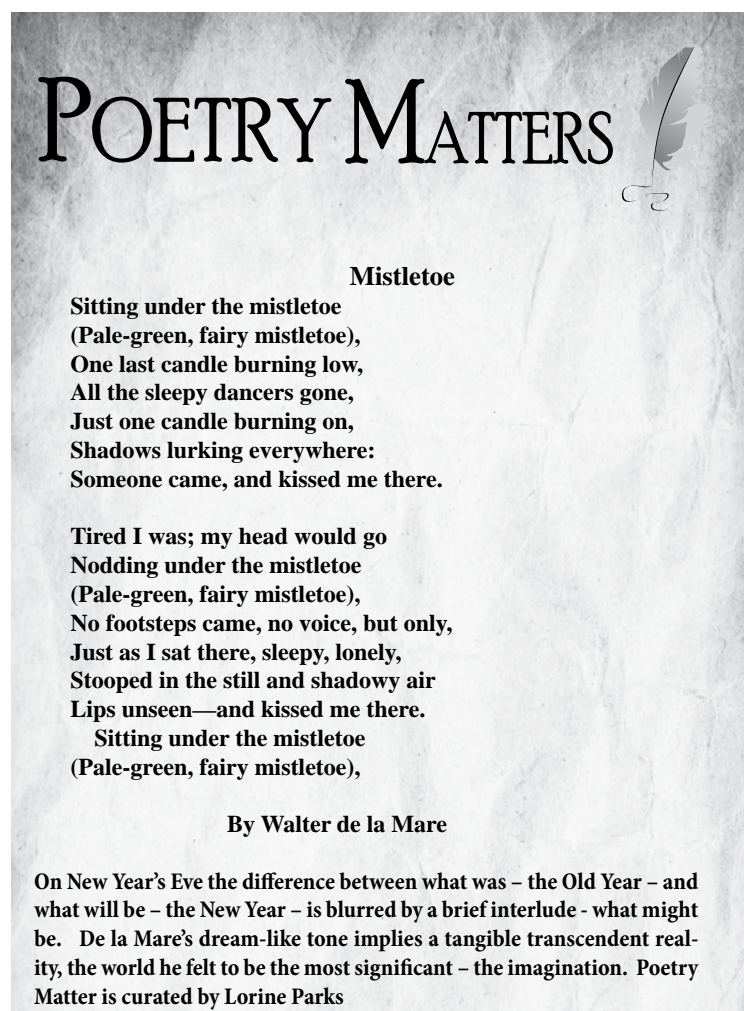
A few months later, we rented a cabin in Big Bear. After our two-week stay, we packed up and were ready to leave.

Jack said “I don't know how to get down the hill to the main road.” I noticed a light green car up ahead.

I said, “Follow that car; we can get out to the main road.” We followed the car through winding roads. Finally, it stopped, and we saw we were at the city dump.

The driver was the lady who bought our bunk beds. What a coincidence! She got out and dumped her trash. Then, I noticed the real estate advertisement on the side of her car. She probably had rentals in Big Bear.

No boys sleeping on the garage floor.



Mistletoe

**Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
One last candle burning low,
All the sleepy dancers gone,
Just one candle burning on,
Shadows lurking everywhere:
Someone came, and kissed me there.**

**Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.
Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),**

By Walter de la Mare

On New Year's Eve the difference between what was – the Old Year – and what will be – the New Year – is blurred by a brief interlude – what might be. De la Mare's dream-like tone implies a tangible transcendent reality, the world he felt to be the most significant – the imagination. Poetry Matter is curated by Lorine Parks

LEGAL NOTICES

FICT. BUS NAME

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015313519

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) FUNDACION TIERRA QUERIDA, 2561 HILL ST., HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JUAN J. SANJUAN III, 2561 HILL ST., HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ JUAN SANJUAN III, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 14, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015287079

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) LITTLE YELLOW HOUSE, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MARIA DE LA LUZ GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703 (2) CLAUDIA GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by Copartners

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ CLAUDIA GUZMAN, PARTNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 10, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015321190

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) FASHION NAILS-SPA, 8824 IMPERIAL HWY, DOWNEY CA 90242, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CELINE TIEN NGUYEN, 8824 IMPERIAL HWY, DOWNEY CA 90242

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ CELINE TIEN NGUYEN, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 23, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/31/15, 1/7/16, 1/14/16, 1/21/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015325332

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) LUMINOR ELECTRIC, 10655 LEMON AVE #3204, RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91737, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) DANILLO ROMERO, 10655 LEMON AVE #3204, RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91737

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ DANILLO ROMERO, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 29, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/31/15, 1/7/16, 1/14/16, 1/21/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015287079

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) MARIA DE LA LUZ GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703 (2) CLAUDIA GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MARIA DE LA LUZ GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703 (2) CLAUDIA GUZMAN, 13459 REVA CIR, CERRITOS CA 90703

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by Copartners

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ CLAUDIA GUZMAN, PARTNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 10, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015305817

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) VARGAS FLOORING INSTALLATIONS, 117 N 3RD ST APT A, MONTEBELLO CA 90640, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MIGUEL VARGAS CARDENAS, 117 N 3RD ST APT A, MONTEBELLO CA 90640

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ MIGUEL VARGAS CARDENAS, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 03, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015324034

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) KINGSTON COFFEE (2) KINGSTON COFFEE COMPANY (3) KINGSTON COFFEE ROASTERS, 11033 DOWNEY AVE, DOWNEY CA 90241, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MARC BRANDEN SHELTON, 10436 BELLMAN AVE, DOWNEY CA 90241

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ MARC BRANDEN SHELTON, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 28, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015324028

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) RITUAL BEHAVIOR, 7332 GLENCLIFF DRIVE, DOWNEY CA 90240, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) KRISTINE URZUA, 7332 GLENCLIFF DRIVE, DOWNEY CA 90240 (2) ROSIE URZUA, 7332 GLENCLIFF DRIVE, DOWNEY CA 90240

State of Incorporation: (1) CA (2) CA This business is conducted by Joint Venture

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ KRISTINE URZUA, PARTNER

The Downey Patriot
12/31/15, 1/7/16, 1/14/16, 1/21/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015313568

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) MARIACHI TIERRA QUERIDA, 2561 HILL ST., HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JUAN J. SANJUAN III, 9512 KARMONT AVE, SOUTH GATE CA 90280

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ JUAN J. SANJUAN III, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 14, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015296983

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) THAI JASMINE CUISINE, 1557 E AMAR ROAD UNIT D, WEST COVINA CA 91792, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) TORSAK THANARITROJ, 1557 EAST AMAR ROAD UNIT D, WEST COVINA CA 91792

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ TORSAK THANARITROJ, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 23, 2015

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411 et. seq., Business Professions Code).

The Downey Patriot
12/10/15, 12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2015309302

File Number 2013033673 DATE FILED: FEBRUARY 19, 2013

NAME OF BUSINESS(ES): NU ELEMENTS DIGITAL RECORDS

STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: 12700 KALNOR AVE., NORWALK CA, 90650

REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) GINGER REBECA SANTOYO, 12700 KALNOR AVE., NORWALK CA 90650

State of Incorporation: N/A

This business is conducted by an Individual

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

S/ GINGER REBECA SANTOYO, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on DECEMBER 8, 2015

The Downey Patriot
12/10/15, 12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/1

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Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am
(562) 904-3668

The **DOWNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER** Report graffiti to this number. **923-4484**

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 \$559,473.46. 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, 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 800-758-8052 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.homesearch.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 0000004735860. 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: XOME 750 HIGHWAY 121 BYP, SUITE 100 LEWISVILLE, TX 75067 800-758-8052. www.homesearch.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDDER & 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 TREDDER & WEISS, LLP as Trustee Dated: 12/04/2015 NPP0266023 To: THE DOWNEY PATRIOT 12/17/2015, 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15

T.S. No.: 9551-3508 TSG Order No.: 150239357-CA-VOI A.P.N.: 6259-012-043 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 06/21/2006. 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. NBS Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded 06/28/2006 as Document No.: 06 1424144, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by HERIBERTO POLANCO, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by 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 Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). 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, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. Sale Date & Time: 01/13/2016 at 10:00 AM Sale Location: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA The street address and other common designation, if any, of the

real property described above is purported to be: 12024 GURLEY AVE, DOWNEY, CA 90242 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 in an "AS IS" condition, 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 the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$515,775.37 (Estimated) as of 01/04/2016. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. 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 800-758-8052 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, T.S.# 9551-3508. 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. 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. NBS Default Services, LLC 301 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 1720 Long Beach, CA 90802 800-758-8051 For Trustee Sale Information Log On To: www.nationwideposting.com or Call: 916-939-0772. NBS Default Services, LLC, Nicole Rodriguez, Foreclosure Associate This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you have received a discharge of the debt referenced herein in a bankruptcy proceeding, this is not an attempt to impose personal liability upon you for payment of that debt. In the event you have received a bankruptcy discharge, any action to enforce the debt will be taken against the property only. NPP0266754 To: THE DOWNEY PATRIOT 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015, 01/07/2016

The Downey Patriot
12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST LOAN: 04-1710 OTHER: 8579955 FILE:7860 JLP A.P. NUMBER 8080-019-022 ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY IS APPLICABLE TO THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR ONLY. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED August 7, 2007, 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 LENDERS T.D. SERVICE, INC., as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee

pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by JOSE SANTIAGO, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY Recorded on 08/17/2007 as Instrument No. 20071934337 in Book Page 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 08/19/2015 in Book Page, as Instrument No. 2015-1017026 of said Official Records, WILL SELL, on 01/08/2016 at BY THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED AT 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA POMONA, CA 91766 at 11:00 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. As more fully described on said Deed of Trust. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11955 MOLETTE STREET, NORWALK, CA 90650 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 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: \$43,321.25. 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 Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event there is other than cash accepted by the Trustee, any monies with 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 877-375-8174 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site: www.lpsasap.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case. 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. Dated: 12/15/2015 LENDERS T.D. SERVICE, INC., as said Trustee 24422 AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA, #280 LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653 (949) 855-1945 By: JEFFREY L. PRATHER PRESIDENT A-4555189 12/17/2015, 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015

The Downey Patriot
12/17/15, 12/24/15, 12/31/15

T.S. No.: 9985-4173 TSG Order No.: 97322 A.P.N.: 8074-004-004 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN

DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/16/2012. 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. NBS Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded 03/22/2012 as Document No.: 20120444464, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: MANUEL CISNEROS, A MARRIED MAN, AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by 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 Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). 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, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. Sale Date & Time: 02/23/2016 at 09:00 AM Sale Location: Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, Vineyard Ballroom, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 14524 HARVEST 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 in an "AS IS" condition, 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 the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$313,982.00 (Estimated) as of 12/31/2015. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. 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, 1-800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site, www.auction.com, for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, T.S.# 9985-4173. 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. 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. NBS Default Services, LLC 301 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 1720 Long Beach, CA 90802 800-758-8051 For Trustee Sale Information Log On To: www.auction.com or Call: 1-800-280-2832. NBS Default Services, LLC, Vanessa Gomez, Foreclosure Associate This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you have received a discharge of the debt referenced herein in a bankruptcy proceeding, this is not an attempt to impose personal liability upon you for payment of that debt. In the event you have received a bankruptcy discharge, any action to enforce the debt will be taken against the property only. NPP0267269 To: THE DOWNEY PATRIOT 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015, 01/07/2016

The Downey Patriot
12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/7/16

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.



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& Happy Holidays to all my friends & clients
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CELEBRATING MY CLIENTS FROM 2015
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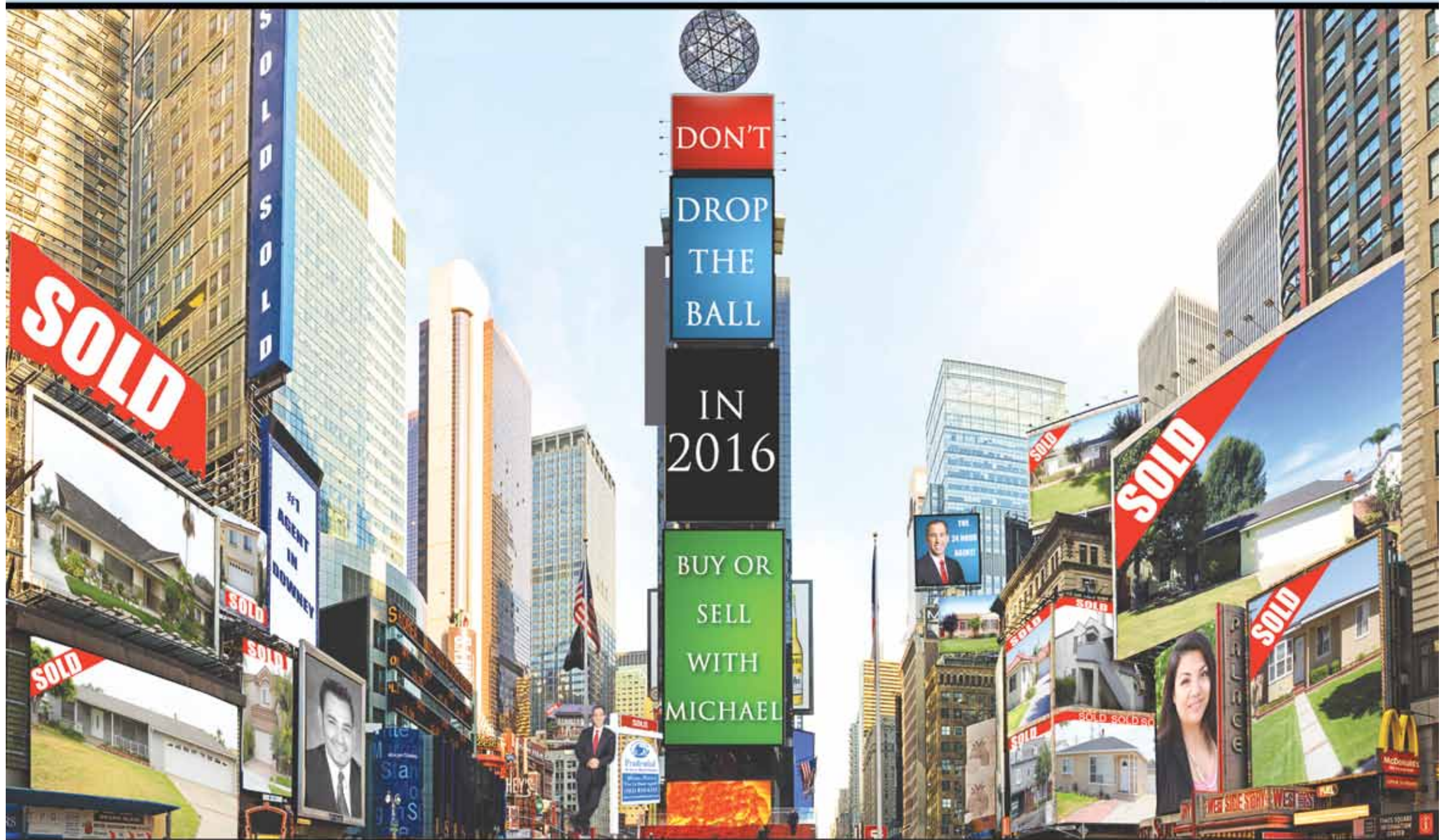
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