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**NEWS**  
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**DECEMBER 9**

Vaiari'i & Hinahere - a Tahitian dance performance

**DATE:** Saturday, Dec. 9  
**TIME:** 2 pm, 6:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**DECEMBER 16**

The Nutcracker

**DATE:** Dec. 16  
**TIME:** 7:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**DECEMBER 17**

The Nutcracker

**DATE:** Dec. 17  
**TIME:** 2:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**DECEMBER 20**

Downey Chamber of Commerce open house

**DATE:** Dec. 20  
**TIME:** 11:30 am to 1:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Chamber of Commerce

**JANUARY 20**

Keep Downey Beautiful clean-up

**DATE:** Saturday, Jan. 20  
**TIME:** 9 am  
**LOCATION:** 12152 Woodruff Ave.

**Downey Symphony**

**DATE:** Saturday, Jan. 20  
**TIME:** 8 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**JANUARY 27**

Astronaut Commemoration

**DATE:** Saturday, Jan. 27  
**TIME:** 10 am to 5 pm  
**LOCATION:** Columbia Memorial Space Center

**Parks & Recreation job fair**

**DATE:** Saturday, Jan. 27  
**TIME:** 12-4:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Barbara J. Riley Community Center

**Blood, Sweat & Tears ft. Bo Bice**

**DATE:** Saturday, Jan. 27  
**TIME:** 8 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**FEBRUARY 3**

John Tesh

**DATE:** Saturday, Feb. 3  
**TIME:** 8 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**FEBRUARY 24**

Healthy Downey 5K

**DATE:** Saturday, Feb. 24  
**TIME:** 7:30 am  
**LOCATION:** Apollo Park

**Smart Gardening workshop**

**DATE:** Saturday, Feb. 24  
**TIME:** 9:30 am  
**LOCATION:** Wilderness Park

**MARCH 24**

Carnival of Champions

**DATE:** Saturday, March 24  
**TIME:** 9 am  
**LOCATION:** Warren High

**Brunch with the Bunny**

**DATE:** Saturday, March 24  
**TIME:** 9:30 am  
**LOCATION:** Golden Park

**MARCH 30**

'Animaniacs live

**DATE:** Friday, March 30  
**TIME:** 6 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre

**APRIL 22**

Sara Evans in concert

**DATE:** Sunday, April 22  
**TIME:** 8 pm  
**LOCATION:** Downey Theatre



## Downey Christmas Parade

Photos by Alex Dominguez



### Downey restaurant grades

**Domino's Pizza**  
7433 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Downey Donuts**  
8011 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Subway**  
7930 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**See's Candy Shop**  
9839 Paramount Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Little Caesars Pizza**  
7369 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Kyoto Sushi**  
8009 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Pizza Hut**  
7936 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Yum Yum Donuts**  
7410 Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**El Taco**  
7870 E. Florence Ave.  
Date Inspected: 11/29/17  
Grade: **A**

**Movita Juice Bar**  
9202 Lakewood Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**Downey Pizza Co.**  
9026 E. Florence  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**McDonalds**  
9250 Lakewood Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**Hometown Buffet**  
8432 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**Sansai Japanese Grill**  
8428 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**Yandicris Bionicos & Fruit**  
10244 Lakewood Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/30/17  
Grade: **A**

**Cafe N Stuff**  
9306 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/27/17  
Grade: **A**

**Taco Bell**  
7127 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 11/21/17  
Grade: **A**

### Cheapest gas in Downey

**Gas N Go**  
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**Arco**  
Imperial & Columbia Way  
Price: **\$2.85**

Prices as of 12/7/17

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday 79°

Saturday 84°

Sunday 86°

### THINGS TO DO

**Play Station Experience 2017**  
Fri-Sun - Anaheim Convention Center  
Experience the latest and greatest in Playstation gaming. 18+ only.

**Griffith Park Festival of Lights Hike**  
*Sunday - Griffith Park, 4-8:30 PM*  
Intermediate hike from Merry-go-round lot to top of Mount Hollywood. Wearing black and holiday lights is encouraged.

**Rams vs. Eagles**  
*Sunday - LA Memorial Coliseum, 1:25 PM*  
Currently on a two-game winning streak, the Rams (9-3) take on the Eagles (10-2).

**KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas**  
*Sat-Sun - The Forum, 5 PM*  
Two nights of performances from bands including Muse, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Morrissey, The Killers, and Weezer.

**Marina Del Rey Holiday Boat Parade**  
*Saturday - Burton Chace Park 6-8 PM*  
Decorated yachts, boats, kayaks, and canoes sail along the harbor.

### TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@DowneyUnified:  
We want to congratulate the entire Downey High football team for competing in the CIF Division 4 Championships on Saturday. A big shout out to Baraq Ross for being selected as the SoCalPrep Legends Boys Athlete of the Week. Great Job Vikings!

Follow us!  
@DowneyPatriot

# Downey wins Golden Bell for teen court program

**DOWNEY** – Downey Unified’s Teen Court program was honored with a Golden Bell Award last Saturday, a leading educational honor in California sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

Celebrating its 38th year, the Golden Bell Award promotes excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs, and superiority practices in school districts throughout California.

The California School Boards Association is the non-profit education association representing the elected officials who govern public school districts. With a membership of nearly 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA brings together school district governing boards to advocate for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state’s more than 6 million school-age children.

The Golden Bell Award program honors exemplary organizations in 19 major categories that highlight the best practices to support effective governance, teaching and student learning. Educational experts from school districts and county offices of education comprise the 26-member judging panel that review all written award entries. On-site visitations are also utilized to validate and assess the nominated programs to determine the winners.

Downey Unified’s Teen Court program, the only program chosen

for this award out of five similar applicants, was selected for its ability to engage students in the democratic process, collaboration with civic organizations and opportunities it provides students in hand-on civic engagement.

Now in its fourth year of implementation, this award-winning program is comprised of approximately 75 students from Downey, Columbus and Warren high schools.

Teen Court is a juvenile diversion and prevention program that links students, schools, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, local police, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Los Angeles Superior Court in a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism (reoffending) and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions.

“Downey Unified and the LA Superior Court have embraced a restorative justice model where early intervention becomes the central focus,” described Marian Reynolds, Downey Unified’s administrator of Student Services who leads this program. “This model allows select juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers, teaching valuable lessons about how courts operate and what it’s like to be part of the justice system.”



DUSD officials received the Golden Bell Award at an awards ceremony last Saturday.

From left: DUSD superintendent Dr. John Garcia; student services administrator Marian Reynolds; board member Donald LaPlante, board member Nancy Swenson, board president Martha Sodetani, student services coordinator Jayro Roman, Sussman Middle School principal Dr. Robert Jagielski, and board member Bobbie Samperi.

# Mayor’s Corner: 2017 in review

Hello Downey,

With the end of the year approaching, it is a time to reflect on the amazing year we have had in our city. Our city has many accomplishments for which to be proud.

My wife and I have had the greatest gift and accomplishment of all: the birth of our beautiful son, Ethan Omid Vasquez. As I venture into parenthood, I see the world with new eyes, and I am prouder than ever to live in the City of Downey and raise my family here.

At the beginning of the year, the city council met with city staff to lay the foundation and strategize on how to reach the city’s goals. The goals are based on the five overarching principles of Fiscal Responsibility; Efficiency and Adaptability; Economic Vibrancy; Quality of Life; Safety and Infrastructure; and Public Engagement.

Thanks to our city staff’s diligent work, our budget remains responsible and fiscally conservative while still addressing our promise for economic vibrancy. Included in the budget were funds to conduct an Imperial Highway Economic Study to learn how we could revitalize the Imperial Highway Corridor.

The city also made significant changes in its overall compensation, retirement and healthcare structure. It has sought federal, state, local and private funding for projects to support our parks, library, police, fire, water and community development needs; and supported state and federal legislation to increase funding for infrastructure projects.

This was all in an effort to continue to maintain the quality of life residents have come to expect. Our city as a whole is growing and buzzing with excitement. As its motto states, the Future is truly Unlimited.

Public safety will always be our top priority. The Downey Police Department has added new staff and officers to its force. To date, we have 121 sworn officers. Earlier this year, I along with my council colleagues approved the passage of the Downey Police Civilian Volunteer Patrol Program. Residents have been trained to help patrol our streets and have served as an added set of eyes and ears for the Police Department.

Another program approved this year was the Park Ranger program. The dedicated Downey Park Rangers solely patrol our parks to ensure the safety of all.

The Downey Fire Department rolled out the Smart911 System. Smart911 is a free service for all residents that allows users to provide

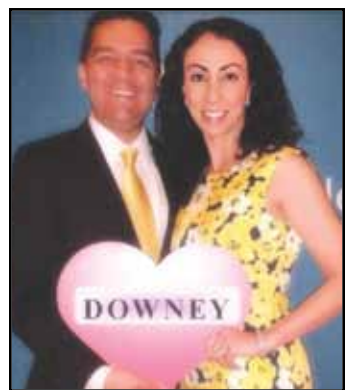
information about themselves and their family when calling 911. This will allow police and fire personnel to get up to date emergency information when responding to situations where seconds can save lives.

As I approach my last year on the Downey City Council, I want to thank the past and present council members, city staff and the community for the trust you have placed in me and for every piece of support I have had the pleasure to receive in the past seven years.

I would like to thank my family; my parents for all the sacrifices they have made to help me get to this point; my sisters for their commitment and the laughs along the way, and a special thanks to my wife, Donna, for always being supportive of me throughout this entire process. I am eternally grateful to you all.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the City of Downey.

**Fernando Vasquez**  
Downey Mayor



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On behalf of the Downey Education Association, Barbara Samperi, Nancy Swenson and Martha Sudentani, we would like to say a big THANK YOU for supporting us in our re-election efforts.

*We could not have done it without your support!*

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# Championship hopes dashed for Downey, Bosco

**FOOTBALL:** Vikings can't contain Cajon offense, dropping title game 54-28. St. John Bosco had trouble of their own against Mater Dei, giving up 21 fourth-quarter points in a 49-24 loss.

By Mark Fetter  
Contributor

**DOWNEY** – The Downey High School football team was defeated by the Cajon Cowboys in the C.I.F. Division Four championship game at Downey last Saturday night, 54-28. The Vikings finished their season with an overall record of 11-3 and were 4-1 in S.G.V.L. play.

Downey defeated Etiwanda 47-14 in the first round, beat Corona del Mar 49-42 in the second round and defeated Capistrano Valley, 41-21, in the third round to advance to the championship game.

In the Downey/Cajon game, the Vikings led 14-13 at the end of the first quarter. The Cowboys outscored Downey, 21-7, in the second quarter and took a 34-21 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Vikings scored first in the third quarter to cut the lead to 34-28 with 10:40 remaining on the clock. That was as close as the Vikings would get, however, as Cajon outscored Downey 14-7 in the third quarter and led 48-28 as the third quarter concluded.

Cajon added six more points in the fourth quarter and came away with the 54-28 win.

The Vikings struggled to contain Cowboy quarterback Jayden Daniels. Daniels completed 18/28 pass attempts for 293 yards, four touchdowns and a quarterback rating of 138.8. Daniels also carried the ball 21 times for 281 yards and four touchdowns.

The Cowboy receiving corps were led by Darren Jones' eight catches for 121 yards, Tre Noriega's four catches for 84 yards and two touchdowns and Dejuan Moon's two catches for 46 yards and one touchdown.

The Downey defense was led by **Nicholas Whitney's** six solo and six assisted tackles, **Baraq Ross's** six solo and three assisted tackles, **Robert Barron's** two solo and five assisted tackles, **Brennan Fields's** five solo and one assisted tackle and **Jacob Manetta's** one solo and five assisted tackles.

**BOSCO FOOTBALL:** The St. John Bosco football team was defeated by Mater Dei, 49-24, last Saturday night at Cerritos College in the C.I.F. Division One championship game.

The Braves defeated Bishop Amat 35-21 in the first round, defeated Rancho Cucamonga 55-28 in the second round and defeated Corona Centennial 62-34 in the third round to advance to the championship game.

St. John Bosco finished their season with an overall record of 11-3 and a Trinity League record of 4-1. The Braves finished the season ranked tenth in the Xcellent Top 25 Poll, third nationally and second in California.

## Downey runner qualifies for Junior Olympic National Championships

**DOWNEY** – Stephanie Hernandez from the Instride Track Club will be representing her team and the city of Downey in Tallahassee, Fla., for the USATF Junior Olympic National Championships on Dec. 9.



Stephanie, 10, is a fifth-grader at Old River Elementary School and is the only participant from this area.

Stephanie qualified as an individual at the Regional Championships held Nov. 19 in Santa Clarita. She completed the tough and hilly 3k course in 12:00.

She is currently ranked in the top 18 in this region of southern California, Nevada and Hawaii. Hernandez's goal is to place in the top 25 at Nationals which would make her an All-American.

Distance runner Stephanie Hernandez, 10, will represent Downey at the national championships Saturday.

Courtesy photo

The Instride Track Club relies heavily on donations and fundraisers in order to travel or participate at the championship meets.

be made online.

Any financial help to get Stephanie to Florida would be greatly appreciated. Donations can

Coach Eric Nilson can be contacted at enilsenchiro@gmail.com with further questions and information.

In the St. John Bosco/Mater Dei game, the Monarchs scored first and led 7-0 at the end of the first quarter. Mater Dei outscored the Braves 14-10 in the second quarter and took a 21-10 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Both teams scored a touchdown and converted their respective PAT's in the third quarter and the Monarchs held on to their 11-point lead, 28-17, as the third quarter came to an end. Mater Dei closed the game out in the fourth quarter by outscoring the Braves 21-7 and claimed the 49-24 win.

Brave quarterback **D.J. Uiagalelei** completed 19 passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns. Uiagalelei also carried the ball eight times for 48 yards. The Brave rushing attack was led by **George Holani's** 21 carries for 54 yards and one touchdown.

The St. John Bosco receiving corps were led by **Kristopher Hutson's** seven catches for 61 yards. **Jake Bailey's** six catches for 47 yards and one touchdown and **Joshua Delgado's** five catches for 51 yards.

Coach Negro is proud of his team's performance this season and looks to be back for another C.I.F. Division One championship run next season.

**WARREN BOYS BASKETBALL:** The Warren High School boys' basketball team currently has an overall record of 3-3 and will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they travel to Lynwood on Jan. 10 to play the Knights.

The Bears will host cross-town rival Downey on Jan. 19 in the first of their two scheduled league meetings.

The Bears competed in the Whittier Turkey Shootout November 22-25 where they went 2-2. Warren defeated Whittier 71-52 in their first game on 11/21, were defeated by Compton Centennial 63-53 in their second game on 11/22, were defeated by La Habra 63-49 in their third game on 11/24 and defeated Hacienda Heights Wilson 71-49 in their fourth game on 11/25.

Warren was defeated by Marina 55-53 on Monday night and defeated

Compton Centennial on Tuesday night 74-64 in the Artesia Winter Classic. The Bears are also scheduled to play Torrance at Torrance on 12/19 and South Torrance at Warren on 12/21. Warren will also be competing in the Rancho Mirage Holiday Hoops Classic December 27-30.

Coach Zaid Leflore, his staff and players are all looking forward to the 2017-18 basketball season. Dominguez will once again be the team to beat in league play after finishing last season with an overall record of 19-8 and a S.G.V.L. record of 9-1.

Warren finished last season with an overall record of 10-16 and were 3-7 in S.G.V.L. play. The Bears did not participate in postseason play.

**DOWNEY BOYS BASKETBALL:** The Downey High School boys' basketball team currently has an overall record of 3-1 and will begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they host the Paramount Pirates at Downey on Jan. 10.

Downey competed in the San Dimas Tournament November 28th through Dec. 2 and finished with a record of 3-1. The Vikings defeated Diamond Bar 63-40 in their first game on 11/28, defeated Kaiser 64-45 in their second game on 11/29, were defeated by Villa Park 73-61 in their third game on 12/1 and defeated Murrieta Valley 55-40 in their fourth and final game on 12/2.

Downey is scheduled to play La Serna on Dec. 23, Temecula Valley on 12/27 and Cerritos on January 2nd at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The Vikings will travel to cross-town rival Warren on January 19th in the first of their two scheduled league meetings.

Coach Larry Shelton, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of basketball season and competing for a S.G.V.L. championship. Dominguez will be the team to beat in league play when they return a very talented group of players. The Dons finished last season with an overall record of 19-8 and a S.G.V.L. record of 9-1.

The Vikings finished last season with an overall record of 14-13 and lost to San Clemente 68-63 in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 1A playoffs.



### Mission Statement

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## Construction workers unearth time capsule at Stauffer MS

**TIME CAPSULE:** The time capsule was buried more than 43 years ago and long forgotten.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Stauffer Middle School faculty was shocked when an over 40-year-old, long-forgotten time capsule was found buried on campus last week.

The school is currently undergoing major construction, including the building of a new Library Media Center at the front of the campus. Prior to the start of construction, the area was a wide, grassy area.

According to Principal Alyda Mir, that is where construction workers uncovered quite the surprise.

"They excavated and lo and behold they found this cylinder tube," said Mir. "The Construction guys actually opened it first just to make sure it was all good, and then they brought it to me..."

Contents include several staff and student rosters, photos, A letterman's letter, school documents such as report cards and the school newspaper, and paraphernalia associated with school spirit.

It is estimated that the capsule was inserted into the ground around March 1974, which would coincide with when West Junior High School made the transition to West Middle School. West Middle School was then renamed to Mary R. Stauffer Middle School in 2014.

Not surprisingly, no faculty from 1974 remains at the school.

"None of these teachers are still here," said Mir. "Not one."

However, one former student of the time, Lois Worthy, now serves as a resident substitute on campus.

"I've not left this place in the last 43 years," joked Worthy.

Worthy remembers the capsule being put together and placed on campus, which had to do with the aforementioned transition period that the school was about to undertake.

"The 9th grade class did it because it was the last class here as a junior high," said Worthy. "The following year it turned into a middle school. That last year was the last 9th grade class ever at West Junior High..."

Worthy was around 12 years old and in 7th grade.

According to Worthy, many of the names listed on the documents in the capsule are still in and around Downey.

"Downey keeps its people," said Worthy.

Supposedly, there is another time capsule somewhere on campus from around 15 years ago, however, much like the one recently unearthed, its location has long since been forgotten.

"They've been excavating the back of the campus as well," said Mir. "Maybe it will pop up."

For now, Mir says she hopes to put some of the contents in a shadow box to be displayed in the future administration building.

Mir also plans to rebury the capsule with some of its original artifacts as well as some new current mementos; this time with its location marked and recorded.

## Suicidal man hospitalized after setting house on fire

**DOWNEY** – A Downey home suffered heavy damage Sunday after a suicidal man set the property on fire, authorities said.

The incident occurred Sunday at around 3 p.m. when police officers were called to the single-story, single-family residence at the 10500 block of Pomeroy Road to investigate a potentially suicide person, police said.

Officers found the man inside a vehicle in the home's garage. The vehicle's windows were rolled up and the man was making suicidal statements, authorities said.

The garage caught fire during a brief standoff, prompting police officers to summon the Downey Fire Department.

Firefighters combated the blaze using a defensive strategy until the man was detained by police. Firefighters then began to combat the fire more aggressively, fire officials said.

Officials said that the bulk of fire damage occurred in the garage portion of the home, however, there was also substantial smoke damage done to the home's interior.

The suspect was taken to a local medical facility and placed on hold.

Downey Fire is still currently investigating the official cause of the fire. According to police, potential charges – including arson – are pending.



Photo by Israel Gamez

## Fatal disease targets local citrus trees

**CERRITOS** – Agriculture officials are asking residents to take precautions to protect any citrus trees they may own from a fatal disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening disease.

The disease has been detected in Cerritos.

HLB is not harmful to humans or animals, but it kills citrus trees. There is no cure for the disease and once infected, trees must be removed to prevent the disease from spreading.

Symptoms of the disease include leaf mottling, yellow shoots, twig dieback and small, hard fruit with a bitter taste.

While researchers are looking for a cure to HLB, currently the best way to protect against the disease is to stop Asian citrus psyllids, the insects that can spread the disease from tree to tree as they feed.

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program, an initiative funded by California citrus growers and administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, recommends the following actions:

- Do not transport citrus trees out of your local area.

- Only purchase citrus trees from local, reputable nurseries.
- Never bring citrus trees or plant cuttings into California from other states or countries.
- Cooperate with agriculture officials working throughout the state to stop the pest and disease.
- Inspect citrus trees regularly for signs of the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB. A complete description of symptoms is available at [californiacitrusthreat.org](http://californiacitrusthreat.org).
- Report symptoms by calling (800) 491-1899 and requesting a free inspection by trained agriculture officials.

HLB has been detected in more than 30 citrus trees in California, all in Los Angeles County. Researchers estimate that at least half of the region's homes have a citrus tree on the property.

For more information, please contact the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program at (800) 491-1899.

## Dates announced for CERT training

**DOWNEY** – Dates for 2018 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training have been announced.

Spring session will take place on April 7, 14, and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fall Session will be held Sept. 22, 29, and Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Anyone 18 years or older who is interested in helping his or her neighborhood in prepping for a disaster and providing assistance afterward can register at <https://downeycert2018.eventbrite.com>.

Participants must participate in all three days of training to become certified.

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 NCUA

## Senate passes 'wealth-building tax plan' at expense of the middle class

By Jerome Horton

Over the weekend, the Senate Republicans passed their version of the Trump Tax Plan that will not only impact the amount of taxes you will pay; it will also impact your ability to build wealth, educate your children, preserve your health, plan your estate, and grow your business in California.

It provides a \$10,000 special tax-free college savings credit to pay tuition for private and religious K-12 schools, disproportionately benefiting rich families who can afford private schools, tutors, personal trainers, and parental volunteering. This incentivizes a decline in public school enrollment without any effort to equalize education for all children.

The bill would also bar school districts from using cost-effective, tax-free "advance refund bonds" to lower their debt by refinancing school bond debts. The bill also exempts private colleges with large endowments from a 1.4% excise tax on investment income, including Michigan's Hillsdale College, whose benefactors include President Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos.

You would think education equalization would be a number one priority for Congress given that if we fail to dramatically improve student success in higher education, our nation will suffer from a shortage of skilled workers needed to ensure global competitiveness and national security — according to studies conducted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These measures will place even greater pressure on an already seriously underfunded California public school system.

Here are a few more key provisions of the Senate Republican tax plan. Their plan repeals the mandate requiring Americans to either obtain health insurance or pay a fine, and 13 million Americans are projected to choose not to obtain health care through the Affordable Care Act. This means the government would no longer have to pay billions of dollars to subsidize their health care plans and, unfortunately, poor and middle-income Californians whose employers do not provide healthcare coverage would be forced to pay higher Covered California Health Care premiums or be pushed into local emergency medical care, shifting the burden to the counties and the state.

It continues to allow charitable deductions, but the deduction for casualty losses in the case of theft, floods, or even home damages sustained from California wildfires was eliminated. However, people who don't itemize deductions because they do not have itemized deductions in excess of the standard deduction would not have a tax benefit from their charitable deductions. However, those who itemize their deductions would find it beneficial to actually increase their charitable deductions to offset for the other deductions eliminated.

Property taxes remain deductible up to \$10,000. If you live in Los Angeles County, you should watch out for the 14 different property tax add-ons because they may push you over your limit. Mortgage interest is still deductible if your debt is under \$1 million and the interest is not the result of a home equity loan. Purchasing a home with the equity from another property may not be wise and instead you may want to refinance depending on other factors.

The Senate plan preserves the Alternative Minimum Tax, which hurts filers making between \$200,000 and \$1 million. The plan expands deductions for medical expenses by reducing the threshold limitation from 10% to 7.5%, allowing more people to claim medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of their adjusted gross income. If you are planning an operation with high deductibles, consider getting it done before the end of 2018.

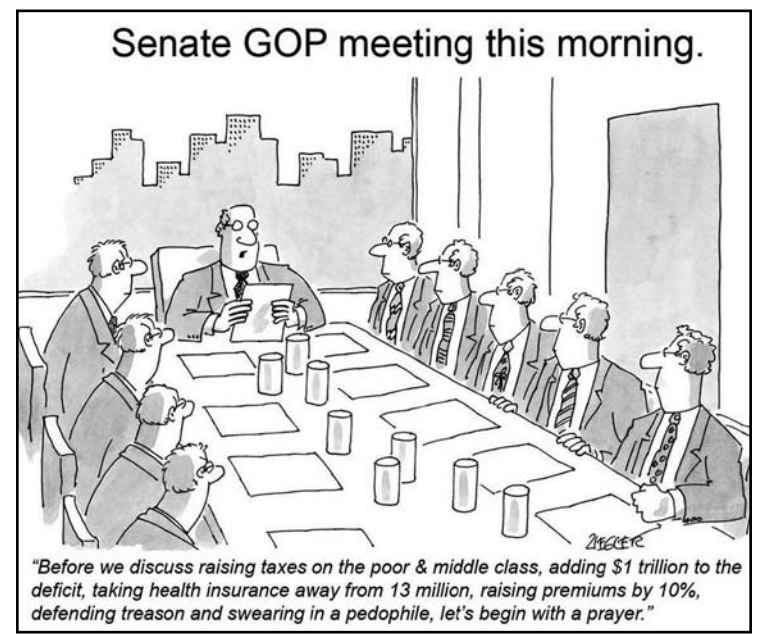
However, the House plan eliminates the medical expense deduction, so wait a few weeks before you incur major planned health expenses.

Other interesting features of the Senate plan include increasing teachers' classroom expense deduction, which would go from \$250 to \$500 — a \$250 benefit for teachers, and retaining the refundable earned income tax credit of up to \$6,500. In addition, the child tax credit would be expanded from \$1,000 to \$2,000, but the additional \$1,000 would be nonrefundable. In the past, if you owed zero taxes you would get a refund for the full credit, but under this plan the refund would apply only to the first \$1,000.

Mostly wealthy Californians, who pay the highest state income and sales tax in the nation, will no longer be able to deduct these taxes. However, if they own a business the tax plan cuts the corporate tax rate to 20% from 35%, which offsets the loss of the state and local tax deduction — but this rate reduction will not go into effect until 2019. The Republicans are hoping to encourage businesses to support their re-election in 2018 in order to preserve the 15% reduction in their tax rate.

The plan also allows businesses to immediately and fully expense new equipment for five years, then phases the provision out by 20 percentage points per year thereafter. The House tax plan lowers taxes on pass-through business income such as partnerships, who pay tax on them on their personal returns under ordinary income tax rates from 39.6% to 25%, and phases in a lower rate of 9% for businesses that earn less than \$75,000, but the Senate plan allows a 23% deduction against the income if it is less than \$500,000 for married couples and \$250,000 for singles.

Additional provisions would subject salary draws to ordinary income tax rates and prevent the re-characterization of wage income as business profit to get the benefit of the pass-through deduction. The Senate plan would also prohibit pass-through entities that provide professional



services, such as lawyers and accountants, from taking advantage of the lower rate.

Both tax plans would require companies to pay a one-time low tax rate on their existing overseas profits. Multinationals would no longer be able to defer or avoid U.S. taxes by leaving profits overseas in switching to a "territorial" tax system. Currently, California companies pay taxes on all of their income regardless of what country they are doing business in, but they are allowed to defer paying taxes on their profits until they bring the money home.

This is commonly referred to as a "worldwide" tax system. This sounds like a good thing until you take a closer look. As the old saying goes, "the devil is in the details," because this provision could provide a huge windfall for rich multinational companies while hurting California employees in the long run.

The next step is for the Senate and Congress to reconcile their differences and present a final bill to the President, which he will undoubtedly sign. Stay tuned, because the language is evolving — including proposals to exempt cruise ships from taxes while docking in Alaska, allowing deductions on credits related to expenditures in connection with legal marijuana sales, and exempting kombucha tea from alcoholic beverage excise tax.

I suggest that you consult a tax expert on wealth-building tax strategies such as estate planning; converting your salary income to investment income; avoiding California's high gas tax by buying an electric or hybrid vehicle, which could provide you up to \$7,500 in tax credits; and consider making a donation to your local public school — it is going to need it.

**Jerome Horton is the member for the 4th District of the California Board of Equalization.**

## Consumer Reports: Winners and losers from Senate tax bill

Contributed by Consumer Reports

The Senate passed its version of a wide-ranging tax bill (PDF) early Saturday, with Republicans characterizing it as a win for middle-income taxpayers and for businesses that will help grow the American economy.

But the final bill, which was amended up until the vote at 2 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, shows some clear winners and losers. It also differs from the House version passed in mid-November. The two plans would need to be reconciled and approved by each chamber.

Several measures in the Senate plan could help middle-income taxpayers, at least for the first few years after the bill's enactment. It eliminates the \$4,050-per-person personal exemption, and it doubles the standard deduction—meaning more people and families could end up with no federal tax bill, and others could see larger refunds.

Supporters say that the significant drop in corporate taxes from a top 35 percent to a flat 20 percent—along with other changes to business taxation—would spur significant improvements in the economy and job market overall. That's in spite of estimates that the bill would add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit after 10 years.

Critics say the plan would benefit corporations and the wealthy at the expense of the poor and lower earners. They say the deficit caused by the bill would eventually require painful cuts in public services, as well as in entitlements such as Medicare.

Here's a breakdown of who would be most likely to win and lose if the changes become law:

### Likely Winners

- Those who take the standard deduction. Most individuals and families taking the standard deduction would see a tax break under the plan, according to multiple analyses. For those who itemize, it's less certain that their tax burden would go down.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center puts the average tax benefit for households making \$50,000 to \$75,000 at \$850. (The U.S. median household income is around \$59,000.)

"If you're taking the standard deduction now, you'll most likely get a tax break," says Michael Kresh, a certified financial planner based in Islandia,

N.Y. "But if you itemize, there's a 50-50 chance you'll pay more." Kresh calculated that one of his clients, making \$200,000 but with \$30,000 in property taxes and \$12,500 in state income tax, could pay 24 percent more federal tax. "Most New Yorkers making \$200K or less would probably not consider themselves wealthy," he says. "Yet here we are with rising taxes."

- Families with dependents. In addition to benefiting from a higher standard deduction, families whose income qualifies them for a child tax credit would get more per child: \$2,000, vs. \$1,000 under the current law and \$1,600 in the House bill.

- Teachers of grades K-12. Educators could double their deduction of out-of-pocket school expenses, to \$500. By contrast, the House bill cuts the deduction entirely.

- People with expensive medical bills. For 2017 and 2018, taxpayers could deduct the amount of medical expenses that exceeds 7.5 percent of their adjusted gross income. After that, they could deduct in excess of 10 percent, as the law is today. The House bill does not allow for the deduction of medical expenses at all.

- Wealthy, self-employed people. People who have structured their businesses as sole proprietorships, partnerships, and other special entities—also known as pass-through businesses—could shelter 23 percent of their income from taxation. A study by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center found that the change would mainly help people who make significant income through hedge funds, private equity firms, real estate development, and similar investments, and not small businesspeople.

- Wealthy taxpayers in general, and their heirs. With the change in tax brackets, married people filing jointly would pay a tax rate of no more than 35.8 percent on more than \$1 million in income, compared with the current top tax rate of 39.6 percent. A change in the estate tax would allow

their heirs to shelter twice as much inherited wealth or gifts as before: nearly \$11 million for an individual and nearly \$22 million for a couple.

### Likely Losers

- Those without private health insurance. The Senate's proposed elimination of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate could nudge an estimated 13 million Americans out of state healthcare marketplaces established by the ACA, according to an estimate by nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. They could voluntarily end up with no health insurance. Many analysts have suggested that the exit of those individuals also would drive up premium prices for those who remain in state healthcare marketplaces by an average 10 percent a year.

- Folks living in high-tax areas. The Senate version, like in the House version, kills the deduction of state and local taxes, except for \$10,000 in property taxes. Residents of locations with very high property taxes—California, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, in particular—would lose a portion of the valuable write-off.

- All of us, by 2026. Unlike the permanent drop in the corporate tax rate, tax breaks for individuals would mostly expire in 2026. An analysis of an earlier Senate bill draft by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation found that by 2019, taxpayers making \$30,000 or less would pay more, as a group, than they do now. By 2025, the last year in which the Senate measures would be in place, only those making \$1 million or more would still be paying less in taxes. The following year, all taxpayers would pay more than we would pay if the current tax structure stayed the same.

A contributor to that development is a new, permanent inflation factor that would move taxpayers up to a higher tax bracket more quickly than under current law.

## 5K disrupts church parishioners

Dear Editor:

I'm writing today to express my outrage at what occurred yesterday morning as I and others attempted to get to our places of worship on a bright Sunday morning.

Sure, I knew the parade was Sunday, but we've always been able to get to church (St. Mark's for me).

After seeing Downey Avenue closed, I went up Brookshire, just to find the road closed at Cherokee with the road blocked going both north and west. I needed to go west. I managed to squeak by the barriers, only to be yelled at by a city worker. Hearing that we were attempting to get to our church, he let us go, but not before telling us we wouldn't be able to "get out."

Arriving at church, I found others who were turned back and had to park several blocks away and walk. The capper was one of our members who is handicapped and in a wheelchair with a health aide. They were literally stopped by one of our fine officers in blue, made to surrender their driver's license and registration, and were told, "I'll be giving this information to the district attorney to follow up on." They did make it through, but were quite shaken.

Since when can a city prohibit citizens from engaging in their constitutional right to worship? I'm sure all the churches located on Downey Avenue had the same issue.

Whoever planned a 5K to be run on a Sunday morning, closing all the major roads through downtown Downey where all these churches are located, should have their head examined. I hope someone in city government, or the chamber of commerce, can figure out a more appropriate time for this activity.

**Dan Vaughn  
Downey**

## What did Guerra know?

Dear Editor:

I am very disappointed in Mario Guerra statement in the Nov. 16, 2017 article on State Sen. Tony Mendoza.

Guerra stated he was aware of allegations against Mendoza since 2014, when he was a Downey city councilmember, yet he said nothing about it until now. Considering the amount of negative campaign ads during his run for the State Senate seat, on both sides, I am surprised that this did not come up until three years after the election.

What this says is that Guerra knew about this happening for three years and did nothing to protect the victims. Everyone knows Guerra is one to speak his mind, regardless of popular opinion, but how does something this serious just slip his mind?

The only explanation for this slip is he did not know about this at all and is now trying to create a bigger story to justify why he did not win the 2014 election. This is the textbook definition of a political statement, but it also is a bit confusing.

Did he know about this for three years and say nothing about it so he could save it until it was most beneficial for him politically, even though there were victims that should have been protected? Or did he not know about it until the story broke and he added his statement to the Downey Patriot article to benefit him politically?

I am not trying to justify the possible actions of Senator Mendoza. If the allegations are true, he should resign his seat immediately. But if Guerra knew about these allegations for three years and said nothing, then he is just as responsible for allowing it to continue.

**Jesus Davilla  
Downey**

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STAFF

**JENNIFER DEKAY**  
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**MICHAEL ROBINSON**  
Display Advertising

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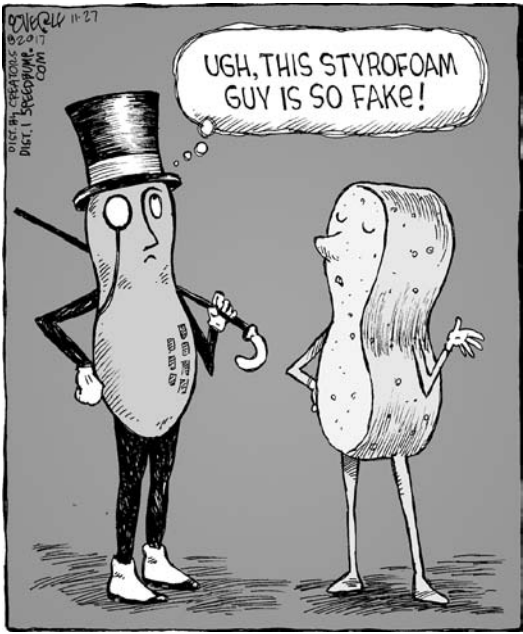
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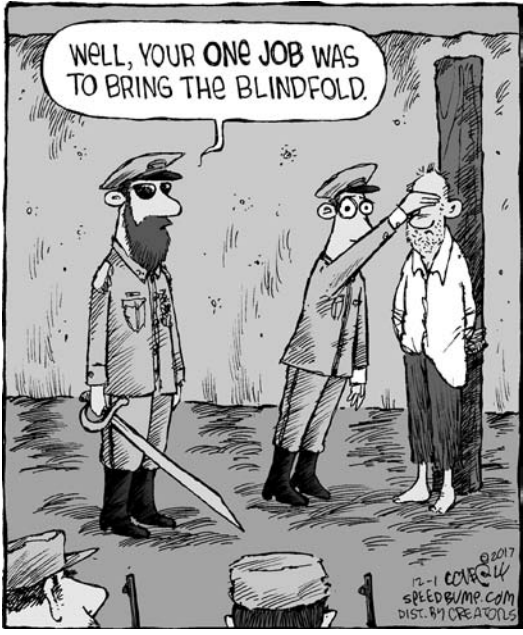
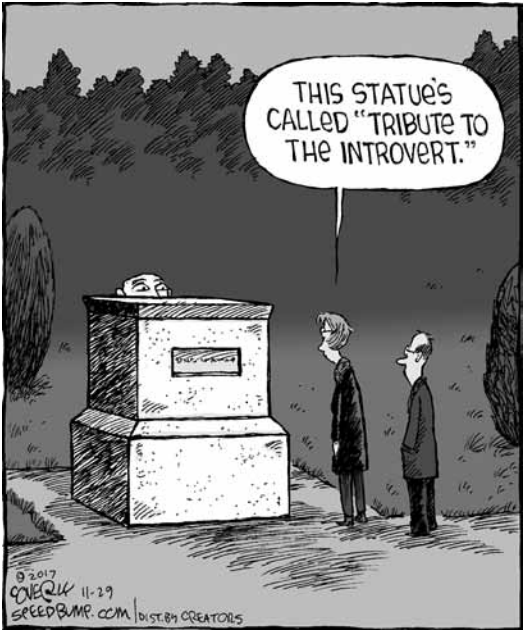
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### 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 Barbara 869-1044.  
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

**TUESDAYS**  
 9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 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 Alex Lopez 441-7947.  
 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 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., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.  
 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 Paula Mayfield, (562) 923-3518.  
 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 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.  
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.  
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.  
 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.  
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.  
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 pm: Lions Club, at Coco's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.  
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.  
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.  
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.  
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

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

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

### On This Day...

- Dec. 7, 1941:** Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The U.S.S. Arizona was completely destroyed and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized. A total of 12 ships sank or were beached and more than 160 aircraft were destroyed.
- 1962:** Great Britain performed a nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site.
- 1963:** Instant replay was used for the first time in a Army-Navy football game.
- 1967:** Otis Redding recorded "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay."

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

#### TURKEY LEFTOVERS: But not all edible

by S.N.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Now see here . . ."
  - 5 Royal decree
  - 9 Just sat around
  - 14 Star Trek officer
  - 18 Spanish squiggle
  - 19 Nobel Institute city
  - 20 Part of TNT
  - 21 Unpleasant responsibility
  - 22 Popular pets originating in Turkey
  - 24 Fruits exported from Turkey
  - 26 Cooperative effort
  - 27 Opposite of "fan"
  - 29 Club for greens
  - 30 Mideast airline
  - 31 Overtime rival of Ritz crackers
  - 32 London's \_\_ Modern gallery
  - 33 1984 Olympics star
  - 36 Cavalry weapon
  - 37 Crowded around
  - 41 Mag's space seller
  - 42 Staple of Turkish cuisine
  - 44 Blu\_\_
  - 45 Inventor Sikorsky
  - 46 Rhineland refusal
  - 47 Useful facts
  - 48 Isn't keeping up \_\_ Mahal
  - 50 Turkey's highest point
  - 54 \_\_ Park, NJ
  - 55 Move through
  - 57 Composer Ned
  - 58 City east of Philadelphia
  - 59 Larks' lodgings
  - 60 Signaled, in a way
  - 61 Hedge plant
  - 62 Gung-ho
  - 64 American Idol winner
  - 65 Become an expatriate
  - 68 Clubs for fairways
  - 69 Whom Turkey's largest city was once named for
  - 71 Torontonian's last letter
  - 72 Extremely urgent
  - 73 Mulch material
  - 74 " \_\_ be in England . . ."
  - 75 Signaled, in a way
  - 76 Cooking fuel
  - 77 Strait of northwestern Turkey
  - 81 Discontinue
  - 82 Periodic table slots
  - 84 Architect Saarinen
  - 85 San Diego team
  - 86 Extra conditions
  - 87 Shots in the dark
  - 88 Golf standards
  - 89 Right away
  - 92 Mostly Ghostly author
  - 93 Rome-based airline
  - 97 TV physician of Turkish descent
  - 99 Tourist draw at the ancient Turkish city of Ephesus
  - 101 Food regimen
  - 102 "No one can beat me!"
  - 103 Mattress size
  - 104 Smartphone display array
  - 105 Family members
  - 106 Rustic retreat
  - 107 Longings
  - 108 Cattle enclosures
- DOWN**
- 1 Merchandise grouping
  - 2 Gymnast Korbut
  - 3 Dashboard display
  - 4 Slangy sound of a fall
  - 5 Pivotal
  - 6 Dr. Watson exclamation
  - 7 Low-row PC key
  - 8 Panasonic rival
  - 9 Going to happen
  - 10 Small change
  - 11 About six trillion mi.
  - 12 Blunder
  - 13 Longtime SNL announcer
  - 14 Mitigate
  - 15 Army division
  - 16 Racing sled
  - 17 UN member, 1945-1991
  - 18 Art on biceps
  - 23 Astronaut Shepard
  - 25 Compacts, for instance
  - 28 Polite interruption
  - 31 Does without
  - 32 Wrongful removal
  - 33 Bonnie of blues rock
  - 34 Painter Degas
  - 35 Historic "gift" delivered to ancient Turkey
  - 36 Water near the Sorbonne
  - 37 Traditional break time
  - 38 Venerable Turkish shopping center
  - 39 Older quarter-back depiction
  - 40 Bagless vacuum brand
  - 42 Creator of the Lorax
  - 43 Fathered, as foals
  - 46 " \_\_ to the Future" (Alaska motto)
  - 48 Arboreal mammal
  - 50 Western highlands
  - 51 Most Egyptians
  - 52 Physician of thesaurus fame
  - 53 Fight site
  - 54 29-season sitcom mom
  - 56 Giant of sci-fi
  - 58 Trouser fabric
  - 60 Point, in geografia
  - 61 Simone on NYPD Blue
  - 62 Chain of hills
  - 63 Common computer font
  - 64 Highways and byways
  - 65 I Love Lucy landlady
  - 66 High-strung
  - 67 Moves cautiously
  - 69 Altoids alternative
  - 70 Florida State squad, informally
  - 73 Seen everywhere
  - 75 Marinara, for instance
  - 77 Craig's boss in Skyfall
  - 78 Web user
  - 79 Joyful exuberance
  - 80 Quarter-front word
  - 81 Family excursion of a sort
  - 83 Numerous Louvre works
  - 85 Major annoyance
  - 87 Absolut competitor
  - 88 Thinks ahead
  - 89 Contributes (to)
  - 90 Small singing group
  - 91 Mysterious sign
  - 92 Checkbook remnant
  - 93 Oscar role for Whitaker
  - 94 Literary luminary
  - 95 Rustic retreats
  - 96 Orny equine
  - 98 Significant period
  - 100 Be obliged to

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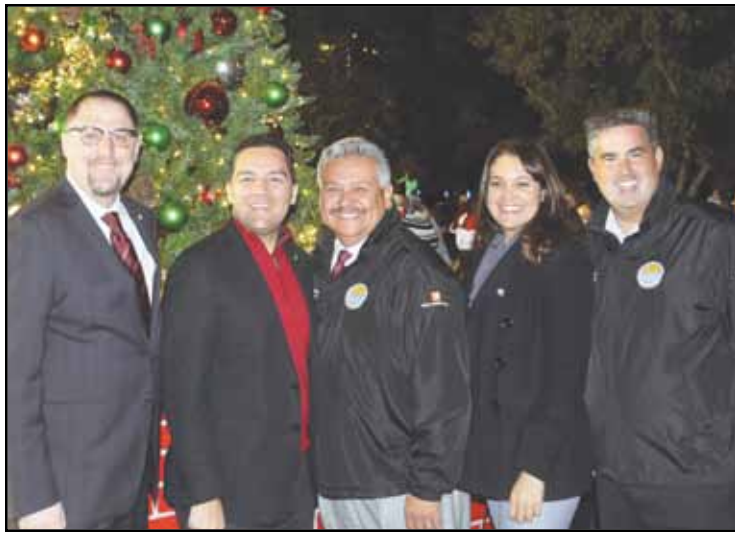
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.



## City of Downey tree-lighting ceremony

12/4/17  
photos by Alex Dominguez



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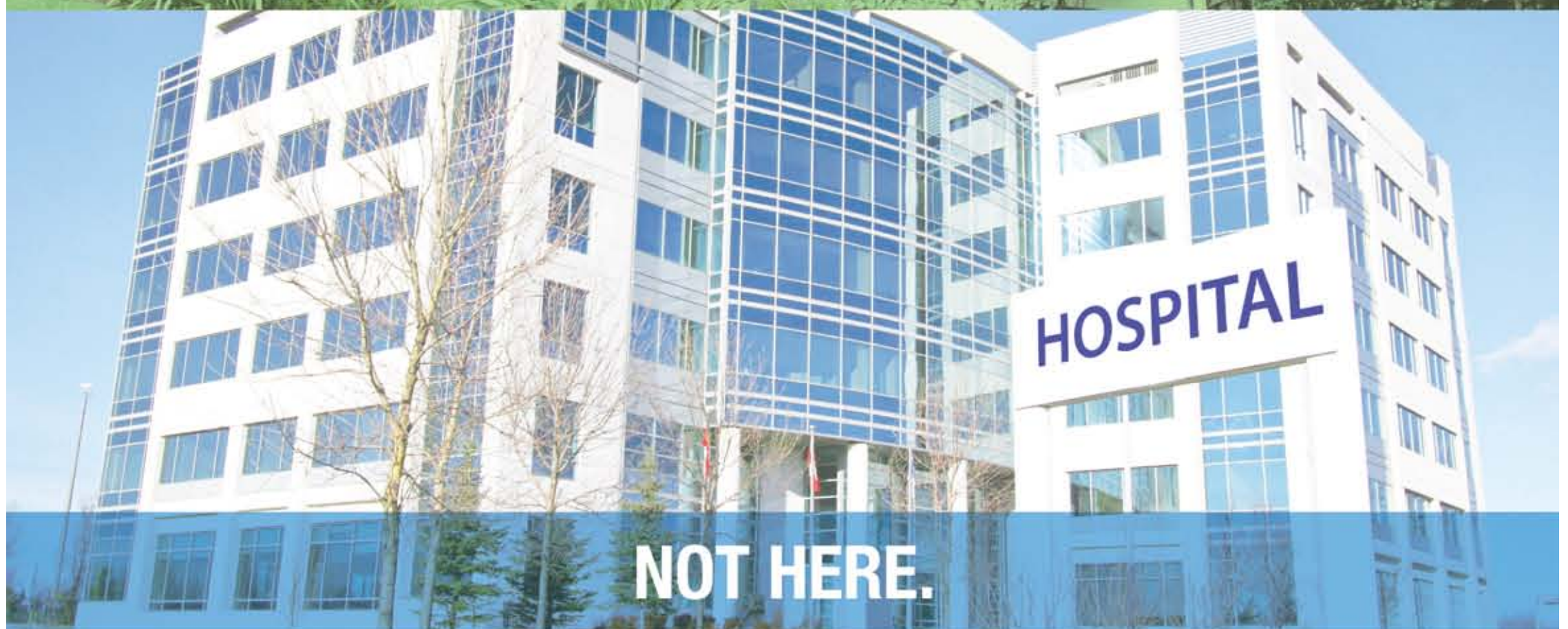
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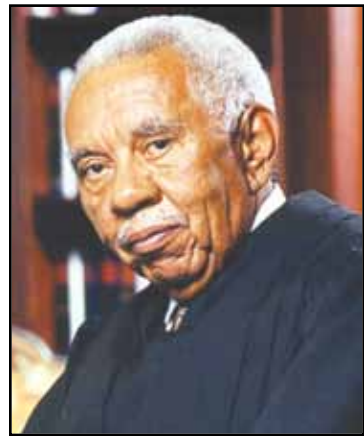
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## Ernest Finney, South Carolina's first black chief justice



**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – Ernest Finney, South Carolina's first African-American chief justice, died Sunday. He was 86.

South Carolina Deputy Supreme Court Clerk Brenda Shealy

confirmed Finney's death but did not have details on how he died. Finney was suffering from dementia in May 2016 when he drove away from his home, prompting a frantic 90-minute search that found him safe two counties from his Columbia home.

Finney spent a lifetime breaking racial barriers in South Carolina. His rise to the top job at the state's highest court in 1994 was just another groundbreaking step. The path he forged has been well followed. A woman or an African-American judge has been South Carolina's chief justice in all but one of the 23 years since Finney was elected to the seat.

Finney was one of just a handful of black lawyers in the state when

he graduated from the former South Carolina State College law school in 1954. Finney had to work as a waiter and other jobs to make ends meet, and the first time he attended a State Bar meeting it was as a waiter at a Myrtle Beach hotel because the state lawyers' organization was still all white.

But the longtime Sumter resident became a successful civil rights lawyer. He was elected one of the state's first black legislators since Reconstruction in the early 1970s and became the state's first black Circuit Court judge in 1976.

The Legislature appointed Finney to the Supreme Court in 1985 as the first black justice since Reconstruction. He served six years as Chief Justice before retiring in

2000.

Although he knew he was a role model, Finney never made race an issue while on the court.

"I didn't accomplish anything," he told The Associated Press in an interview when he retired. "I attribute whatever success I've had to the people of this state who have afforded me genuine opportunities."

Two of the most significant cases he heard came late in his tenure as chief justice.

In April 1999, the court ruled that all South Carolina school children were entitled to a "minimally adequate education." The ruling, written by Finney, was in response to a lawsuit by many of the state's poorer school districts that challenged the way the state Education Department distributed money.

That October, the court ruled the Legislature did not have authority to put the fate of the state's \$3 billion-a-year video gambling industry in the hands of voters with a referendum. The decision effectively killed the industry.

Finney was born in Smithfield, Virginia. His mother died 10 days later from complications, and he said that inspired him throughout his career.

"I feel a necessity to try to do a little more with my life than I might have otherwise ... to justify my existence," he said.

As an only child, he followed his father, a teacher, as they moved around Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Finney moved to Orangeburg in 1946 when his father was named dean at Claflin College.

He recalled that his father, who wanted to be a lawyer, took several boxes of law books over a number of moves that ended with them living in Orangeburg.

"For some reason, I have always felt that if America was to live up to its promises to all people, I thought the law would be the basis for change," Finney told the AP.

## Mitch Margo, original member of '60s pop group The Tokens

**LOS ANGELES** – Mitch Margo, a member of the group behind the hit song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" in the early 1960s, has died at his California home. He was 70.

His family said Margo died Nov. 24 in Studio City but did not specify the cause.

He was an original member of the Tokens, the singing group that based their hit on a recording of a Zulu folk song.

Margo was a high school student in Brooklyn when the Tokens formed and recorded the song. During his career, he also played piano, guitar, bass, drums and percussion, and worked as a producer.

In early 1961, the Tokens released a single for Warwick Records titled "Tonight I Fell In Love," which scored No. 15 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and earned the group an opportunity to perform on the television program "American Bandstand."

The popularity that the band garnered as a result of this performance brought it new recording opportunities, culminating in its cover of Solomon Linda's "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" for RCA Victor Records. It reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, where it remained for three weeks.

The same track peaked at No. 11 in the UK Singles Chart.[1] Both



"Tonight I Fell In Love" and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" sold more than 1 million copies, and were awarded gold discs.

From 1962 to 1970, the group released nine more songs that scored the Top 100. Jay Siegel was the lead vocalist on all the Tokens' hits including "I Hear Trumpets Blow" (1966) and "Portrait of My Love" (1967).

Beginning in 1963, The Tokens also began serving as record producers for other artists, such as the Chiffons, Randy & the Rainbows and the Happenings. Their production company was called Bright Tunes and they also created their own record company, B.T. (Bright Tunes) Puppy Records.

Margo's survivors include his sons, Damien and Ari; a brother, Phil; and a sister, Maxine, as well as nephews and a niece.

His death was reported by the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times.

### In Memory of Anna M Farina

May 25, 1956 - November 25, 2017



Anna M Farina, age 61, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 25, 2017 surrounded by loved ones while attending a wedding celebration in the redwood forest of Navarro, CA. She graced the Downey community for nearly 30 years. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 25, 1956, she emigrated to the United States in 1981 and settled in Downey in 1988. Her five children grew up through the Downey Unified School District and two of which have returned to teach in the district.

She was not only a mother to her five surviving children but also a mother to anyone in need of comfort, compassion, or generosity. Every Thanksgiving, her home would play host to others who were displaced or otherwise did not have a place to call home. A breast cancer survivor, she will be remembered as a vibrant woman who shared love, compassion, humor, and wisdom with the World.

Anna took the most joy and purpose in being a mother and a Nana to her eight grandchildren. She enjoyed entertaining them with puppet shows, crafting, creating impromptu stories and songs, and singing Argentinean nursery rhymes.

The morning of her last day on Earth, while practicing yoga for one of the first times with some wedding guests, she asked to share some of what life has taught her. "Life will bring on challenges, but don't let your heart harden. My wish for you is to keep your hearts soft. Keep them soft and light." She was, and continues to be a beautiful reminder to LOVE without limits.

Anna leaves behind her 5 children: Pablo, Franky, Danny, Michelle, & Stephanie; 8 grandchildren; sister Andrea Bernal; mother Candida Rosa Ahumada; 6 nieces, 4 nephews, and the countless others who called her their second mother.

For those who were touched by Anna's life, the family will be holding a public memorial service in her honor on December 16th at 11am at First Baptist Church of Downey.

The family has set up a gofundme page to assist with expenses related to the memorial service. [www.gofundme.com/inmemorialofAnnaFarina](http://www.gofundme.com/inmemorialofAnnaFarina)

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November 27, 2017

Dear Constituent, Family Member, Neighbor and Friend:

First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for your long time and unwavering support for my efforts to represent you in Sacramento. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as I work to bring state programs and resources to our district to improve the quality of life for you and your families.

**The climate across our country has changed!** Regrettably, serving your interest has become more challenging as the current national climate has become strained given the issue and discussions of workplace environments. Along with the tense climate has come a series of accusations and revelations regarding the behavior of some Legislators. A number of these accusations are unsubstantiated and arise years after the incidents allegedly occurred, causing some to jump to conclusions without the benefit of a complete and thorough investigation. Unfortunately, I have been the subject of such claims regarding my tenure while representing your interests. It is most unfortunate that some media have looked to capitalize on the national climate and chosen to generate news that is controversial in order to gain rating shares allowing them to sell expensive time to advertisers.

**I recently became the subject of vague allegations.** In my case, I first heard from the media that a terminated employee made an allegation against me during a routine exit interview. I immediately contacted the Senate Rules Committee (the Senate's Human Resources department) seeking information and guidance. The Rules Committee directed me, verbally and in writing, to refer all media inquiries to its staff as it was a personnel matter. My inability to respond has allowed innuendo, smears, and the settling of political scores to play out in the media while I am constrained by the Rules Committee restrictions. I was pleased to learn that the Senate has recognized that the current process is broken and needs to be fixed immediately.

**I am hopeful that the recent allegations will be addressed fairly and transparently.** The Senate Rules Committee announced recently that it will install a new, independent outside legal team to handle all employee concerns. Fairness and due process is all that I ask. It is the pillar of our American system and I am confident that a fair process will reveal that the allegations are baseless.

**In the meantime, I continue to be fully committed to serving you** by ensuring the same level of quality service you have come to expect and that I have always provided you, your families and your neighbors.

**Finally, I would like to take this time to wish you and your family the best for a safe and joyous holiday season.** Here's wishing you all the joys and wonders of the holiday season and may this festive season fill your life with bright and precious moments...and bring you lots of blessed and wonderful surprises.

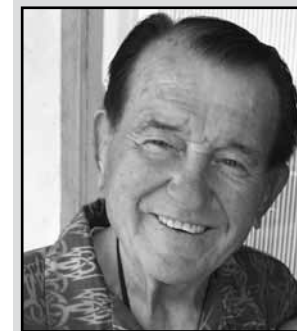
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### In Memory of James Harleston Linden Sr.

May 26, 1929 - November 25, 2017



James Harleston Linden Sr., born May 26, 1929 in Grayson, Texas, a resident of Downey the past 60 years, passed away at his home on Saturday, November 25, 2017 surrounded by his family. A beloved father and husband, James was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Peggy Linden, and grandsons Christopher Clark and Michael Linden and great-granddaughter Angel Guzman. James is survived by his wife of six years, Phoebe Linden, and his children: David Linden (David (Cassandra), Summer Linden); James Linden Jr. (Carrie, James, Richard and Peggy Linden); Scott Linden; Deanna (Esquiel) Linden Guzman (Chimimara Clark, Crystal Clark, Christopher Clark \*\*D.O.D. 10/28/99, Camie (Jorge) Calzada, Eloy (Becka) Guzman); Robin (Evelyn) Linden (Lauren, John, James, Hayden); Vel (Michael) Akseven (Tanner Akseven); Wendy (Frederick) Linden (Albert (Veronica) Parral); Misty (Stephan) Hausmann (Tabetha Sandberg, Linden Hausmann); Pix (Darrel) Linden (Raine, Abby); Dutch (Kristine) Linden (Justin, Emily, Hunter, Aurora); and Jerry Hoffman.

James served this Nation honorably in the United States Army and the United States Marine Corp, in which he served two deployment tours in Korea. James was a businessman in South Gate for over 35 years, as well as a member of the South Gate Elks Lodge and South Gate Optimist Club, and serving as president of the South Gate Chamber of Commerce from 1984-1985.

James had a flair for cracking jokes and always being a positive person; even on his death bed he still managed a little bit of that familiar humor. There will be a private family and close friends memorial on Saturday, December 9, 2017. In lieu of flowers please make a tax deductible donation in James Linden's name to the Downey Rose Float Association ([www.downeyrose.org](http://www.downeyrose.org)) or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ([www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)).

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# Southern California Dance Theatre presents 'Nutcracker' at the Downey Theatre

By Ray Wyman Jr.

**DOWNEY** – There are many holiday traditions. Only a few stand out for the way they draw together both family and community. Tree lighting ceremonies are one. Watching a community performance of Tchaikovsky's timeless Nutcracker ballet is another.

Southern California Dance Theatre and Academy is preparing for their 23rd season performance of the Nutcracker. If past years are any example, this event will be a great treat for family and community.

Two performances are scheduled this year; December 16 and 17; at the Downey Theater in Downey. More than 100 cast members and volunteers have been preparing since September and now – at this point – busier than ever putting finishing touches on props, costumes, and performance.

"It's the love of dance that drives us," says Paula Vreulink, the director, and producer of the performance and a co-founder of the dance troupe. "Our mission has always been to inspire young dancers through a collaboration with professionals. The benefit to the community is a perfect

blend of family and tradition. This production is a heartfelt celebration of dance."

According to Vreulink, about half of the cast members are younger performers. The youngest is three years old. They will join on stage with paid professional and semi-professional dancers, aged 18 and older, for a traditional display of the classic ballet, with a slight twist.

"Our audience will see a humorous and family friendly version of Nutcracker," she says. "It is also highly inclusive with a diverse range of performers in terms of their age, ethnicity, and even skills. Being inclusive is the message of our company. I think our audience will identify with what we have prepared for them."

"Inclusion for us means giving an opportunity to every student performer who dreams of performing," she says. "If they have a desire to do their best, then I think it's our responsibility to train them and open a stage for them to perform."

The Southern California Dance Academy is a nonprofit dance school based in Long Beach, CA. It's fully supported by donors and volunteers. Vreulink herself donates

all her time for choreography, rehearsal, and the production.

Southern California Dance Theatre "puts on the show," says Vreulink, while the "Academy" trains and rehearses the students. A few of the student performers are from other dance schools like the Downey YMCA.

Among the featured professional dancers is Jestoni DagDag who will be performing the role of the "Cavalier." A rising star in the local dancer community, "Jest" was noted for his work when he was a student at UC Irvine.

He regularly performs with Shaun Boyle & Artists for performances in New York, Texas, and Arizona. He also teaches contemporary dance workshops at the academy.

Jackie Schiffer will dance in the role of the Sugar Plum. Schiffer has received training from the Orange County Dance Center and the School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center in New York City. She is currently a student at the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. Her talents have been featured in Pointe Magazine.

Zeraphine Butcher is a talented 10-year-old who will play the role



"Nutcracker," as presented by Southern California Dance Theatre, will be performed at the Downey Theatre next weekend. Courtesy photo

of "Clara." She is the youngest dancer from the Academy to play in this demanding role. She has performed in several other of the Academy's productions and now dances competitively in the Youth America Grand Prix.

"I'm inspired every time I see

our students work," says Vreulink. "Our gift to the community is to see the magic of their hard work come together as part of a great tradition that spans generations."

For more information regarding the Southern California Dance Theater and Academy, see their

website at scdt.com

For more information regarding the upcoming performances at the Downey Theater, go to www.downeytheatre.org or call (562)861-8211.

# Student shares her story as a Muslim woman in America

**PROFILE:** Cerritos College student Reham Eihab Zin immigrated to the U.S. from Egypt five years ago.

By Jocelyn Torralba Talon Marks

**NORWALK** – Reham Eihab Zin migrated from Egypt five years ago with her mom and siblings to the United States where she thought it would be a nice place to start a new life.

When she got to the United States she had a hard time adapting to customs, the most difficult thing for her was English.

"I came from a small town in Egypt- I thought the U.S. had a lot of freedom, different cultures, faces and languages and I wasn't used to this," Zin said.

Zin said her "hijab," (head

covering) means honor, belief, faith and purity and that is really important to her.

It's so important to her that she can't leave her house without it, "Hijab is part of my body, I can't go outside without it," Zin said.

In high school she would get dirty looks and rude comments. She mentioned that someone said to her "What are you doing here? You're a terrorist, you should go back to your country."

Zin said now she doesn't deal with that much negativity anymore compared to grade school.

People ask her about her hijab and the significance of it and gets compliments on it, she added that she feels good in her Hijab and it makes her look different.

One of the biggest differences

between Egypt and U.S. that Zin noticed is that everyone takes care of each other and she felt safer there than she does here because people in the U.S. are more individualistic.

"If you're surrounded by people like you who are exactly like you that's safer for you than if you're by someone who hates you and misunderstands you as a terrorist or something," Zin said.

She shared she practices "Salat," where she prays five times a day and has a hard time in school finding a quiet place to pray; and if she didn't find a place to pray she would listen to her daily prayers through her phone.

Back in Egypt she would feel free to pray anywhere she wanted because she would see everyone practice Salat.

Praying five times a day is

considered the second most important pillar of Islam's five pillars according to Zin.

She added that being a Muslim woman means to be different, kind to others, and a good person.

Zin said terrorists don't represent Muslims. "We're not [terrorists] because they have different religion and beliefs, they kill people in different religions not just Christians and Muslims.

"I don't want to represent those people -- just because I'm a Muslim person doesn't mean I'm a terrorist; because Islam is purity," Zin said.

She added that people shouldn't judge her religion because of another person's actions.

Zin is currently attending Cerritos College as a kinesiology major.

Zin's classmate, Connor Wood, a political science major, said she is the most helpful person in his class.

She always helps him with his homework and "is a really nice person," Wood said.

He mentioned that one day he told her he never had Egyptian food and the next day she brought him

dessert that her mom made and thought it was a nice gesture.

Jocelyn Torralba is a student journalism student at Cerritos College.

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# Bellflower hosting comedy festival Dec. 21

**BELLFLOWER** – The City of Bellflower and The Stand Up Comedy Magazine will present five nationally recognized comics at the Bellflower Comedy Fest on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Bristol Civic Auditorium.

This special event filled with food and laughter for the entire family will feature, Stephanie Clark, Tom Clark, Bruce Jingles, Brian Kiley and Frazer Smith.

Tickets on sale now for \$25 per person at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3131798](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3131798).

Stephanie Clark, the female comedian of the show, has been featured on Huff Post and hosts a well acclaimed web show, "The Clarks!" She is committed to helping rescue dogs and produces fundraiser shows for Pets for Vets and other nonprofits through her company, Funny Girl Events.

Married to Stephanie Clark, Tom Clark has appeared on such shows as TBS's "Conan O'Brien," CBS's "Late Late Show," "The Bob & Tom Radio Show," and Comedy Central's "Premium Blend."

Clark has traveled nationally and internationally performing stand-up comedy and has also appeared on such shows as NBC's "Outsourced," TNT's "The Closer," and the Hallmark made-for-TV movie "The Wish List."

Bruce Jingles' comedic brand blends just the right amount of wit, impersonation, and essential timing. A man of many hobbies, Jingles captures a crowd with a propensity for marijuana, a love of comic books,

and a soft spot for storytelling.

He has taken his act all over the country and overseas to entertain troops as part of several USO tours. Jingles' has been showcased on networks such as ABC, VH1, NUVOTV, two Showtime specials and has even appeared on TMZ.

Brian Kiley has appeared several times on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Kiley has been a staff writer for Conan O'Brien since 1994 and is currently the head monologue writer.

He has been nominated for 16 Emmy Awards and is the winner of the 2007 Emmy Award for Writing in a Comedy/Variety Series. He has had a recurring role on the Cartoon Network's "Delocated" and has been on "The Bonnie Hunt Show," Comedy Central Presents, The CBS Morning Show, and more.

Frazer Smith is not only one of the funniest comics on the LA scene today, he is also one of comedy's most well connected personalities. After 30 years in the business as a comedian, Frazer has made stops on numerous TV shows, as well as, being one of the nation's most listened to Radio Jock's on KLOS for many years.

Frazer has also served as host on NBC's "Rockin' America."

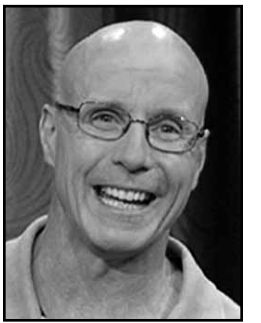
Before the show gets underway, the Youth Cultural Arts Foundation

(YCAF) has put together a special pre-show performance beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Company Ink, a group of local improv comedians featuring Bick Brown, D.J. O'Hea, Kelsey Cole, and Lili Ari, will engage the audience with humor and skits. Shane Selloria, the 1st Place Winner at the recent YCAF Talent Show, will also share the pre-show spotlight with his comical puppeteering.

In addition to the show, each attendee will receive a "Buy 1 Entree, Get 1 Entree 50% off" dining discount at participating restaurants in the City of Bellflower. The dining promotion will be valid from December 21, 2017 to January 6, 2018.

The Bellflower Comedy Fest will serve up food for purchase prior to the show (prices vary-cash only) starting at 5:30 p.m. All attendees have an opportunity to win a variety of door prizes including \$100 restaurant gift certificates, tickets to the Conan O'Brien Show, and more.

Participating restaurants include: Bellflower Diner, Bellko Korean BBQ, Chris' & Pitt's BBQ, Enrique's Mexican Restaurant, Fantasy Cakes Bakery & Coffee, French Quarter Creole Bar & Grill, Fronk's Barbecue, Hambone's BBQ Bar & Grill, Johnny Rebs', Marino's Italian Restaurant, Omega Burgers, Ricci's Italian Restaurant, Subway, and Toko Rame Indonesian Restaurant.



Brian Kiley

# Shared Stories: My Family's Journey to Korea and Manchuria

**Seeking economic opportunity in the years before World War II, Nobuyo Avery's father moved his family from Japan to Korea, and then to Manchuria. They did not return to Japan until the end of the war. In this piece, Nobuyo recalls bits and pieces of her childhood. 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 Nobuyo Avery

Being a farmer's second son, my father left home and worked as a salesman's helper as young as age 13 or 14. He sold kimono and obi material, and he sold medicines, carrying a bag on his back and going from house to house. He thought he knew how to make money, but was unsuccessful in all the efforts he tried.

From the early 1920's to 1945 many Japanese people began searching for opportunities. Some Japanese moved to Hawaii, South and North America, Korea, and then Manchuria, seeking opportunities as farmers, businessmen, or engineers.

My father dreamed to be rich making silk from the silkworms when he and other men went to Seoul, Korea, a new land for Japanese businessmen to prosper and succeed. Our dad failed in the rice and charcoal shop and almost went bankrupt in business in Korea.

Four of us were born in Seoul, Korea, and the fifth child, a boy, was

born in Manchuria where we lived to the end of the Pacific War, or World War II.

Because my birthplace is not Japan but Seoul, Korea, I have been misunderstood and treated as if I were a Korean native. The U.S. government had to make sure that I was not a communist from North Korea when I came to the United States, asking me if I really was of Japanese nationality.

I often wondered why I must repeat that my parents are from Japan, and they happened to live in the foreign country. People did not understand that Korea and Manchuria were part of Japan until the end of World War II.

During the years in Seoul, Korea, my oldest sister remembers speaking in their language and playing with Korean children. She also recalls carrying brother on her back and babysitting for mom. Other people praised her for her works. I was too young to recall any of those years.

Recalling stories of my birth, I heard so many times my parents saying, "When you were born we were expecting a boy." My oldest sister was 3 and another one was 2. My father must have been wishing for a boy. I had a complex that I should have been a boy for a long time.

It was common in those days to end girls' names with "ko." At the time of selecting my name, my dad had a new idea. "We named Yasuko and Junko, so the third daughter will be named Nobuyo instead of Nobuko."

The Chinese character "Nobu" is also pronounced "shin" or "shinjiru," meaning: trust, faith, or believing. So I was stuck with the unusual name Nobuyo.

I was a very healthy baby and sucked my thumb for comfort. This habit

lasted until I was age 8. One brother was born when I was 15 months old. Mom was really busy with the newborn and caring for three daughters besides helping her husband's business in selling charcoal and rice. I am sure that my thumb helped me to sleep and calm me down.

My oldest sister comments, "When you were a baby, you sat quietly with the dirty diaper without crying." I did not fuss or complain when I was wet or messy, knowing that mother was too busy with caring for younger brother or customers in the shop. What a good baby I was!

My father decided to move to the new land Manchuria and open a new business. We moved from Korea to Hoten, Manchuria, when we were 5, 4, 2, and 1 years old. I cannot help but wonder how difficult it was for our parents to move with four little ones. Our youngest brother was born when I was 4.

The winter in Hoten is very cold. After it snowed, there were piles of snow on the sidewalks here and there, and they were frozen solid.

One fine day young children were using the mound of snow piles as play areas, climbing and sliding. I joined them for fun, but my leg slipped and my face fell on sharply frozen snow that cut deeply above my right eyebrow. I was maybe 4 or 5 years old. How upset and worried my parents were to see my face covered with blood!

Mother must have used iodine after washing my wound with hydrogen peroxide to let it heal naturally. That was the first aid kit for her. I have a scar today to remember that accident.

Recently I met a Korean woman whose father was a successful silkworm businessman in the 1940's. My father could have been a pioneer in this silkworm business.

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The Downey Patriot  
Thursday, May 25, 2017  
Vol. 16 No. 7

HEALTH: Taking tetanus serious  
FEATURES: Perfect attendance  
NEWS: Commencement speaker  
NEWS: Gang member sentenced

**City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support**

**Weekend at a Glance**  
Friday 70°  
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**THINGS TO DO**  
Memorial Day Ceremony

**FROM OUR FACEBOOK**  
City continues financial support of Stay Gallery

**Downey Patriot wins 5 journalism awards**







# POETRY MATTERS

## Raking Leaves

There is something soothing about the scrape of a rake, the rhythmic process of pulling dead leaves, bending to pick them up, dumping them in curbside lawn bags, something soothing about the way the sun warms your hair one of these last seventy-degree days as you labor past soreness in your arms, until you forget emails to send, reports to file, take-home work you left at the office, until you forget the splendid mums will shrivel, the tree that sheds now will wear nothing soon, and you will curse the cold.

-Brian Fanelli from *Waiting for the Dead to Speak*. NYQ Books, 2016.

In California we get Indian Summers and do garden work well into December. But beneath appearances, winter has already begun its work, which is to undo summer. This almost-sonnet ends in a broken line as the speaker wakes up to the unlovely fact of the cold and that take-home work left behind. Fanelli is a recipient of the Devil's Kitchen Poetry Prize. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks



Downey's AYSO Girls Under 10 Extra team, Legacy, beat out 5 AYSO Extra teams from Garden Grove, Mission Viejo, La Habra, and Los Alamitos, to become the Cerritos Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament Champions last weekend, winning five games in three days. They won the final versus Garden Grove 4-3.

The girls were also champions of their regular season without having a single loss.

Back row: Team Manager Cynthia Soriano, Alexia Murrillo, Helen Soriano, Jocelyn Diaz, Emma Aviles, Serena Almaguer, Asst. Coach Sergio Almaguer. Front row: Head Coach Walter Castillo, Mia Gallegos, Kayla Kidd, Amaris Blanco, and Alondra Sanchez. Not pictured Britney Ferrufino).



Each year, Loyola High School of Los Angeles participates in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. This Teach-In, now in its 20th year, is an annual gathering for members of the Ignatian Family, to come together in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together.

This international meeting brings together students and staff from Jesuit high schools and universities in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Canada to engage in discussions on immigration, the environment, economics, and education alongside Members of the House and Senate.

This year's key issues included immigration reform, mass incarceration and racism. After two days of workshops in the nation's capital, the student delegates met with U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Royball Allard to discuss and advocate for the passage of a "clean DREAM Act."

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Jesus Rodriguez, Loyola High School instructor and Downey resident; Oscar Garcia, Mr. Andrew Mazur, Loyola High School (instructor); (Sophomore) Nicolas Rodriguez, Downey resident; Congresswoman Lucille Royball Allard; (Junior) Matthew Winnek; (Junior) Brandon Ortiz; (Sophomore) Skyle Phillips, Downey Resident; and (Junior) Adam Miller.

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### Lawmaker launches 'There Ought to be Law' contest

**DOWNEY** – Assemblymember Cristina Garcia is once again holding her "There Ought to be a Law" contest.

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

Applications can be submitted online and are due by Jan. 15.

The contest is open to residents of the 58th Assembly District. All ages are encouraged to enter.

Please visit <https://a58.asmdc.org>.

### Downey High's Winter Concert set for Dec. 20 at theater

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School's Music Department will present its 2017 Winter Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Downey Civic Theatre.

Under the direction of Cory Olariu and Raul Guerrero, the concert will feature performances by all of the school's bands and choirs.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at [downeytheatre.com](http://downeytheatre.com) or at the box office.

The concert is open to the public.

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Grammy-winning legend Smokey Robinson will return to the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) on Saturday, Jan 13 at 8 p.m.

Robinson will perform the iconic songs that made him a legend, such as Just to See Her and The Tracks of My Tears.

Tickets, which start from \$95, can be purchased at the CCPA Ticket office, [cerritoscenter.com](http://cerritoscenter.com), or by calling (562) 916-8500.



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### Historical Society's open house

**DOWNEY** – Downey Historical Society will host a Christmas open house on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Historical Society is located at 12540 Rives Avenue.

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# Study: Millennials are beginning to purchase more homes

Millennials are quickly ascending in the world of real estate, taking out the greatest share of all new mortgages and buying up the most homes in the lower price tiers—but they're taking on way more debt to do it, according to a new analysis of mortgage origination data from Optimal Blue by realtor.com.

The realtor.com economic team examined records for over 3.2 million mortgages originated from January 2013 to October 2017, and sliced the data by age group to get a sense of how the buying habits of millennials and other generations are changing.

"It's a mixed bag for millennials," acknowledges realtor.com's chief economist, Danielle Hale, pointing out that the generation born between 1982 and 2000 continues to face challenges. Already burdened with student loan debt, they're also starting families and buying houses in an economic environment in which home prices have generally been increasing faster than wages.

As home prices have steadily gone up, so have median purchase prices. Millennials were getting mortgages on homes with a median purchase price of \$237,000 in September 2017, while Generation Xers (born between 1965 and 1981) were buying homes with mortgages on a median price of \$280,000. Baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) fell between them, at \$258,000. However, millennials are narrowing the

gap in purchase price with other age groups.

Millennials are also buying a greater share of homes in all price tiers (among those buying with a mortgage). Since late 2013, they've been buying up the most starter homes, priced below \$200,000. As of this summer, they're also purchasing the most low- to middle-tier homes, costing \$200,000 to \$350,000. That's in part because there simply aren't enough starter homes on the market to meet demand—but also because some older millennials are already trading up to second homes. If the current trajectory continues, millennials will surpass Gen X to also claim the most middle- to upper-tier homes, priced at \$350,000 to \$700,000, by the end of 2018.

Although millennials remain far behind Generation X in purchases of high-end homes, priced at \$700,000 and up, they just overtook baby boomers in that price category in the summer of 2017.

Despite millennials taking on a greater amount of debt as they reach for those more expensive houses, their debt-to-income ratios haven't gone up much—a sign that their incomes are improving as well. In October 2015, the average debt-to-income ratio of a millennial mortgage applicant was 37%. In October of this year, it was 38%.

So could it be that the kids are all right?

"The important metric is looking at down payment percentages and debt-to-income ratios, and the fact that those have been pretty consistent for millennials is a positive sign," Hale says.

Millennials are putting down almost as much, percentage-wise, as members of Generation X—and have been for some time. The average down payment for mortgages originated by millennials is 9.1%, just slightly lower than the four-year high of 9.4% in October 2014. Gen X buyers have been putting down an average 11% on their mortgages since early 2013.

"When you consider where [millennials] are in the homeownership cycle, it's reassuring that their down payments have been constant," Hale says.

While the share of mortgages originated by baby boomers has flattened in the past few years, the share of loans taken out by millennials has increased from 28.6% in October 2013 to 39.8% in October 2017, surpassing Generation X mortgages in January 2017. Gen X mortgages declined from 46.1% in October 2013 to 38.0% in October 2017. And with the youngest millennials in their late teens, the buying power of this huge generation has not even hit its peak.

Realtor.com

# Holiday splurges to avoid if you plan to sell next year

While merrymaking and gift shopping are likely top of mind, you may have to keep some of those celebratory urges in check if you're planning to sell your home next year. Why? Because many holiday season activities can come back to haunt you when your house is on the market, even if it's months later.

Here are five holiday splurges to avoid if you hope to have a smooth home-selling process next year.

## 1. Don't do decorations that could damage your home

Yes, we know you want to display your holiday spirit. But avoid any decor that could leave behind damage you'll have to repair later—holes in the walls, marks on the floor, screws that mar the side of the house. If you have a live Christmas tree, be careful not to let spilled water sit on hardwood or laminate flooring, which can warp and stain. And it should go without saying that you don't want to paint walls dramatic colors; save the winter wonderland mural for another year.

Think about curb appeal, too. "Avoid blow-up animals and reindeer in the yard," advises Flor Blanchett, a Realtor at the Keyes

Company in Florida. "When you take those things out, especially in the South, they leave spots on the grass that are totally dead for months afterward."

## 2. Don't clutter your home with huge holiday gifts

The mantra of anyone trying to sell a home? "Declutter, declutter, declutter," says Blanchett.

Don't buy a bunch of gifts that are going to have to be hidden away after the new year.

"If you have young children with toys all over the place, I advise packing it all away in a container under the stairs or somewhere people won't see it," she says.

The basic organizational rule is that you don't want your closets to appear bursting at the seams, which will give the impression there's not enough storage.

Obviously, nobody is saying that Santa has to skip your house this year, but consider forgoing the bulky play kitchen or drivable toy car in lieu of smaller action figures or electronics.

## 3. Don't buy appliances or furniture that may not fit your future home

It's another prime gift-giving no-no. Avoid shelling out for appliances, furniture, or anything that's specific to your current home's layout. Unless you already know where you're moving, that gorgeous (and large) new couch might not fit correctly in your new digs. And that sparkling new washer-dryer set is probably going to be a gift for the buyers, since appliances usually stay with the home.

## 4. Don't take on too much holiday-related debt

This is not the year to live out your "new car with a giant bow on it" fantasies. Taking on debt, whether it's credit card debt or a car or boat loan, can hurt your chances of getting approved for a mortgage when you're ready to buy your next home. So, don't go out and buy expensive things; a lender will take note and it could work against you. When in doubt, ask first.

"Speak with your lender if making a real estate purchase after the sale on how much you can

spend on big-ticket items," says Dillar Schwartz, a Realtor in Austin, TX.

## 5. Don't surprise the family with a new pet

The holidays are a common time for families to get a new furry friend—there are even adoption

drives based around getting a holiday pet. However, right before you're ready to sell your house is not a terrific time to be housetraining a puppy or teaching a cat not to scratch the couch.

Showing a house with a pet can be challenging enough even when it's not a new pet, and then they're going to have to go through the wildly pet-unfriendly process of

moving. However much you're longing for a cat, pup, or capybara, it just makes sense to wait until after the move. Especially the capybara.

Realtor.com

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**NEW AGENTS - CENTURY 21 MY REAL ESTATE COMPANY**

Century 21 My Real Estate welcomes **Matthew Chaidez** to the office. Matthew has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton and has a background in sales. He has a strong work ethic and is ready to begin providing excellent service to his clients as part of the Century 21 My Real Estate team. To reach Matthew, call (562) 927-2626.

Century 21 My Real Estate welcomes **Brenda Vaca** to their office. Brenda holds a B.A in English from U.C Berkeley. After earning her Master of Divinity & Master of Arts in Biblical Languages she served as a Reverend for the United Methodist Church. Clients looking to receive the highest level of professionalism should consider Brenda Vaca. To reach Brenda, call (562) 927-2626.

Kenneth Rea recently joined the team at Century 21 My Real Estate Co, after completing the training he received by attending our accredited Real Estate School. Kenneth is currently studying Business Finance at Cal Poly Pomona and will be joining his Father Robert Rea, who is currently a Realtor at Century 21 My Real Estate. To contact Kenneth, call (562) 927-2626.

Romina Lomeli recently joined the team at Century 21 My Real Estate Co. Romina previously worked at a Law Office and spends time taking care of people with special needs. Her patience and compassion will serve her well in her real estate career. She is bilingual and is ready to assist you with your real estate needs. To reach Romina, call (562) 927-2626.

Century 21 My Real Estate would like to welcome **Freddy Garcia JR** to the office. Freddy is currently a General Manager in the food industry. He has great leadership and customer service skills and is taking advantage of all the training and tools that Century 21 My Real Estate has to offer. Freddy is bilingual and is excited to begin working in Real Estate. To reach Freddy, call (562) 927-2626.

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<b>Spectacular!</b> Beautiful and well maintained home located in the convenient and desirable area of Downey. Features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace in living room, dining area, covered patio, two car garage, central AC and central heating. Close to school, shopping, and transportation. Call Today!!!	<b>This Is The One!</b> Very nice home near Cal State Long Beach. New paint inside and out. Updated kitchen counters, sink, dishwasher. Wood type floors throughout. One bath updated. 2nd bath has some updates. New front door, newer windows, and new garage door. Extra large backyard. Some updating throughout home. Call Today!!!	<b>Spish Splash!</b> Here is the perfect pool home you have been waiting for and at a price your buyer will love. This cute 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home sits on a large lot with a huge backyard. Home has been updated with wood laminate floors, crown molding, windows, master bedroom has private bath, patio for entertaining overlooking backyard with pool and spa. Call Today!!!	<b>Welcome Home!</b> Charming 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with 1 car garage. New stucco and newer windows. Nice front yard with parking for 3 cars. Big backyard with lots of fruit trees. Owner built extra rooms with an extra bathroom. Buyers to perform due diligence and verify permits. Close to schools and shopping. Call Today!!!
<b>This Is It!</b> Stunning four bedrooms plus spacious bonus room, situated on large pie-shaped lot located on a premium cul-de-sac street! This Mission Viejo South upgrade home comes with a newer roof, windows, kitchen, rear deck, and paint. Great open space with large upstairs master suite. This home is close to transportation and shopping. Call Today!!!	<b>Don't Wait!</b> This beautiful home is ready for a large family in need of extra space. Great condition, open kitchen with oak cabinets, formal dining room, elegant living room, and family room with exposed beams and fireplace. This extra large master bedroom has enough space to place three king beds! Call Today!!!	<b>Must See!</b> Beautiful and well maintained home located in a convenient and desirable area. It features 2 bedrooms/1 bath, kitchen with granite counter tops, fireplace, large living room, close to school, shopping and transportation. Call Today!!!	<b>Century 21 My Real Estate School</b> <b>BRE APPROVED</b> <b>LIVE REAL ESTATE SCHOOL</b> <b>\$299 Reimbursed</b> Call Darlene - ext. 119 (562) 927-2626



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JimSpathos@aol.com  
CalBRE #01296368

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**AVAILABLE!**  
  
**Wow! What a Value!**  
2 bedroom, 1 bath home  
in the City of Huntington Park.  
**Priced at \$415,000.**

**PROBATE!**  
  
**Fixer Upper!**  
Huntington Beach 4 bedroom, 2 bath.  
Large rear yard.  
**Call for info! 562-618-0033.**

**COMING SOON**  
  
**FOR SALE**

**COMING SOON!**  
  
**Orange Estates Custom Home**  
3 BD, 2 BA, extra large lot w/ RV  
parking near Rio Hondo Golf Course,  
Furman Park & Rio Hondo Elementary.

**Mario's Recent Activity**  
**SOLD!! SOLD!! SOLD!!**

- 10316 Morning Ave. **SOLD!**  
Downey, CA 90241
- 7403 3rd St. **SOLD!**  
Downey, CA 90241
- 9547 Stamps Ave. **SOLD!**  
Downey, CA 90240
- 7816 8th St. **SOLD!**  
Downey, CA 90241
- 6600 Warner Ave., #52 **SOLD!**  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
- 9784 Karmont Ave. **SOLD!**  
South Gate, CA 90280

**AVAILABLE!**  
  
**Ranch Style Home!**  
3 BD, 2 BA, living room w/ fireplace.  
Built in 2004 on a 1.47 acre lot.  
**Call Carrie for more info! \$479,900.**

**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**North Downey Deal**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath in quiet  
neighborhood. Hardwood floors.  
**Call for info! 562-618-0033.**

**Prime Northeast Downey!**  
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,  
2,400 sq. ft. living space,  
10,000 sq. ft. lot size. Needs work.  
**Listed at \$850,000!**  
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JimSpathos@aol.com

**FOR SALE!**  
  
"This Could Be You!"  
I found my clients their 4 BD, 2 BA  
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**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**House of Distinction!**  
3 BD, 3 BA Downey home. 2,014 sq. ft.  
living space on a 7,538 sq. ft. lot!  
**Priced at \$699,900.**

**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**Turnkey with Guest House!**  
Downey 4 bedroom, 2 bath home.  
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**IN ESCROW!!!**

**10 Unit Apartment Building!**  
Bell Gardens, CA 90201  
**Listed at**  
**\$1,400,000**  
**Mario Did It Again!**

**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**Downey Pool Home!**  
This Downey home has 4 bedrooms and  
2 bathrooms. 1,986 sq. ft. living space on  
a 9,274 sq. ft. lot. **Priced at \$589,900.**

**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**20,000 SQ. FT. Lot!**  
North Downey home has 1,800 sq. ft.  
of living space with tons of potential  
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**IN ESCROW!**  
  
**Bright & Light Cypress Home!**  
This 3 BD, 1.75 BA home features  
a living room w/ fireplace, updated  
kitchen, central A/C, 2 car garage  
& a great backyard! **Probate Sale!**  
**Call Pam for info at 562-537-1134.**  
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

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**JUST LISTED**



**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN**



**Quality & Elegance**

6 BD, 6 BA, almost 5,000 sq ft living space, dual staircase entry, spacious kitchen with built-in appliances (including Viking stove) and large island, family room with fireplace, and master suite featuring master bedroom with balcony, sitting area, large walk-in closet and beautiful master bathroom including jetted tub, large tile shower and sauna room. The home also features surround sound speakers, intercom system and video surveillance system. The property has an automatic gate that leads to an extra tall 2 car attached garage.  
**LIST PRICE: \$1,320,000**

**Perfect for a Large Family**

5 bedrooms, 4 remodeled bathrooms, newer kitchen with high end cabinets & granite counter tops, and a living room & dining area. Master BD & BA with high ceilings, bathroom with jetted tub, tile shower & dual sinks. Remodeled like new in 2003.  
**LIST PRICE \$875,000**

**JUST LISTED**



**Investor or Owner-User Special**



4000 sq ft retail/office corner property with central A/C, hardwood floors & remodeled bathrooms. Property has combination of large retail & office space. Located in Long Beach near 91 & 710 freeways.  
**LIST PRICE: \$499,000**



**Nice Area, Nice Price**



3 BD, 2 BA home in NW Downey with nice tile roof & 2 car detached garage. Living room with fireplace, tile floors, den covered patio, inside laundry, central air and heat, and spacious yard.  
**LIST PRICE: \$599,900**

**FOR RENT!**



3 BD, 2 BA home for rent near Warren High School. Property has rumpus room with fireplace, laminate hardwood floors, central heat, ceiling fans in each room, and plenty of driveway parking.  
**RENTING FOR \$2,600 PER MONTH**

**www.MichaelBerdelis.com**