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CRIME REPORT

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

At approximately 5:30 p.m., the victim was walking on Arnett Ave. near Gurley St. when two male suspects approach and one of them pointed a handgun at him. The suspect demanded the victim's shoes and cellphone. The suspects then fled in an awaiting vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

At approximately 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect fired approximately 20 rifle rounds toward the residence at the 9300 block of Cedartree. The suspect fled in a vehicle and there were no injuries. Detectives are investigating.

At 3:05 p.m., officers responded to Pronto Pizza (8304 Imperial Hwy) in regard to an armed robbery. The suspects entered the location wearing hoodies and armed with a handgun. When the suspects demanded money, the employee walked to the back room out of fear. The suspects then fled the location without any loss. Detectives are investigating.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

At 3:45 p.m., officers responded to Bradley's plastic bag Co. (9130 Firestone Blvd.) regarding a possible burglary. When officers arrived, they observed the suspect carrying a box out of the location. The suspect refused officers' commands and climbed onto the roof. Officers accessed the roof and arrested the suspect for burglary.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., Warren High School administration responded to the police station regarding a threat posted on social media. The threat consisted of photos of a replica airsoft gun and statements not to attend school the following day. The investigation revealed the suspect was a Warren High School student. The suspect admitted to making the threat and stated it was a dare. The suspect was arrested and booked for making the terrorist threat.

Planning Commission approves Marriott hotel across from Stonewood Center

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNNEY – Downey Planning Commission unanimously approved plans for a project that will see the erection of a 140-room Marriott Springhill Suites hotel.

The new hotel will be located on the south side of Firestone Boulevard between Lakewood Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue, sitting between Dunkin Donuts and Fallas Paredes. The Union Pacific Railroad Tracks sit behind the parcel of land.

Project plans for the four-story building include a bar, buffet, pool, conference area / ballroom, and a small "market" for hotel guests.

The project's approval came at a price for those in the chamber in the form of over three hours in deliberation.

The commission – and more specifically Chairman Jim Rodriguez – spent more than half of the extended amount of time in what might be considered nitpicking, deliberating with city staff and the project applicant over seemingly minute details.

Parking was also a priority concern.

Commissioner Steven Dominguez, Vice Chairperson Patrick Owens, and Chairman Rodriguez all took issue with what they felt to be an insufficiency in available parking, especially during periods where

the hotel may see simultaneous near to full room occupancy and conference events.

Commissioners Matias Flores and Miguel Duarte shied away from over complicating the issue for the hotel to a point where the project might be lost.

The parking discussion eventually led to direction from City Attorney Yvette M. Abich Garcia, who explained to the Commission that as long as the applicant met the official requirement – which they did – there would be no legal standing to require more parking spaces without evidence of an issue.

Griffiths Middle School robotics teams qualify for state championships

DOWNNEY – Griffiths Middle School's (GMS) robotics teams have competed in VEX Robotics Tournaments at various venues across Southern California over the past four years.

As the GMS Robotics Program has grown, student teams have experienced success in competitions against middle and high school teams from around the region; and this year has been no exception.

Griffiths' Team 9078 was able to win the VEX Engineers of the Future Middle School Tournament held at Warren High School on Jan. 28.

The following week, Team 9078X won the TESI Super Starstruck VEX Robotics Competition in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Both GMS teams have qualified to compete in the 2017 California State VRC Middle School Championship on March 4 in Bakersfield.

"Our GMS robotics teams have used their creativity and critical thinking skills every step of the way on this journey to success," expressed Principal Dr. Rani Bertsch. "It has been an exciting experience and we hope to continue to build upon our achievements at the State Championship Tournament next month."

The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the ultimate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activity for middle and high school students, ages 11-18.

Each year, an engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with



Griffiths Middle School's robotics team, Team 9078, brought home a win at the VEX Engineers of the Future Middle School Tournament held at Warren High School on Jan. 2



Team 9078X from Griffiths Middle School took home a win at the TESI Super Starstruck VEX Robotics Competition in Rancho Palos Verdes on Feb. 4

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.

In addition to having a great time and building amazing robots, through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition and working within their team, students will learn many academic and life skills, better preparing them to be

both college and career ready as well as globally competitive.

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.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 60°

Saturday 62°

Sunday 75°

THINGS TO DO



Dave & Phil Alvin

Saturday - Ruth B. Shannon Center in Whittier, 8 pm

The rock star brothers from Downey perform a special acoustic concert.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Downey Police asks for ballistic helmets, body shields

Sarah Martinez: There is no price you can put on a human life. I hope the council approves the request.

Nathan York Jr.: Oh sure why not...nothing bad ever comes from further militarizing the police.

Alida Chacon: Please don't. Shields and helmets are only the beginning. Downey Police Department is a community loving, peaceful department that is deeply loved and respected. Once it has access to tactical armour it sends an us vs. them message and it begets violence. This makes me terribly sad.

Ken Cook: Law enforcement heroes deserve to have every opportunity to return to their families, after each shift. If you don't support them, please do not ever ask them for help.

Marisa Valle: I have no problem with this if it's truly needed. I don't mind paying extra to insure lives are protected. But I would like to see some statistics to back up the request if they are available.

Brian Bock: Is it really domestic terrorism they are worried about, or is it protests? I think police should have protective gear. But I think it should also be paired with classes in de-escalation of conflicts. The problem with bigger badder weapons is they can often be seen as the solution to problems that are better handled in other ways.

Mira Moreno: All police officers put their life on the line every single day when they go to work so give them what they need to protect themselves!

Reach us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@davidviramontes: Police militarization makes its way to Downey PD (y'know cause of all the domestic terrorism in Downey)

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot

Downey OK's police request to equip officers with tactical armor

DOWNNEY – Citing recent acts of domestic terrorism, the Downey Police Department is asking that the city equip officers with tactical armor, including ballistic helmets, shields and plate carriers.

The Downey Police Officers Assoc. voted to request the equipment last December, citing recent attacks in San Bernardino and Orlando.

"These attacks are carefully planned out and the suspects are using high powered rifles to indiscriminately shoot innocent civilians," Downey Police Chief Carl Charles wrote in a report to the City Council. "These suspects are not afraid to engage responding law enforcement officers and have done so on several occasions."

Charles is requesting 125 ballistic helmets with face shields and 125 tactical plate carriers with front and back ballistic plates. The equipment would cost \$170,000.

"This equipment will outfit all sworn personnel and reduce the risk officers face when responding to active shooter scenarios or any incident of domestic terrorism," Charles said.

City Council members will decide on the request Tuesday.

Eric Pierce, editor

Three teens arrested for burglarizing Cerritos home

CERRITOS – Three male juveniles were arrested on Feb. 1 on suspicion of burglarizing three homes in the city of Cerritos, authorities said.

The juvenile suspects were caught by deputies in a home on the 13300 block of Ashworth Place, west of Carmenita Road. The burglary was first reported by an alert resident who saw the juvenile suspects enter the backyard of a neighbor, according to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station.

Cerritos Station deputy personnel and an LASD Sheriff's helicopter arrived within minutes and quickly established a perimeter. A search of the area was conducted and the juvenile suspects were located in the attic of a burglarized home. The three fourteen-year-old boys are residents of Los Angeles. The juveniles are suspected of burglarizing at least two homes in the area before the deputies' arrival.

The three juvenile suspects were booked and detained at Los Padrinos Juvenile Facility for residential burglary.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Cerritos Station at (562) 860-0044.

SPORTS: Downey boys soccer facing Montbello in playoff opener

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Downey High School boys' soccer team finished their regular season with an overall record of 16-6-2 and a S.G.V.L. record of 7-1-2.

The Vikings will travel to Montebello (11-9-3, 8-1-1) to face the Oilers. Montebello is the Almont League champion and top league entry for postseason play.

The winner of this C.I.F. Division One first round game will play the winner of the Palos Verdes at Millikan game.

Downey entered their final league game against Paramount with an undefeated record of 7-0-2. If Downey won that game, they would have been S.G.V.L. champions. The Vikings played hard but conceded a second half goal to the Pirates and fell to defeat 1-0.

As a result, Paramount (8-0-2) is the S.G.V.L. champion and top league entry for postseason play. Downey is the second entry and cross-town rival Warren is the third entry, respectively.

Coach Mires, his staff and players are all looking forward to postseason play.

■ The Downey High School girls' soccer team finished their regular season with an overall record of 10-10-2 and a S.G.V.L. record of 7-3.

Downey was the second place team from the S.G.V.L. behind cross-town rival Warren. The Paramount Lady Pirates finished third in S.G.V.L. play and also qualified for C.I.F. Division Three postseason play.

The Lady Vikings traveled to El Modena (9-7-5, 4-2) yesterday to play the Lady Vanguards in the first round of the C.I.F. Division Three playoffs. El Modena was a co-champion from the North Hills League with El Dorado.

The winner of the Downey/El Modena game will most likely play Bishop Amat (21-3) in the second round. Bishop Amat is the Del Rey League champion and top league entry for postseason play. The Lady Lancers will play the winner of the Lancaster at North Torrance wild card game in their first round game.

Coach Fresquez, her staff and players are all looking forward to postseason play.

■ The Warren High School girls' soccer team finished their regular season with an overall record of 12-8-3 and a S.G.V.L. record of 8-1-1.

The Lady Bears are the 2017 San Gabriel Valley League champions. Cross-town rival Downey and Paramount finished league play in

second and third places, respectively.

The Lady Bears hosted Newport Harbor (14-5-3, 5-5) in the first round of the C.I.F. Division Two playoffs yesterday (score unavailable at press time). Newport Harbor is a Sunset League at-large team. The winner of this game will play the winner of the Lakewood at Moorpark game in the second round.

Coach Dussan, her staff and players all look forward to postseason play.

■ The Warren High School boys' soccer team finished their regular season with an overall record of 10-8-5 and a S.G.V.L. record of 6-3-2.

The Bears qualified for C.I.F. Division One postseason play as the number three entry from the San Gabriel Valley League behind league champion Paramount and second place finisher, Downey.

Warren will travel to Edison of Huntington Beach later today. The Chargers finished their regular season with an overall record of 18-4-1 and a Sunset League record of 8-2. Edison was the Sunset League champion and top league entry for postseason play.

Coach Pena, his staff and players are all looking forward to postseason play and making another run at a C.I.F. title.

■ The Warren High School girls' basketball team finished their regular season with an overall record of 14-12 and a S.G.V.L. record of 5-5.

The Lady Bears received an at-large bid to compete in the C.I.F. 2A playoff bracket. Warren finished league play tied for third with Gahr and behind cross-town rival Downey and Lynwood, respectively.

Warren traveled to Garden Grove yesterday in their first round playoff game (score unavailable at press time). Garden Grove finished their regular season with an overall record of 17-9 and a Garden Grove League record of 7-3. The winner of the Warren/Garden Grove game will play the winner of the Carter at Lawndale game in the second round.

Coach Palmer, her staff and players look forward to postseason play.

■ The Warren High School boys' basketball team finished their regular season with an overall record of 10-16 and a S.G.V.L. record of 3-7.

The Bears finished league play behind Dominguez, Gahr and Lynwood, respectively. Warren tied cross-town rival Downey for fourth place but did not qualify for postseason play. Coach Leflore and his staff will begin preparing for next season.

■ The Warren High School girls' water polo team finished their season with an overall record of 13-9 and earned the San Gabriel Valley League championship. The Lady Bears hosted Westridge on Wednesday in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs (score unavailable at press time). Westridge finished their regular season with an overall record of 19-7 and were co-champions with Poly in the Prep League.

Downey (14-9) and Cerritos (15-11) both qualified for postseason play as well from the San Gabriel Valley League and are competing in Division 6. Downey hosted Hacienda Heights Wilson (13-15) yesterday (score unavailable at press time). Hacienda Heights Wilson was the number two entry from the Valle Vista League.

Coach Villa, his staff and players look forward to postseason play.

■ The Downey High School boys' basketball team traveled to San Clemente Wednesday night to compete in the first round of the C.I.F. 1A playoffs (score unavailable at press time).

The Vikings finished their regular season with an overall record of 14-13 and a S.G.V.L. record of 3-7. The Vikings finished league play tied for fourth place with cross-town rival Warren. Dominguez, Gahr, and Lynwood finished in first, second and third places, respectively. Downey received an at-large bid for postseason play.

The San Clemente Tritons finished their season with an overall record of 19-8 and a South Coast League record of 7-1. The Tritons entered Wednesday's game on a seven game win streak. Downey defeated San Clemente last season at Downey 55-49 in the second round of the C.I.F. 1AA playoffs.

■ The Downey High School girls' basketball team finished their season with an overall record of 21-6 and a S.G.V.L. record of 9-1.

The Lady Vikings earned the top overall S.G.V.L. seed due to their second round league win against Lynwood at Downey.

The Lady Vikings will host the winner of the Beckman at Arroyo Valley game on February 18. Beckman finished their regular season with an overall record of 13-13 and are the Pacific Coast League's at-large entry. Arroyo Valley finished their regular season with an overall record of 24-2 and a San Andreas League record of 10-0. The Lady Hawks are the San Andreas League champions and number one league entry.

Downey enters postseason play on a nine-game winning streak and are currently ranked 104 in California. The Lady Vikings defeated Paramount 85-30 in their postseason finale last week. Downey's Naelene Garcia set a school record when she made ten three-point field goals in that game.

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Norwalk City Council candidates debate crime reduction, economic development

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK – Nine of the candidates running for Norwalk City Council fielded questions from residents during the 2017 Norwalk Candidates Forum.

The forum was presented by the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council and took place within the City Council chambers at City Hall on Feb. 9.

All 12 of the candidates vying for the three open city council seats were invited to take part in the forum, however Debbie Martinez, Candy Martinez, and Harvey Cardenas were not present.

The other nine candidates – Esperanza Free, Marcel Mercado, Jamie Armenta, Enrique Aranda, Tony Ayala, Jennifer Perez, Alberto Uribe, Ken Menchaca and Margarita Rios – all had their feet held to the community flame as they answered questions on business, technology, public safety, senior citizens, prior community service, future vision and the metro train extension.

The varying degrees of background and experience between the candidates played a significant role last week.

While much of the evening was spent with many of the candidates rehashing their campaigns and platforms, the forum did bring out a more interesting angle through the body language, tone and confidence in response of each candidate with each question.

Armenta was the only one to point out her obvious nerves during the evening, however reiterated that she planned to help develop Norwalk with a direct approach if elected.



Twelve candidates are running for three open seats on the Norwalk City Council. Photo by Christian Brown

"I'm not a politician. I'm not a public speaker..." said Armenta. "I'm a down to earth person with some education, a concerned citizen, homeowner, mother, grandmother, volunteer, once upon a time a business owner...my goals here are to develop Norwalk into a place where parents want to raise their children and seniors feel safe...I also want to bring in new business and help small businesses grow...I intend to be a hands on servant of the community."

Seemingly the most enthusiastic sounding throughout the entire night was Jennifer Perez, who currently sits as a planning commissioner for Norwalk.

"Many of you who know me –and some who do not – have asked me 'with all I have going on, why am I running for city council,'" said Perez. "The answer is simple: because I want to do more, and I want to give more to our community and the city of Norwalk."

Alberto Uribe, the youngest candidate at 24 who is just

beginning his potential political career, relied on his youth and fresh mindset to try and sway voters in his direction.

"I am the youngest individual up here, and I think that just speaks volumes," said Uribe. "I'm here to represent the younger generation...I'm gonna pump up our community. I'm a leader at home, I'm a leader at work, and I'm a leader in my community...I have a different mindset, I'm pumped, I'm energetic, [and] I have passion..."

Menchaca found his passions and became probably the most explosive on the subject of public safety, likely due in part to his background in youth gang intervention.

"When I become council, I'm going to put Norwalk first. Why? Because you don't know what it is when you got a little 16-year old kid [and] he dies in your arms, right there in front of you because of a drive-by..." said Menchaca.

The election is on March 7.

Norwalk shuts down skate park after killing, irking skaters

By William Odis Martin
Contributor

NORWALK – Skateboarding is not a crime but some local skaters feel like it is now that the city has shut the gates to the Norwalk Skate Park in response to the tragic unsolved murder of James "Fire" Medrano.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, Medrano was gunned down at Norwalk Skate Park defending a young skater, reportedly only 7-years-old, from getting his board stolen, according to witnesses and Los Angeles County Sheriff Sgt. Bill Cotter.

The gates have remained locked ever since and the city isn't giving any information on when or if it will be reopened to the public.

Petitions with thousands of signatures have circulated online and public outcries for the park to be reopened have fallen on deaf ears. City Manager Mike Egan's office has yet to comment on the matter nor has he responded to calls from Patriot staff.

While the city says the skate park was closed for public safety reasons, local skaters say they are left with no choice but to trespass because for some of them, it is the only sanctuary they have left in the city.

Sheriff's deputies have been



Photo by William Odis Martin

issuing citations, according to Julian Davis, 23, who says that the park is now even more unsafe than before.

"Around 6 p.m., all the tweakers are starting to come to the park and the hood is starting to kick it there. It's getting dangerous now," said Davis.

He has been going there for over 10 years, starting when he first began filming for Forever Dedicated, a crew of up-and-coming skaters from Norwalk who now have to find a new place to skate.

"Without the park, we would all be strangers. We want to save the park because it was where it all began for most of us," said Davis.

Chris Torres, a Norwalk skater and member of Forever Dedicated, recalls having his best memories at Norwalk Skate Park.

"It was life," said Torres. "You could go there and be yourself. To me, it let me get away from all the drama, all the negative things in the city or at home. You could go there, put your headphones in, listen to some music and just get away."

Bryant Sanchez, 18, said he lost his second home and good friend when Medrano was killed.

"Fire' was the big homie, he was like a mentor to me. He was one of the smartest and coolest people I ever knew," Sanchez said.

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Downey's Robert Calderon provides healthcare for U.S. Navy sailors

DOWNEY – A 2007 Warren High School graduate and Downey, California native is serving in the U.S. Navy at Surface Warfare Medicine Institute (SWMI).

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Calderon serves as a hospital corpsman at the San Diego based training center. According to Navy officials, the institute's purpose is providing medical education, operational training and certification for medical, dental and fleet personnel ashore and afloat.

"I am currently a student in the independent duty corpsman program," said Calderon. "I like the physical challenge of this program. I am learning a lot of things and feel like I've grown as a corpsman."

The sailors who are part of Navy medicine are the most highly trained, educated and specialized force in history, said Navy officials. The role of Navy medicine in preserving the healthy and fighting readiness of that force has never been greater or more critical.

"The Surface Warfare Medical Institute teaches 13 courses to over 800 students annually," said Cmdr. Steven Parks, Officer in Charge of the Surface Warfare Medical Institute. "The training we provide enables our Physicians, Nurses, Medical Service Corps Officers, and Corpsman to directly support the Navy and Marine Corps combat teams. The leadership, mentorship and influence that our staff has on

our students is second to none."

Parks added that he is proud that SWMI's mission will have long lasting positive impact and benefits to Navy Medicine for years to come.

Calderon said he feels honored to be able to serve at a command that is continually raising the bar in healthcare.

"As a student I believe the instructors are very supportive and good at their jobs," said Calderon. "They are a good resource for students now and after graduating the program."

Those who serve in Navy medicine understand that they play a key role in meeting the missions of our armed forces, according to Navy officials.



"The Navy is the only job I've ever had," added Calderon. "I would not know what to do outside of the Navy. I was born in Ecuador and this was my calling."

New Norwalk townhome development officially sold out

NORWALK – Brandywine Homes recently announced that all 31 townhomes have been sold at Sunstone, a two-acre, transit-friendly community, located at 11009 Pioneer Blvd., which held its grand opening in May 2016.

"Sunstone sold out quickly because it offered rare new homeownership opportunities in the highly desirable Norwalk area," said Dave Barisic, who is in charge of sales and marketing at Brandywine Homes. "We knew these exceptional homes wouldn't be on the market for long."

Sunstone, a gated community

built on the site of a former school building close to Little Lake Park, Heritage Park and Wilderness Park, offered townhomes from approximately 1,110 to 1,475 square feet with hand-selected designer finishes as well as versatile, expansive floor plans.

The two- and three-bedroom stucco townhomes have granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, tankless water heaters, two-car garages and concrete tile roofs.

All homes were also recently closed out at Citrine, Brandywine's 16-unit townhome community on one acre located at 11433



Excelsior Drive in Norwalk.

Brandywine is currently building Castella, a 21 townhome neighborhood near the

intersection of Studebaker and Excelsior in Norwalk. Castella's grand opening celebration is tentatively scheduled for July 2017.

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Cesar is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, receiving a Bachelors degree in Economics. He received his Personal Financial Planner Certificate from U.C. Irvine and his Certified Financial Planning designation from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards in 2004. In addition he has earned his Chartered Life Underwriter designation from The American College. He earned his MBA from Cal State Long Beach. His professional affiliations include the Financial Services Institute.

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Metro Briefs

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Metro Seeks Input on 2018 Fiscal Year Budget
Metro's annual budget sets transportation priorities across LA County for the coming year. Metro will gather comments on the 2018 fiscal year budget at the Regional Service Council Meetings in March and May, and a public hearing on May 17th, before formal adoption by the Board of Directors. For meeting information or to provide your comments, go to metro.net/budgetcomments.

Free Metro Art Moves Tours
Discover artworks featured at Metro Rail stations with free tours led by the Metro Art Docent Council. Volunteer docents provide insights into the artworks, artists and art-making processes. Special tours heighten the passenger experience in novel ways through the perspective of artists and cultural experts. Info and schedule at metro.net/art and metro.net/tours.

U-Pass Program Aimed at College Students
Metro has a program that upgrades an existing student's college ID into a transit pass through a special sticker with smart-chip technology. U-Pass is a safe, speedy and secure way to travel to and from school with unlimited rides on all Metro Rail and bus lines. To find out if your college is participating, visit metro.net/college or contact your school's transit administrator.

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The Threats to Our Representative Democracy



By Lee Hamilton

With so much turmoil in Washington and around the country these days, it's easy to get caught up in the crises of the moment. These are, indeed, worth our attention — but so are longer-running developments that threaten the health of our representative democracy. I want to lay them out in one place, so that the most serious problems confronting our system don't slip from our attention.

First, it has become very hard to make our system work. Our country is so large, so complex — and, at the moment, so polarized and divided — that it's tough to make progress on the challenges that beset us.

In more ways than not, Congress reflects the country that elected its members; all the contrary sentiments and manifold cross-currents that characterize our communities come to rest on Capitol Hill. Ideally, that is where they should be reconciled — where discerning key facts, negotiating, and consensus-building lead to a common way forward. Congress has failed us repeatedly in this regard, but we need at least to recognize the magnitude of its challenge.

Still, this does not excuse what I consider to be Congress's chief failing: in the face of difficult problems, it has become timid. Its members don't like to make hard choices. So they don't come close to living up to their responsibility to be a co-equal branch with the presidency.

They may criticize the President, but they also defer to him to set the agenda and to make policy. From national security and foreign affairs to the nation's mounting debt to entitlement reform to the long-term economic dislocation that has led so many Americans to feel forgotten, Congress has had little impact.

Which is why it's not surprising that we face a third long-term

crisis: people have lost confidence in the institutions of government. This has been building for at least two generations, from the war in Vietnam and the turmoil it engendered back home, through Watergate, Iran-Contra, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, and the inability of Congress and presidents of both parties to enact comprehensive budgets and significant domestic reforms.

Yet no matter how understandable this lack of trust might be, it is a serious problem for our government and for the democratic system it embodies. Restoring public confidence will take hard, sustained work, starting with high standards of conduct at all levels. Once public confidence is lost, it can't be regained through rhetoric, only through exemplary performance.

But this won't happen unless we address the fourth challenge: our elections system needs thoroughgoing reform. At pretty much every level, it's throwing democracy off-kilter. House districts have been gerrymandered to create so many safe seats that many members need only be responsive to their base. Our voting system is fragile and in disrepair, with its patchwork of procedures, obsolete machinery, and legislative attempts to limit access to the franchise in the name of "ballot security."

We need to ensure the fairness, integrity and efficiency of our voting infrastructure and procedures — or risk undermining one of the cornerstones of our democracy.

Which is also threatened by our fifth challenge: the powerful and pervasive influence of money on the political process. Our system is awash in money, which is spent to influence elections and gain favorable results. Many Americans feel money is what really runs Washington — as opposed to the ideas and principles we were taught in civics class.

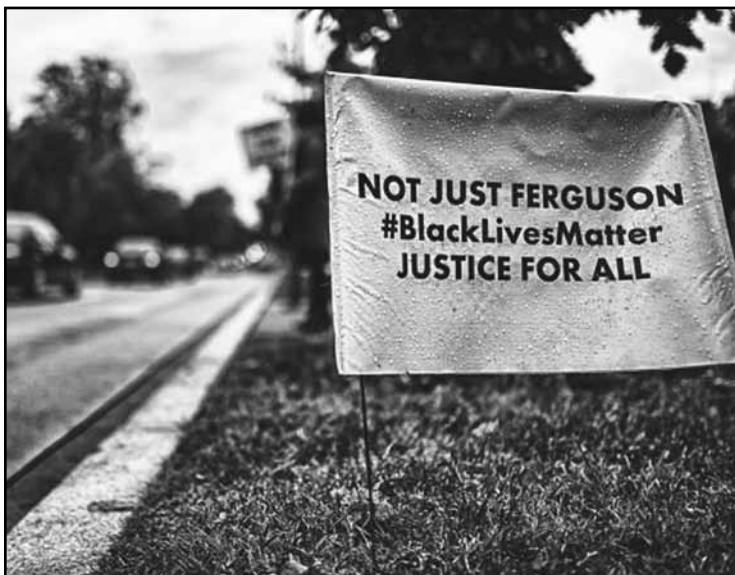
Despite efforts at reform, the money problem is worse than ever — too many Americans feel they've become an afterthought in the political process.

Yet if they have, it's not just money that's to blame. My final concern is that too many of us have become disengaged from and indifferent to the political process. That may be changing at this particular moment, but as a historical trend, it's unarguable. As citizens, we have to learn how to solve problems in a representative democracy. We have to learn to work with people who hold different views, forge common ground with them, and hold our representatives to account — not alone for their political views, but for their ability to get things done.

To make representative democracy work, we, as citizens, have to up our game, too.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

In the Trump administration, advocates for investigating police misconduct are on their own



By Ebony Slaughter-Johnson

In July 2016, then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch committed the Department of Justice to investigating the shooting of Alton Sterling, a black man who was murdered by police outside a convenience store in Baton Rouge.

The move represented the deepening of a tangible (if tenuous) relationship between the Department of Justice and the Black Lives Matter movement, which gained national prominence in 2014 after the police shooting of Eric Garner.

Until this year, civil rights advocates and critics of police violence had allies in both the Department of Justice and the White House —

one of whom was President Obama himself.

At a minimum, these allies were sympathetic to the fight for racial justice. Not infrequently, they were willing to expend their institutional resources to secure it. The fruits of this relationship included a series of damning reports on police misconduct from Ferguson, Missouri to Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

In the age of Trump, that alliance has come to an end. In the false dichotomy between holding police accountable and advocating for communities of color, Trump has made it clear that his administration will come down on the side of the police.

Under Trump, the official White House website now ridicules the movement for police accountability as an effort to "to make life more comfortable for the rioter, the looter, or the violent disrupter." In the Trump administration's version of the world, protesters are disorderly agitators whose demands for justice only interfere with the work of good men and women in blue.

If law enforcement has found a new friend in Trump, it's consistently had one in Jeff Sessions, the Alabama senator just confirmed as attorney general — during Black History Month, no less.

As a senator, Sessions published an opinion on consent decrees, which are agreements local departments make with Washington to reform policing practices that violate their citizens' rights. Sessions called those deals "dangerous."

In 2015, Sessions participated in a Senate hearing provocatively titled "The War on Police," during which he lambasted the Obama administration's aggressive investigations into police misconduct. He called those actions evidence of "an agenda that's been a troubling issue for a number of years."

During his confirmation hearings, Sessions again reiterated his disdain for consent decrees, claiming that they "undermine respect for our police officers" and testifying that he might be interested in doing away with them altogether.

Nor has Sessions ever bothered to hide his disdain for civil rights activists. At the same 2015 hearing, Sessions chastised, "I do think it's a real problem when we have Black Lives Matter making statements that are really radical, that are absolutely false."

Trump's censure of the movement has been even more provocative. After lamenting the murders of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling as "terrible" in the summer of 2016, Trump quickly changed his tune. He condemned police reform advocates for "dividing the country" and blamed them for the murders of two police officers in Baton Rouge.

Candidate Trump went so far as to claim that he'd charge his attorney general with leading an investigation into the Black Lives Matter movement — an assignment that Sessions, by the looks of things, would enthusiastically accept.

There will be more police shootings of black men in the future. There will be more protests that call for justice for these victims. But with a Department of Justice led by Jeff Sessions, people who want justice will be on their own.

Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is a freelance writer whose work covers history, race, and the criminalization of poverty.

Criminal illegal immigration

Dear Editor:

As was widely reported in national and local media, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested criminal illegal aliens residing in cities throughout Los Angeles County, including the city of Downey, this past weekend.

According to ICE representatives, these operations are routine and have been carried out for years.

The operation targeted criminal illegal aliens, not those whose only crime was to have entered the country illegally or overstayed a visa.

Of the 180 individuals arrested this weekend in Los Angeles County, 160 had committed felonies, while the remaining had committed misdemeanors, according to ICE.

Felonies include such crimes as murder, rape, robbery and driving under the influence. Illegal aliens committing such serious crimes are a danger to society, including those of us who live in the City of Downey. These criminal illegal aliens must be deported for public safety.

ICE is welcome in my city of Downey; criminal illegal aliens are not.

**Brian Heyman
Downey**

ICE not welcome

Dear Editor:

I have lived in my home in Downey since I was six months old, 62 years ago. Since that time, Downey has changed from being an all-white community to a melting pot.

I am proud that the city is now mostly Hispanic, and my neighbors on my street are hard working, compassionate people.

When I heard on public radio on my way home last evening that ICE agents had been in Downey disturbing the peace of law-abiding citizens of Mexican descent, I was thoroughly outraged. I do not want the federal government in Downey unless there is a national disaster.

Leave my peaceful, law-abiding neighbors alone, regardless of immigration status. Much rather have them than ICE roaming around terrorizing us.

**Jennifer Byram
Downey**

Planning Commission

Dear Editor:

The Planning Commission's Facebook at minimum needs to be an open page for anyone of the public to view. ("How -- and how not -- to improve public engagement," TheDowneyPatriot.com., 2/8/17)

Commissioners deliberate in open public forum and are not permitted to give an opinion in advance of any item to be discussed as such commissioner/person will compromise the process and conflict themselves. Ex parte communication is not allowed.

There was an instance when Mayor Fernando Vasquez stated his position prior to a hearing item and in a sense compromised the city's position, prompting a warning to Mayor Vasquez and alerting the other council members that such ex-parte communication is not allowed.

A closed Facebook page is due to lack of knowledge on the commissioner's part but none the less is an easy fix and can be and should be corrected as soon as possible.

Where is the city in all of this? Why are they not paying more attention to things like this? With social media being the way it is, perception is everything and the perception these new commissioners are giving is a bad one for our city.

**Jessica Alarcon
Downey**

Downey bookstore

Dear Editor:

Last week's Facebook comments included one lamenting the fact that we do not have a bookstore in Downey.

While we do not have a Barnes & Noble or a Pasadena Vroman's, we do have a wonderful "used books" store operated by the volunteers with the non-profit, Friends of the Downey City Library. It is located in the library near the young adult section.

There is a wide selection of paperbacks available for \$.50 or less and hardbacks for \$1-\$3. Magazines are available for just as reasonable a price. In addition we have gift cards for all occasions, most for \$1, and, if you need a flash drive while you're working in the library, we have that, too, along with earbuds and Tootsie Pops for your sweet tooth!

We receive hundreds and hundreds of used books, magazines, even CD's on occasion, as donations from library patrons and supporters. Occasionally we have special sales of collections, perhaps on the Civil War or gardening for example. Once a month we have a silent bid auction on a selection of 12 books/items, which are on display in the lobby of the library. The Patriot has been a great support in announcing our sales in the paper. All proceeds go to a number of library programs, including their wonderful summer children's program.

In addition, a café just opened at the north end of the library where you can sit and enjoy your favorite specialty or non-coffee drinks while you munch on a burrito, wrap, panini or enjoy some bakery goods. So, drop in to your city library, which you will find a very busy place, and browse through our used bookstore!

**Nancy Krusbe
Friends of the Downey City Library**

Letters to the Editor: Letters to the editor can be mailed to 8301 E. Florence Ave., suite 100, Downey, CA 90240; emailed to news@thedowneypatriot.com; or submitted via TheDowneyPatriot.com.

Letters should be a maximum 300 words, original and include a full name and address.

The Downey Patriot

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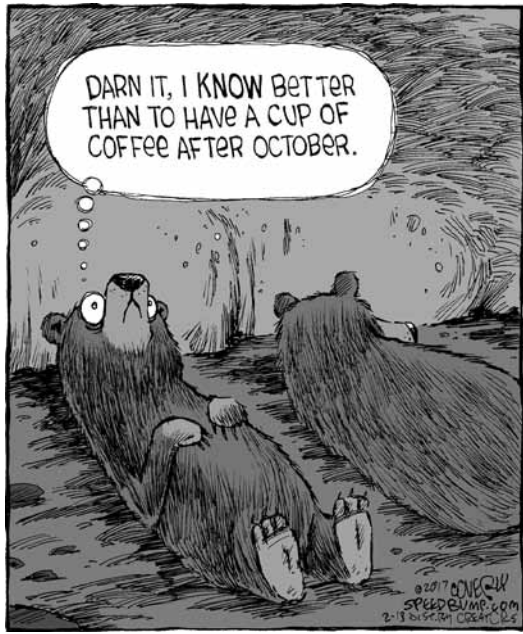
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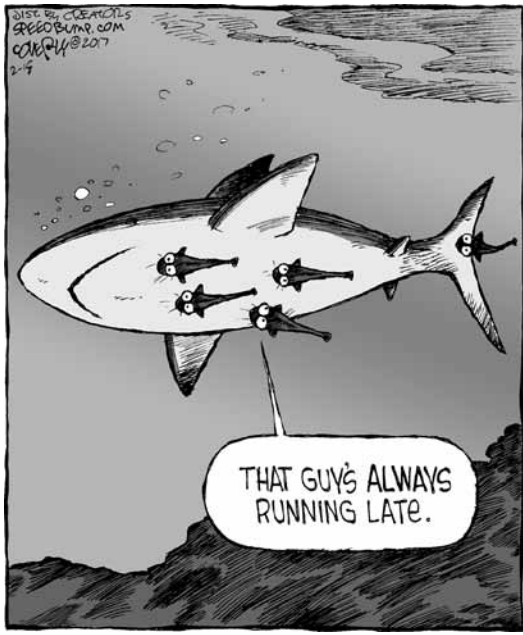
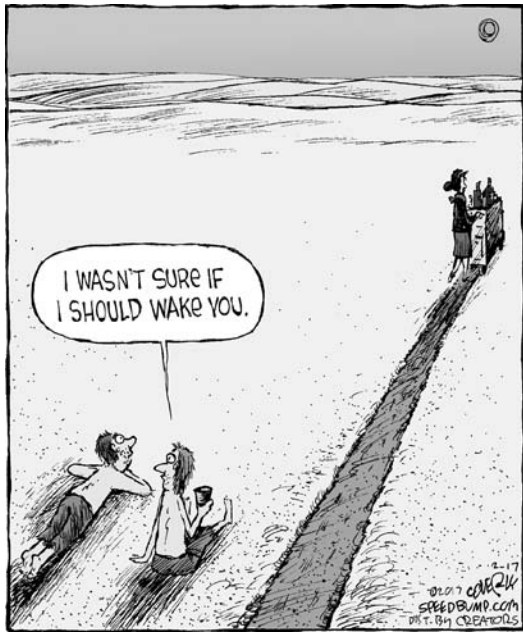
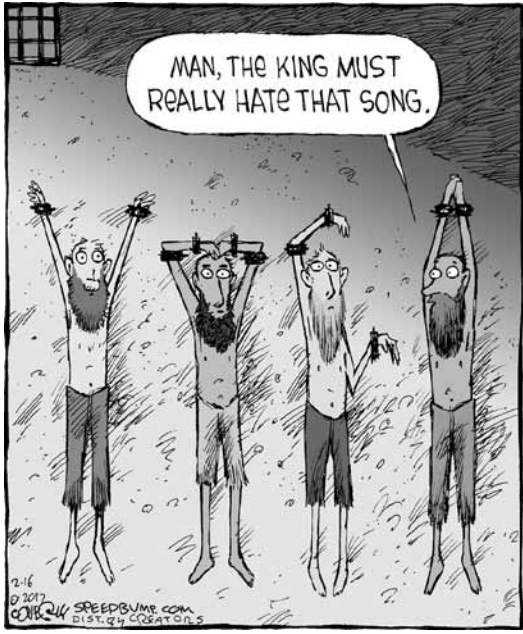
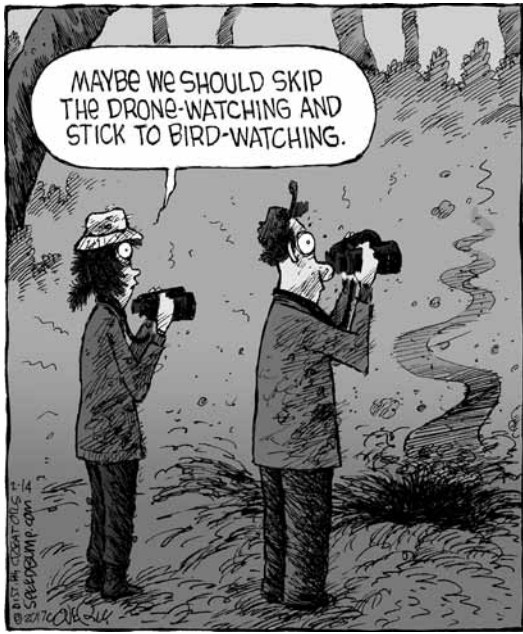
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The Downey Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.
Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies are printed.
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 18: La Leche League of Downey, First Baptist Church of Downey, 10 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.
- 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Nancy 806-1782.
- 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 Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
- 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 Russell Skersick 929-3710.
- 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
- 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.
- 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
- 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 Rio Hondo Event Center, 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 Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
- 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 Helen 864-7319.
- 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
- 3rd Wed., Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please 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 Barbara 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...

- Feb. 16, 1923:** The burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt, sparking a renewed public interest in ancient Egypt.
- 1968:** The nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Ala.
- 2005:** The NHL canceled what was left of its season after a round of last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap.
- 2011:** Bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
COIN COLLECTION: Who originated certain words
 by Fred Piscop

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Shared Stories: Lessons from Grandma

Maria Gutierrez was the first-born of five children. With the help of her sensitive grandmother, Maria overcame feelings of frustration brought on by responsibilities and hand-me-down clothes. 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 Maria Gutierrez

I wish I had said, "Thank you, Mom, for giving me four siblings." My first impressions were emotional reactions – feeling threatened by the presence of a new baby every time Mom came home from the hospital.

There were five of us by the time I was six. I felt neglected and overwhelmed with my role as a "babysitter," obligated to help Mom care for my siblings. I helped with changing diapers and giving bottles.

During first grade, Grandma bought me easy, first-grade story books describing how siblings live in harmony. My grandmother and God used these readers to change my feelings from rejection and resentment to acceptance.

During our childhood years when we lived with Grandma Delfina, she asked her sons, our uncles, to teach us baseball, volleyball, and tetherball skills. My siblings and I enjoyed playing volleyball with our neighborhood friends.

Grandma and Mom gave us permission once a month to invite our friends over and enjoy at least two hours of a baseball or volleyball tournament in our large, asphalt backyard. We each made a point of thanking Grandma Delfina with a kiss and a hug.

One evening, when I was thirteen, I was sitting all alone in Grandma's downstairs dining room with tears running down my face. I was gazing at four, large black trash bags filled with used clothing that Aunt Alice had given my sisters and me. Since my cousins were larger in size, I knew that the used clothes would not fit us.

Surprisingly, Grandma Delfina walked in holding two grocery bags. I helped her carry one bag upstairs to her kitchen. She said, "Elena, I have something to give you that will make you happy." I followed her to her bedroom, where she handed me four fashion magazines.

"Look through these magazines. You might find some outfits that you and your sisters would like. I am going to teach you to sew with

the used clothing your aunt gave you."

I hugged and kissed her for her understanding, moral support, and this ray of hope. I saw these magazines and I could envision my sisters and I wearing those outfits.

Her kind gesture and compassion motivated me to major in Home Economics in junior high school. The first class I registered for was Clothing and Domestic Skills, which consisted of basic sewing and effective housekeeping skills.

Very early on Saturday mornings during our childhood, Grandma would gather us and show us how we were to help with household chores. Grandma was affectionate, loving, and patient as she walked us through our chores.

We were rewarded once a month for our good work. Grandma would stop the Helms Bakery truck on Fridays and let us choose our favorite donut or cookie.

Grandma not only taught us domestic skills, she also taught us patience and love.

Every year, one week before Christmas and one week before Easter, Grandma Delfina would invite my sisters (Carmela and Genie) and I to her upstairs kitchen to make sugar and chocolate cookies and cupcakes.

I was in charge of mixing the ingredients for the cupcakes. With the help of Grandma's red hand mixer, I mixed the water, oil, eggs, and flour.

Then my sister Carmela would slowly pour the batter into the lined cupcake tins. Once they were baked and allowed to cool, my sisters and I decorated the cakes with multicolored candy chips and candy glitter.

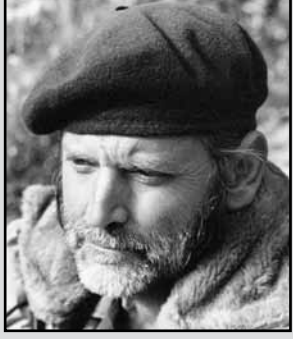
Grandma allowed us to each pick one cupcake to taste. The cupcakes tasted so good that they made our eyes water and we gave Grandma a Thank you kiss and hug.

These were just a few of the many lessons that Grandma taught me.

Thank you, God, for giving me godly, virtuous women who taught me acceptance, gratitude, creativity, baking, sewing, cooking, domestic skills, patience, and love.

I pray that with God's help, I will pass on these skills and virtues to my nieces and nephews.

In Memory of
Don Claude Brown
February 2, 1918 - January 28, 2017



Dr. Don C. Brown of Downey, Calif. Passed away at his home on Sat. Jan. 28, just 5 days before his 99th birthday. He lived at this residence with my mother since 1954.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle is survived by his wife Eleanor, son David, daughter Sharon, 8 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

He was an Anesthesiologist at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, for many years, retiring at age 67.

He was an Avid Adventurer and excelled at World Class Mountain Climbing, Cycling, Marathons, Gymnastics, and Body Building. He was a good friend of Jack LaLanne and one of the last of the Muscle Beach gang. Other interests include Adventurer's Club, Magic Castle, and the Circus.

He really lived a full and storied life and we are so Blessed to have had him for so long!

You are missed already Dear Daddy. We'll see you in Heaven.

All our Love, Your Family

Angel Lopez, who escaped Communist Cuba, passes away

DOWNEY – Angel Valentin de la Nuez Lopez passed away in Downey on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Angel is survived by his wife Lourdes, two daughters, Lourdes Yonce and Maria Clark, two sons-in-law, James Yonce and David Clark, granddaughter Kayla Solomon and her husband Joseph, grandsons Steven Lo Coco, Brandon and Matthew Clark and one great grandchild, Killian Michael Solomon.

Born on October 8, 1935 in Havana, Cuba, Angel escaped the communist regime of Fidel Castro in 1961 leaving behind his homeland, family and friends. Upon taking residence in the United States, he settled in Southern California, spending most of his lifetime in Downey.

He made a name for himself as a master electrician, working for over 55 years in that trade.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, at Luyben Family Mortuary in Long Beach.

Caren Spilsbury named chamber director

NORWALK – A Caren Spilsbury has officially taken over as director of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

Spilsbury is no stranger to the Chamber; she has already spent seven years as the part time membership director. Before that she had experience with the California Junior Chamber, including time as the president.

With the retirement of longtime director Vivian Hansen, Spilsbury now has the opportunity to lead the charge within the Chamber walls.

Though her predecessor leaves quite the legacy to live up to, Spilsbury does not find herself intimidated in her new role.

"The reason it's not intimidating is because I have been here for seven years, and I worked alongside her," said Spilsbury. "So not only do I bring the skill set from the Junior Chamber...having the opportunity to be here for seven years, I was able to learn first-hand how the chamber works and this chamber works...plus I have the support of a great board of directors."

For now, it is business as usual for the Chamber. However, Spilsbury will soon be reaching out to other local chambers and taking note of their business models. The Chamber will also now look to set a five-year plan, instead of setting goals from a year-to-year basis.

A full member survey will also be taking place soon.

"Starting Feb. 9 we're going to be picking up the telephone, calling every one of our members, and just talking to them about the Chamber - asking them some key questions to find out what direction they'd like us to be moving in to support them and that kind of thing," said Spilsbury.

Alex Dominguez, staff writer



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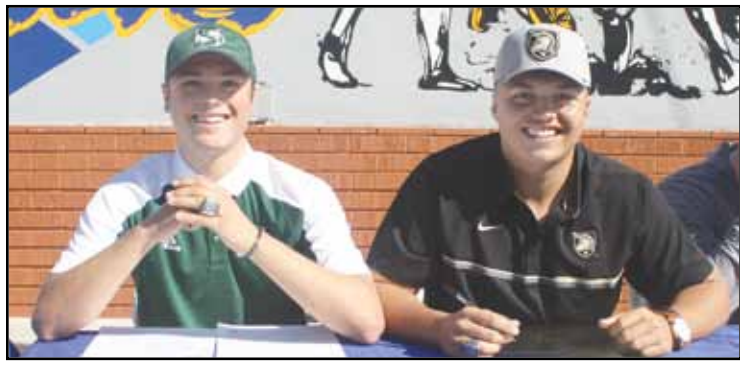
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Pleasant Holidays.

16 La Mirada student-athletes sign letters of intent to play college ball



LA MIRADA – Under a rainbow of blue, white and yellow balloons, 16 La Mirada High School student-athletes signed their letters of intent on National Signing Day Feb. 1, making official the colleges and universities they will attend in the fall on full athletic scholarships.

As their friends, family and fellow students cheered them on, 10 members of the 2016 CIF State Champion football team, and six members of the 2016 State Champion girls soccer team declared their intention to continue their athletic careers at schools that stretch from the Ivy League to Hawaii.

"There is a lot of Matadore pride today," LMHS Principal Lisa Reed said. "This is a real testament to all the hard work and dedication of our students, who not only excel on the field, but also in the classroom. Our teachers and coaches work together to instill a student-first culture that starts on the first day of school and continues until graduation day. Congratulations to our amazing kids!"

Elijah Hicks, La Mirada's big-play receiver and kick returner, was not present, having graduated at the end of the fall semester to begin attending classes at his new school, the University of California at Berkeley. In January, Hicks was named the Whittier Daily News All-Area Player of the Year.

"Athletics play an important role in helping our students develop their talents and abilities to become high-achievers both on and off the field, win or lose," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian

said.

Two sets of teammates will find familiar faces at their new schools –Jonah Uiagalelei Aumua and Jake Bale will play together at the University of Idaho, while Natalie Day and Daisie Flores are both headed to Hawaii Pacific University.

"We are both so excited to be going to Hawaii," Day said. "Even though we will be far from home, we will still have a piece of home with us."

The La Mirada Matadores who signed letters of intent:

- Natalie Day – Hawaii Pacific
- Daisie Flores – Hawaii Pacific
- Vanessa Gonzalez – Cal State San Bernardino
- Simone Hardy – Loyola Marymount University
- Gabrielle Hurtado – San Jose State University
- Melissa Torres – Mercy College
- Jonah Uiagalelei Aumua – University of Idaho
- Tristian Meyer – Sacramento State
- Jeremy Clark – University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Trevor Hollock – United States Military Academy at West Point (Army)
- Kobe Toa – Southern Utah University
- Sire Woods – University of Pennsylvania
- Chase Newman – University of Colorado
- Jake Bale – University of Idaho
- Andrew Anderson – Azusa Pacific University
- Phillip Cook – Western New Mexico University

La Mirada's Ryan Vargas breaks NASCAR records at only 16

LA MIRADA – Most 16-year-olds are bugging their parents to let them use the car to practice their driving skills in vacant parking lots, but La Mirada High School's Ryan Vargas holds official track records for the fastest time at four race tracks.

His drives cars with 400 horsepower to the tires, at speeds as high as 140 miles per hour.

What started off as a dream, has quickly become a reality for Vargas who was named NASCAR's 2016 Wendell Scott Trailblazer Award recipient.

The amateur racing phenom manages to juggle his AP and Honors classes while maintaining his strict workout routine.

He credits his dad, John Vargas, for his inextinguishable work ethic, his competitive drive, and believing in him enough to invest into his career in order to make this all possible.

John had hopes of retiring in a few years after a long career as an iron worker, but he jokes that he won't be retiring anytime soon because of how expensive it is to maintain a race team and car.

Together, the Vargas family have made an instant impact in the sport and community in the four short years that they have been competing.

"A few years ago, when we first got into racing, we didn't know much about the cars. In fact, we didn't know much about racing," said Ryan Vargas.

His dad has dedicated his nights and weekends to his son's passion. John mastered working on the Bandoleros, the mini race cars that Ryan used to drive when he first got into the sport, earning himself the title "The Bandolero Guru" for consistently putting the fastest cars on the track.

The father and son have a stronger connection today than they did before Ryan got into the sport because they spend countless hours together under the hood perfecting their race car for the weekend races. But first they travel to the racetracks that are usually a few hours drive, both ways.

It sounds like a lot of work and an expensive hobby but you can see that it is effort and funds well spent when you get the chance to sit down with the Vargas family.

Everyone in the family is a special member of the race team and share in the glory of Ryan's accomplishments. Their faces light up and their passion become contagious.

Ryan's humble mindset and hard work ethic, both on and off the racetrack, is what sets him apart from the pack.

He knows how much his family has sacrificed in order for him to chase his dream, so he holds himself accountable for the success of the team.

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With help from dogs, students boost academic scores



Six East Whittier City School District middle school students were recognized on Feb. 2 for successfully completing a four-week dog-training program in which the seventh- and eighth-graders learned as much about themselves as they did about training animals.

Since 2013, East Whittier has partnered with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) to bring the nonprofit's Teaching Love & Compassion (TLC)TM program to students in the District's Opportunity Program, a transformative intervention class that has provided support to middle school students with academic and behavioral challenges for nearly 25 years.

The East Whittier students made up spcaLA's 100th TLC graduating class.

"I was nervous at first," said Hillview Middle School student Xiomara Adon, who had not owned or spent much time interacting with a dog until she met Bridgette, her TLC partner. "But she was so motivated, so eager to learn that we bonded from the start. I learned a lot about helping others, and that keeps me motivated. I would volunteer to do this again."

The District's Opportunity Program, which is housed in a portable

classroom on the East Whittier Middle School campus, serves students from the District's three middle schools who may have issues with attendance, academic performance, or classroom behavior.

The program provides a supportive environment with instruction in grade-level core subjects, and is supplemented with small group or individual interventions to fill in gaps in language arts and math.

"The goal is to provide assistance that will help students succeed in traditional classes or enable them to return to traditional classes as soon as possible," East Whittier Middle School teacher Jeremy Brewer said. He has led the Opportunity Program for 19 years.

Besides the core subjects, Opportunity Program has additional programs such as TLC, which is offered twice each school year. Students selected to participate spend 45 hours over four weeks attending daily instructional sessions, including an hour each day training shelter dogs, led by spcaLA staff after school. The students teach the dogs a variety of behaviors, including basic obedience, tricks and beginning agility training using various obstacles.

"The goal is to help students develop compassion, responsibility and patience," Brewer said. "It's a definite help for the students. It boosts their self-esteem. When they return to their class, many of their teachers notice a huge improvement in their behavior."

During the graduation ceremony, students shared with family and staff what they learned. Each student ran their partner dog through an obstacle course, showed off tricks they taught the dogs, and gave a short presentation on what the experience meant to them. Students received certificates for completing the program.

"The District is committed to helping all of our students succeed, regardless of the barriers they may face," East Whittier Superintendent Mary Branca said. "The Opportunity Program is an innovative tool we use to help students gain the confidence and motivation they need to achieve success. And, the TLC program reinforces important values that contribute to that."

FEBRUARY 16 BIRTHDAYS



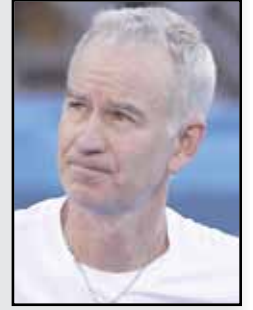
The Weeknd, R&B crooner with the soulful voice, turns 27



LeVar Burton, actor 60



Ice-T, rapper/actor 59



John McEnroe, tennis player 58



Gangrel, wrestler 48



Jerome Bettis, football player 45



Lupe Fiasco, rapper 35

Alternative Medicine: Emotional Body

By Marcela Arrieta

Some may say we are living under turbulent times. As a collective human species, we're constantly separated by man. The color of our skin, religion, perspective and social status seems to be the cause of separation and much inflicted emotional stress.

Every emotion our body experiences is a natural and instinctive state of mind that derives from one's circumstances, mood and relationship with others. The Emotional Body is the bioplastic vehicle in which said emotions are experienced and expressed by the body. (Reference: "The human energy field".)

Today let's focus on maintaining our emotional coolness. Imagine being the eye of the hurricane during a chaotic hurricane. Seems almost impossible, right? Not really! All we need to do is calm the emotional body prior to speaking, typing and acting out. You will find the following exercise valuable in the sense that it will provide you

with an opportunity to clear the emotions. Making decisions from a calm and collective stance and NOT an emotionally laced attitude is priceless tremendously productive.

Practice time! When situations that do not align to your ideals pop up, practice the following follow:

- Stop!
- Focus on your breathing. Inhale gently and exhale gently.
- Slowly count to 4. Each repetition slower and in tune with your breathing.
- Remind yourself that we are all uniquely different and in the process of evolving.
- Do this as many times as needed until clarity comes in.

Keep in mind that the purpose of this article is not to justify any person's reasoning, nor to put blame. The purpose is to empower you

the reader to turn inwards and rediscover your true self. Focusing on others is a waste of precious inner energy. Be the great person, soul and human you were born to be!

Have a question regarding this article or maybe you'd like to suggest a topic? Write to me at: m_arrieta@yahoo.com. Next article we will talk about Compassion.

Marcela A. Arrieta is an alternative modality practitioner with over five years of experience in this field. She is also an entrepreneur who resides in Downey

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The Downey Patriot

Sheriff's deputies use science to catch Norwalk shooter

NORWALK – A Norwalk man who fired a bullet into the air and wounded a 12-year-old girl was sentenced to more than four years in prison after a detective used ballistic evidence to tie a handgun to the crime, authorities said on Thursday.

Andres Ruiz, 35, pleaded no contest on Feb. 2 to charges that he discharged a firearm in a grossly negligent manner, with a special allegation of great bodily injury, according to

statement released by the Norwalk Sheriff's Station.

The girl was injured at roughly 8:15 a.m. on Nov. 28 in the 14000 block of Jersey Avenue in Norwalk when a bullet "fell from the sky and struck the girl on her forehead," deputies said.

"The impact of the bullet caused extensive non-life threatening trauma to the girl's eyebrow and eyelid," deputies said.

The girl was taken to a hospital for treatment and is continuing to recover.

"Initially, it was unclear how the girl was injured," deputies said. "Witnesses did not see or hear anything that would have explained the unforeseen injury. However, after a .40-caliber bullet was found inside the girl's backpack, the authorities were alerted."

The Norwalk Sheriff's Station said Detective Mark Christiansen led the investigation.

"Detective Christiansen researched projectile patterns and the velocity of bullets fired in the air," deputies said. "He scrutinized calls for service in an effort to identify any information which would explain where the bullet came from. Unfortunately, all the diligent investigative work failed to uncover any clues in solving the case."

A break in the case came on Jan. 24, when the Norwalk station received a call about 9:50 a.m. regarding gunshots heard in the area of Gard Avenue.

Patrol deputies responded to the area and located expended shell casings in the street, according to authorities.

"Based on witness statements, deputies detained a suspect near the scene. The suspect was in possession of a loaded .40-caliber handgun," deputies said.

Christiansen collaborated with the deputy assigned to the call, and "something resonated with him."

"The caliber of bullet, the proximity of the gunfire, and the time of the incident led him to immediately think of the injured girl," deputies said.

After investigators consulted personnel from the Los Angeles Regional Crime Lab, the ballistic report confirmed the bullet which struck the girl was fired from the suspect's .40-caliber handgun.

Christian Brown, editor

CHICO STATE VISITS DOWNEY



Representatives of Chico State University visited Downey earlier this month, visiting local schools and meeting school district administrators. A full story ran in last week's Downey Patriot.

"The visit was a great success by bringing and creating more opportunities for the local students and opening new channels to help with the future trips to visit our university and to bring presentations to them," said Peter Martinez, Associate Director of Outreach, Recruitment, and Marketing for Chico State.

"We want to take the time to thank your Downey resident Paula Mejia for making this trip possible."

Mejia is the university's L.A. aid representative and vice president of the Chico State University Parent Association.

"She made everything possible by making all the appointments with all the schools we visited. Without her help, nothing would have happened," said Martinez. "Also a big thank you to Mrs Martha Camacho, Cerritos College Board of Trustee and Special Education teacher at Dominguez High School."

Martinez also thanked Mayor Pro Tem Sean Ashton for providing "a gracious welcome."

POETRY MATTERS

In Love With You

O what a physical effect it has on me
To dive forever into the light blue sea
Of your acquaintance! Ah, but dearest friends,
Like forms, are finished, as life has ends! Still,
It is beautiful, when October
Is over, and February is over,
To sit in the starch of my shirt, and to dream of your sweet
Ways! As if the world were a taxi, you enter it, then
Reply (to no one), "Let's go five or six blocks."
Isn't the blue stream that runs past you a translation from the
Russian?
Aren't my eyes bigger than love?
Isn't this history, and aren't we a couple of ruins?
Is Carthage Pompeii? is the pillow the bed? is the sun
What glues our heads together? O midnight! O midnight!
Is love what we are,
Or has happiness come to me in a private car
That's so very small I'm amazed to see it there?

-Kenneth Koch

Koch is one of those rare poets "who excite you with a feeling of life almost the moment you step onto the page," says Jason Koo in Project Muse. Most romantic poems are intimate, but Koch takes off to include everything in a universal embrace. The exuberance of great and the small at the end expands the paradox of love. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

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BULK SALES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. L- 035090-JB

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.

(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: FUNES, NORMA R., 13000 PARAMOUNT BLVD, DOWNEY CA 90242

(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:

(4) The name and business address of the Buyer(s) are: ARACELI ORTEGA LOPEZ, 6816 CERRITOS AVE, LONG BEACH CA 90805

(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, EQUIPMENT, TRADENAME, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPLETE of that certain business located at: 13000 PARAMOUNT BLVD, DOWNEY CA 90242

(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: EL REY QUIK STOP AKA EL REY JR MARKET

(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is: FEBRUARY 21, 2017, on the office of TOWER ESCROW INC, 3600 WILSHIRE BLVD, #426, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010, Escrow No. L-035090-JB, Escrow Officer: JULIE BAHANG

(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.

(9) The last date for filing claims is: MARCH 6, 2017

(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. (11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE

Dated: JANUARY 31, 2017
TRANSFEREES: ARACELI ORTEGA LOPEZ
LA1765948 DOWNEY PATRIOT 2/16/17

or names listed above on 12/2016 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/ LUIS ESPINOZA, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on DECEMBER 27, 2016

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017019135

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) JUAN SOCAL HEALTHY VENDING, 14713 ELAINE AVENUE, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JUAN M GONZALEZ, 14713 ELAINE AVENUE, NORWALK CA 90650
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 M GONZALEZ, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 25, 2017

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
2/9/17, 2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017006211

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST, 6444 WHITTIER BLVD., LOS ANGELES CA 90022, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST , LLC, 6444 WHITTIER BLVD., LOS ANGELES CA 90022
State of Incorporation: (1) CA
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2012

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/ PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST, CEO, JAIME BANAUELOS CASTANON

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 9, 2017

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017019978

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) CROWNOS VALET PARKING SERVICES, 7631 FIRESTONE BLVD, DOWNEY CA 90241, LA COUNTY, P.O BOX 70691, PASADENA CA 91117

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MANUEL EDGAR DAVALOS, 138 JUNIPERO SERRA DR, SAN GABRIEL CA 91776 (2) PERCY SANCHEZ BRIEL, 140, VIRGINIA AVE, PASADENA CA 91107
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A
This business is conducted by a General Partnership

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2008

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/ MANUEL EDGAR DAVALOS, PARTNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 20, 2017

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017003735

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

2017003735

File Number 2013166061 DATE FILED: AUGUST 9, 2013

NAME OF BUSINESS(ES): VALLEY VIEW REXALL DRUGS, VALLEY VIEW RX STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: 13966 VALLEY VIEW AVE., LA MIRADA, CA, 90638

REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) VALLEY VIEW DRUGS INC., 13966 VALLEY VIEW AVE., LA MIRADA CA 90638
State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by a Corporation
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) S/ VALLEY VIEW DRUGS, INC., PRESIDENT, DAVID JENSEN

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on JANUARY 05, 2017

The Downey Patriot
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017035734

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) STOIC CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED, 810 HEATHER AVE, LA HABRA CA 90631, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: C3985029 REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) STOIC CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED, 810 HEATHER AVE, LA HABRA CA 90631
State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

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/ STOIC CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED, PRESIDENT, MATTHEW ARMSTRONG

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on FEBRUARY 10, 2017

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.

business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2017

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/ STOIC CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED, PRESIDENT, MATTHEW ARMSTRONG

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on FEBRUARY 10, 2017

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
2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17, 3/9/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017014793

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) J&J ATM, 4506 OCAVA AVE, LAKEWOOD CA 90713, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JOHN C LAY, 4506 OCAVA AVE, LAKEWOOD CA 90713
State of Incorporation: (1) CA
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2008

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/ JOHN C LAY, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 19, 2017

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017034986

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) MCDONALD & SONS JANITORIAL SUPPLIES, 10822 CORD AVE, DOWNEY CA 90241, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CLAY J MCDONALD, 10822 CORD 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/ CLAY J MCDONALD, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on FEBRUARY 10, 2017

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017023092

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) CADENA VALET PARKING SERVICES, 7631 FIRESTONE BLVD, DOWNEY CA 90241, LA COUNTY, P.O. BOX 70691, PASADENA CA 91117

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MANUEL E DAVALOS, 138 JUNIPERO SERRA DR, SAN GABRIEL CA 91776 (2) CARLOS JOSUE ESPINOZA, 1129 E 4TH PLACE, LOS ANGELES CA 90011

State of Incorporation: (1) N/A
This business is conducted by a General Partnership

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/ MANUEL E DAVALOS, PARTNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 27, 2017

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
2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17, 3/9/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017013095

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) CLOVER LAUNDRY WHITTIER, 8230 NORWALK BLVD., WHITTIER CA 90606-3110, LA COUNTY, 5267 WARNER AVE #346, HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92649

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CLASO INC, 5267 WARNER AVE #346, HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92649
State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

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/ ARTURO BRAVO CRUZ, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on FEBRUARY 9, 2017

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
2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17, 3/9/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017034348

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) PARKVIEW REALTORS, 8361 E. FLORENCE AVE. #201, DOWNEY CA 90240, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) ARTURO BRAVO CRUZ, 8361 E. FLORENCE AVE. #201, DOWNEY CA 90240
State of Incorporation: (1) CA
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

or names listed above on 01/2017

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/ CLASO INC, PRESIDENT, ANDY MAI

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 18, 2017

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
1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/17, 2/16/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017031798

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) DOWNEY CHESS CLUB, 7747 GAINFORD ST, DOWNEY CA 90240, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JOSE EDGAR JIMENEZ JR, 7747 GAINFORD ST, DOWNEY CA 90240
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/ JOSE EDGAR JIMENEZ JR, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on FEBRUARY 17, 2017

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
2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17, 3/9/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017019999

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) KALIS MANISORIBO, 9614 FLORPARK ST, PICO RIVERA CA 90660, LA COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MELISSA LUEVANO, 9614 FLORPARK ST, PICO RIVERA CA 90660
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 01/2017

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/ MELISSA LUEVANO, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 25, 2017

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
2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17, 3/9/17

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2017015741

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) FITNESS APPAREL & MERCHANDISE, 5600 ORANGETHORPE AVE APT 2803, LA PALMA CA 90623, ORANGE COUNTY

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #0N: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CRYSTAL SOLORZANO, 5600 ORANGETHORPE AVE APT 2803, LA PALMA CA 90623
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 01/2017

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/ CRYSTAL SOLORZANO, OWNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on JANUARY 30, 2017

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.

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CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

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justin.smith3433@gmail.com

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

Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner: VANESSA J. GREGOR ESQ SBN 164196 BROWN & STREZA LLP 40 PACIFICA STE 1500 IRVINE CA 92616 CN933793 BSC214402 Feb 9, 16, 23, 2017

condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$292,282.17 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and 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 (844) 477-7869 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 046792-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The

best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP. 4375 Jutland Drive Suite 200 San Diego, California 92117

The Downey Patriot 2/16/17, 2/19/17, 2/16/17

T.S. No. 038577-CA APN: 6363-008-013 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 5/5/2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER ON 3/16/2017 AT 9:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP., as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 5/23/2008, as Instrument No. 20080917503, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: MARIA TERESA FRANCO WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, 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: VINEYARD BALLROOM, DOUBLETREE HOTEL LOS ANGELES- NORWALK, 13111 SYCAMORE DRIVE, NORWALK, CA 90650 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8606 CHARLOMA DRIVE DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90240 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 held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$1,290,650.69 If the Trustee is unable to

convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and 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) 280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.AUCTION.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 038577-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (800) 280-2832 CLEAR RECON CORP. 4375 Jutland Drive Suite 200 San Diego, California 92117

The Downey Patriot 2/16/17, 2/23/17, 3/2/17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No.: 00000006348742 Title Order No.: 730-1610622-70 FHA/VA/PMI No.: 197-

3708824 952 ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR, NOT TO THIS RECORDED ORIGINAL NOTICE. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 02/22/2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 02/29/2008 as Instrument No. 20080352719 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA, EXECUTED BY: JOHN ROGER ZAVREL, A SINGLE MAN, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 03/06/2017 TIME OF SALE: 11:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: BY THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED AT 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 10507 SHELLYFIELD ROAD, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241 APN#: 6285-022-002 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$289,712.12. 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 714-730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.servicelinkASAP.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000006348742. 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: AGENCY SALES AND POSTING 714-730-2727 www.servicelinkASAP.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 20955 Pathfinder Road, Suite 300 Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (866) 795-1852 Dated: 01/30/2017 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001-4320 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier: (972) 661-7800 A-4607884 02/02/2017, 02/09/2017, 02/16/2017

The Downey Patriot 2/16/17, 2/19/17, 2/16/17

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Olympic gold medalist Jennie Finch returns to La Mirada

LA MIRADA – Olympic gold medalist and La Mirada High graduate Jennie Finch teamed up with a cadre of Olympians and elite sluggers to coach and inspire 120 softball student athletes to dream and believe at La Mirada High School from Jan. 21-22.

"I couldn't be more excited to be back at La Mirada High, where it all started for me," Finch said. "Whatever your pursuits may be, stay confident, work hard and step up to the challenge."

Finch and her coaches conducted workshops on pitching, catching, fielding, hitting and fitness training. Finch posed for pictures with her Olympic medals, gave a pitching demonstration and spoke to the campers about the sacrifices she made as she endeavored to be a world-class athlete.

"If you want to compete athletically at the highest levels, you have to devote yourself to training 24/7," Finch said. "When I received a full scholarship to play for the University of Arizona, everyone realized that my hard work and determination had paid off."

In March 2016, newly hired La Mirada High softball coach Brent Tuttle retired Finch's No. 27 jersey to honor her career. In November, Finch contacted Tuttle when she was looking to relocate her annual Southern California camp to a new venue.

Finch and her coaches held a Champions Dinner at La Mirada High the night of Jan. 21, which raised \$3,500 for the La Mirada High girls softball booster program through donations and a silent auction.

"It's wonderful to see our alumni return to their alma mater to give back to the community where they grew up," NLMUSD Superintendent Hasmik Danielian said. "Thank you to Jennie for inspiring our student athletes to develop a strong work ethic and to continue to reach for their dreams."

New principal hopes to bolster technology at Loma Vista Elementary

SOUTH WHITTIER – South Whittier School District's newest principal, Kristine Carreon, has been leading the Loma Vista campus since the beginning of the school year, engaging parents and strengthening the school's programs. But she is also hard at work laying out plans to integrate new technology into classroom instruction.

"It is with much excitement that I welcome the opportunity to build relationships with the Loma Vista family and set a strong academic foundation that will prepare our students for the future," Carreon said. "I'm excited to introduce new programs to the school, build upon the District's great initiatives and keep engaging our parents in their children's education."

Carreon takes the helm at Loma Vista following an 18-year career at Wild Rose Elementary School in the Monrovia Unified School District. There, Carreon was a long-time teacher before pursuing leadership roles as a program adviser/specialist and intervention coordinator.

As program adviser and specialist for two years, Carreon coordinated interventions and facilitated bilingual parent engagement programs like the Latino Family Literacy Project.

During her term as intervention coordinator, Carreon organized a

schoolwide intervention program called Power Hour, which assessed and placed students into small, focused reading groups based on reading level. The program, which monitored and tested student progress every six weeks, earned the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Award from the California Department of Education.

Carreon hopes to create greater intervention programs for Loma Vista students who may be struggling academically, as well as form an afterschool robotics club to provide students enriching technology opportunities. She said the school aims to provide dynamic, technology-driven instruction and is working to acquire the necessary tools to jumpstart the program.

Carreon earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies, administrative credential and master's degree in educational leadership from Cal Poly Pomona.

"Kristine Carreon is a remarkable addition to our District and brings with her an impressive instructional background," Superintendent Gail Baxter said. "She is focused on what is best for the children, is compassionate and approachable to parents, and fits very well into our District's collaborative model. We are truly thrilled to have her expertise and exemplary leadership at Loma Vista Elementary."

Bellflower Unified earns accreditation for home study program

BELLFLOWER – Bellflower Unified's innovative Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy has earned a three-year initial accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The TK-10 school, which offers a blend of homeschool support and core curriculum, was praised by a WASC visiting committee for effective and caring leadership, parent engagement, strong use of technology and an emphasis on hands-on, student learning.

School officials announced the decision on Feb. 8.

"This is another in a

growing list of significant accomplishments for our independent study program at Las Flores," Bellflower Unified Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. "I'd like to congratulate our incredible team of teachers, staff and administrators for this well-deserved recognition."

WASC accreditation affirms the quality of a school's curriculum. Schools place a WASC stamp on transcripts to let other schools and colleges know they meet accreditation standards. The three-year accreditation is the longest possible during an initial evaluation.

Accreditation is standard for California's public high schools, many charter and private schools, but Las Flores is at the forefront of a growing trend to accredit public middle and elementary schools.

Bellflower Unified launched the independent study program in 2012-13 to support homeschooled students; it quickly grew from 35 students that year to 170 students in 2016-17.

TK-8 students follow one of two learning models – traditional or core. In the traditional model, students learn at home with support from Las Flores teachers.

In the core model, students attend Las Flores three days a week to take core classes. Most students follow the core model.

Students in both programs may also attend an enrichment program on Fridays that includes lessons in Mandarin and music as well as science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) topics.

In 2016-17, Las Flores expanded to include grades nine and 10 – a rare offering for homeschool support programs given the difficulty of creating accredited programs recognized by colleges for admission.

High school students follow a traditional or blended instructional model. In the traditional model, students learn at home via online courses that meet the eligibility requirements for UC and CSU. They submit assignments and take tests at Las Flores.

In the blended model – followed by all students currently enrolled – students attend math and English classes at Las Flores three days a week, and take science, health, social science and a world-language course online. As with the traditional model, all classes meet UC/CSU eligibility requirements.

The WASC team, which visited Las Flores in November 2016, noted that the school's intimate nature and hands-on approach give students a greater chance to succeed.

"Behavior issues which often impede instructional time are not apparent on the site. All staff and students are held to high expectations both academically and non-academically," the team's report states.

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When spring cleaning, consider donating to Assistance League of Downey

It is spring cleaning time, but what do you do with all of the "stuff"? The perfect solution is the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop.

We are open for donations during business hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop, located at 11026 Downey Ave. is the major fund-raiser for the Assistance League of Downey. We accept clothing and shoes in all sizes, small appliances, decorative items, furniture, art work, books, music, toys and tools. We cannot accept computers, computer parts, mattresses, cribs, or large appliances.

Donating your discards is a win-win. You get clean closets and garages, a tax deduction, and the good feeling that you have helped your community. All proceeds from the Thrift Shop go to support Operation School Bell (new clothing for needy children in Downey schools); H.O.M.E. (Housing of Medical Emergencies, a 10 unit apartment at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center for families of patients); Christmas Distribution (gifts to local nursing homes); Dental Program (dental care for needy Downey children); and scholarships to local high-school students.



We welcome new members and volunteers. For more information, please call 869-0232.

Questions & Answers for First-Time Homebuyers

How much can I afford?

As a general rule of thumb, multiply your annual income by 5. This will give you a rough idea of how much house you may qualify to purchase. (Don't forget to include your spouse's income.)

How much do I need for a down payment?

For an FHA loan, 3.5% minimum down payment is required. For example, a \$400,000 home can be purchased with a \$14,000 down payment.

Do I need good credit?

A minimum FICO score of 580 is required for an FHA loan.

How do I get started?

First, you want to select a qualified Realtor (ahem). Then you'll start the prequalification process, which means figuring out exactly how much you can afford before we start looking at houses.

How long does the entire process take?

It depends. Variables include how many homes you look at, market conditions, etc. But from the day your offer is accepted to the day you receive the keys, it's usually about 30-45 days.

Eric Pierce is a licensed real estate agent specializing in Southern California

Eric Pierce
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BRE No. 01977526

A shelter animal put down too soon



By Michelle Melendrez

I do not know what discrimination means. I do not understand unworthiness or disappointment. I do, however, understand loyalty and love.

Not that my name matters anymore, just know I once was loved. I once belonged to a human who called me their own. I played and cuddled. I was man's best friend.

In my final days, I was turned away by countless humans because my owner didn't want me anymore. I was dirty and skinny. I looked sick, but I wasn't. All I wanted was some water, food, and kind hand to pet me.

Instead I fed off dirt and rocks and did my best to keep warm through the rain. Then I was found by a kind stranger who thought I would be safe if I was taken into the Downey animal shelter. Little did I know that my final days were more like my final hours.

My story began to be shared. Pleas for help to save me were in the works. I was on my way to be rescued. My name is A5031903. That's what the shelter keeps calling me. I was placed on a table, maybe for a final check-up? What is this shot for? Maybe so I don't get sick? My eyes are just so heavy... I think I'll go to sleep now...

This is the story of A5031903, or as I call her, Hope. Each day the Downey animal shelter makes the decision to kill animals for no reason other than over population. On Feb. 9, a sentence of death was carried out because of appearance. A5031903 was turned in on Feb. 8 by a kind stranger who trusted the shelter and instead was killed, despite having a rescue shelter ready to take her.

She was starved and left roaming the streets looking for food, looking for kindness, looking for compassion. Maybe once she knew love from a

human. She continued to trust the human race until we let her down by carrying out a sentence she did not deserve.

A5031903 is not just a number, she's a face with a name who only longed to live out her years growing old with a human who would love her and keep her safe. Instead, someone decided she was too sick to live because she had dirt and rocks in her stomach.

I chose to name her Hope so that her story and the countless others who were also euthanized will bring hope to the other dogs currently living in the shelters

who hope to be adopted.

I hope you will share her story and save a life by adopting. Please spay and neuter your pets to avoid overpopulations in shelters.

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Spectacular!
Newer home built in 2005. One level Lots of upgrades. Granite throughout. Large formal dining used as den. Court yard with fireplace. Backyard with BBQ and firepit. Play area for kids. Garden on side yard. Bedrooms are very large. Lots of storage. Call Today!!!

Beautiful Custom Home!
This beautiful 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom home is made up of 3,324 sq.ft. of living space. It features near-new carpet, custom lighting, custom drapery throughout. Library/optional 4th bedroom has mahogany built in bookcases with matching plantation shutters. Upstairs loft can be used as a den or 5th bedroom. Call Today!!!

Spish Splash!
This well kept Downey pool home is exceptionally maintained and landscaped! 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home sits on over 1200 sq ft lot and is centrally located to freeways, park, schools, restaurants and shopping. This home features new remodeled kitchen with cabinets and granite tops, master bath was remodeled, recently, new clay roof, enormous brick fireplace in the lake and open family room. Call Today!!!

North Downey Home!
Nice island home. Move in condition. Updated kitchen and baths. Newer roof. Swimming pool and spa. Formal eating area off living room. Call Today!!!

Home Sweet Home!
Beautiful turnkey property! It features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & a great floor plan. Inside laundry, A/C, granite counter and much, much more! Call Today!!!

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MARKET EVALUATION

JUST LISTED!
Near Palm Springs!
This affordable 2 BD condo will be perfect as a weekend getaway, 2nd home, or to retire on that golf course!
\$95,000 - call for more info!

CALL TODAY!
Premier LA Location!
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom condo. Adjacent to Studio City and Toluca Lake. Hardwood floors and private patio. Low HOA.
Call for More Info! 562-400-2148
JimSpathos@aol.com

SOLD!
Beautiful Paramount Home!
4 BD, 2 BA. Near horse stables, Hollydale park & school.
Let's find you a NEW home!

ACCREDITED DOWNEY PATRIOT PRESS RELEASE

Mel and Rita Berdelis, Brokers/Owners of 24 Hour Real Estate are proud to congratulate Mario Persico for a great achievement. Mario had 18 sales in a 7 month period breaking his own personal record.

FOR RENT
APARTMENT FOR RENT
Downstairs Apartment
2 BD, 1 BA w/ 2 car carport. NOW taking applications for April 2017 Move-In.
Call Carrie for Info 562-382-1252.

JUST LISTED!
Hollydale!
Perfect starter home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room and fireplace!
\$399,500 - needs some TLC!

FOR SALE!
"This Could Be Your Home"
Your home could be listed "FOR SALE" here.
Call Vicki for a **FREE market analysis.**
Icare4dow@aol.com

FOR SALE!
"Mario has been working for our company for nearly 15 years. We couldn't be more pleased with his continued success," said Rita Berdelis. Mel Berdelis added, "Recently, the Downey Association of Realtors recognized Mario as a TOP Producer for the fourth quarter. We thank Mario for his hard work and dedication."

SOLD IN 6 DAYS!
330 E. 60th St., Long Beach
3 bedroom, 2 bath home.
SOLD for \$429,000

PRICE REDUCED!
Bonus Room Or Guest House!
Custom home with 5 BD, 5 BA, large family room with fireplace & wet bar! 9,000+ lot!
SUBMIT OFFERS!!

Eric Pinaya
REALTOR
562-243-4039
Holidaysin@aol.com

Pam Lee
Realtor
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com



The time to begin the conversation is NOW if you're considering selling your home.
CALL ME!
Carrie Uva 562-382-1252

ANGELO & MARIE PICARELLI
CHECK OUT OUR 56 REVIEWS ON ZILLOW!
Zillow
www.zillow.com/profile/mariepicarelli/#reviews

IN ESCROW!
Northeast Downey Pool Home!
IN ESCROW, accepting backup offers!
Call Eric or Zeke for more info!
Zeke Pinaya 562-746-8840

IN ESCROW!
Pico Rivera Home
Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home with dining area. Needs some TLC. Probate Sale. Must SEE!
Call Pam for more information!
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

Mario Persico
BORN | EDUCATED | LIVES | WORSHIPS | SELLS in Downey!
Please be sure to contact Mario at (562) 533-7433 for all of your real estate needs.
#MarioDidItAgain

CARRIE UVA
*Providing Service To Downey Residents For 24 Years
*Lifetime Downey Resident Selling Downey Homes

MICHAEL BERDELIS
"THE 24 HOUR AGENT!"

IN ESCROW!
Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home with dining area. Needs some TLC. Probate Sale. Must SEE!
Call Pam for more information!
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

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562.818.6111

DOWNEY'S #1 AGENT, 2002-PRESENT WITH OVER 1,100 HOMES SOLD SINCE 1999



Home Sweet Home

3 BD, 2 BA NW Downey home with pool, spa and bonus room. Features remodeled kitchen and master bathroom, central air & heat and copper plumbing.
LIST PRICE: \$585,000



A Car Lover's Dream Home!

6+ car garage! 3 BD, 3 BA, 2,140 sq. ft., 9,127 sq. ft. lot, remodeled kitchen, formal dining room, den with fireplace, master BD, hardwood floors and freshly painted.
LIST PRICE: \$749,950



So Much For A Great Price

3 BD, 2 BA, approx 1,549 sq. ft., bonus room, amazing remodeled kitchen, living room with fireplace, large family room & backyard w/covered patio, fruit trees & shed.
LIST PRICE: \$539,000



Bright & Sunny Home

Tri-level 4 BD, 4 BA, 2,110 sq. ft. townhome with YARD built in 2014. Features solar panels, wood floors, kitchen & master BD.
REDUCED TO \$610,000



You Might Have Struck Gold

3 BD, 2 BA, remodeled kitchen, master bathroom, step-down den, corner house near cul-de-sac in Northwest Downey.
LIST PRICE: \$629,950



Great Starter Home

2 BD, 1 BA, new carpet with hardwood floors underneath, freshly painted interior, well kept kitchen and bathroom, 2 car detached garage and large yard.
LIST PRICE: \$425,000



Home Sweet Home

3 BD, 3 BA home with kitchen that opens to the family room with fireplace, & master BD with private BA. Backyard has built-in BBQ fountain and grass area.
LIST PRICE \$679,950



Luxurious & Elegant!

Spectacular 6 BD, 7 BA, 5,528 sq. ft. home built in 2009! Dual staircase entry, beautiful kitchen, family room and luxurious master suite.
LIST PRICE \$1,299,000



FOR SALE

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Text Michael at 562-818-6111 for a **PROPERTY VIDEO** of any of these homes to be sent directly to you!

CALBRE #01234589