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Police arrest man for grabbing teen girl

DOWNEY – Police arrested a 28-year-old man last week on charges that he grabbed a teen girl walking home from school.

The girl said she was walking in the area of Rives Avenue and Brunache Street at around 2:20 p.m. May 9 when the man asked her name.

She ignored him and kept walking, the girl told police.

The suspect -- Sala Robert Pires -- allegedly grabbed the girl's backside before running southbound on Rives.

Based on the girl's description, police arrested Pires at a residence on the 7800 block of Stewart & Gray Road.

The girl positively identified Pires as her attacker.

After his arrest, prosecutors levied additional charges against Pires, alleging he was behind a similar attack April 9. In that incident, Pires allegedly grabbed a woman's buttocks as she walked down a street and then fled.

Pires was charged with one misdemeanor count each of sexual battery and child molesting. He was scheduled to be arraigned Friday.

If convicted, he faces up to 18 months in jail.

Police believe Pires may be responsible for other similar incidents in Downey.

Anyone with information is urged to call Detective Michelle Garcia at (562) 904-2391.

Eric Pierce, editor



Donas anyone?

▶ After going viral on Facebook, a south Downey donut shop is thriving for its Mexican twist on an American dessert.

By William Odis Martin Contributor

DOWNEY – When patrons come to Donas, they come for an experience rather than deep-fried flour draped in sugar.

Whether it's to take a selfie with the pastel decor, or to try the purple, glittery-goodness, also known as Bidi Bidi Bom Boms, made in honor of the late Chicaña superstar Selena, something is possessing people to come from far and wide to experience Downey's newest foodie destination.

David and Ashley Vazquez, along with Ashley's sister, Amber Bobadilla, combine to create a truly a terrific trio. Together they have cooked up a perfect recipe for success.

So far, the family has launched two successful dessert ventures in two years and plan to open new locations in the Valley very soon.

They have managed to blend classic Mexican flavors and incorporate them into innovative doughnut recipes. Their uniquely Mexican twist on the classic American dessert has food fanatics in a frenzy.

Don't get it twisted: Their phenomenon isn't cultural appropriation by any means, regardless of what some may claim.

Everything from the ingredients, to the employees, to the owner's intentions, are authentic and of the highest quality.

Their first shop, Horchateria Rio Luna, opened its doors in February 2016 and has since garnered a huge following on social media by capturing the hearts and stomachs of South Los Angelenos who have been



long underserved when it comes to artisan eateries.

"Me and my wife were always going out to Long Beach or downtown LA because that's where all the cool and trendy shops were. When we started Horchateria, we wanted to bring that vibe of a Downtown LA coffee shop to the city of Paramount, where we grew up," says David. "Now with Donas, it is kind of the same thing. We wanted to bring our unique twist on speciality donuts to the community of Downey."

Even they could not have planned for the hype created by a FoodBeast feature that ran online earlier this month. Since then, the little doughnut shop has gone viral and made them an overnight success, luring customers from as far away as Las Vegas and the Bay Area.

But not everything has been sweet and easy for the startup doughnut shop.

While Horchateria was thriving, the first six months at Donas were slow, according to David. They were losing money daily but with

a bit of resilience and the glory of social media, everything began to turnaround for them earlier this month.

The world was introduced to their picturesque pastries when FoodBeast featured them on their social media platform in a now viral video. That same day, they ran out of doughnuts for the first but not the last time.

You don't have to be a glutton for glitter or a hypebeast to appreciate their craft doughnuts, but expect to pay premium prices for their high quality products.

When the shop was in its early infancy, a couple customers complained that the doughnuts were too expensive or too stale, according to some Yelp reviews, but now people are complaining that the doughnuts are always sold out.

In a sense it is a good problem to have, but a problem nonetheless.

Donas is located at 8636 Imperial Hwy. in Downey.



David Vazquez, Ashley Vazquez and Amber Bobadilla, owners of Donas.

Photos by William Odis Martin

Downey restaurant grades

Anders Juice Bar
7230 Firestone Blvd
Date Inspected: 5/14/18
Grade: **A**

Dollar Tree
8330 Firestone Blvd
Date Inspected: 5/14/18
Grade: **A**

CVS Pharmacy
8400 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/14/18
Grade: **A**

CoCo's Restaurant
7900 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

Denny's
8350 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

Dickey's BBQ
8855 Apollo Way Ste 208
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

Gloria's Cocina Mexicana
7401 E Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

California Fish Grill
8990 Apollo Way
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

Marie Callender's Pie Shop
7860 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/10/18
Grade: **A**

Los Pollos
7940 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

El Taco
7870 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

Los Amigos Gol Course
7295 Quill Dr.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **B**

My Home Chinese Restaurant
8716 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

Pastgloria 3 Luceros
12935 Paramount Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

Tacos El Gavilan
7949 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

Mr. M's Tacos
8642 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 5/9/18
Grade: **A**

Amapola (Meat Dept)
7420 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/8/18
Grade: **A**

Amapola Super Deli and Market
7420 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/8/18
Grade: **A**

Amapola (Bakery / Tortilleria)
7420 Florence Ave.
Date Inspected: 5/8/18
Grade: **A**

Walmart Bakery
12270 Paramount Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/8/18
Grade: **A**

Walmart Deli
12270 Paramount Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/8/18
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 71°

Saturday 71°

Sunday 73°

THINGS TO DO



Strawberry Festival

All Weekend - College Park in Oxnard, 10 am to 6:30 pm

More than 50 food booths, contests, rides, attractions, concerts, celebrity chef demonstrations, and vendors. \$5-\$12



Long Beach Pride Festival

All Weekend - Marina Green Park in Long Beach

Long Beach's second most-attended event, with an estimated 60,000 attendees. The highlight is a pride parade Sunday at 10:30 am. \$25; seniors, veterans, military, and kids 12 and under are free.



Doheny Blues Festival

All Weekend - Sea Terrace Park in Dana Point

Three stages of blues, rock and soul music. Plus craft brew and vendors. \$80-\$475



Long Beach Filipino Festival

Saturday - Silverado Park in Long Beach, 11 am to 6 pm

Filipino-American cuisine, arts, music and dance performances, vendors, children's pavilion, and more.



Heritage of Aloha Festival

All Weekend - Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs, 10 am to 5 pm

A two-day Polynesian festival featuring island cuisine, outdoor marketplace, and Hawaiian music and dance.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@SupJaniceHahn: Downey residents have waited a long time for a rail line to be built to their community and they want it built right.



Downey swimmers have best finish in 60 years

► At CIF Finals in Riverside, Downey's boys swimmers finish in second place overall, their best output since the 1950's.

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Downey High School boys' swim team finished second overall out of 40 schools last Friday night at the C.I.F. Division 4 Finals in Riverside.

This is the best finish of a boys' swim team at Downey High School since the 1950's.

The Vikings had 10 swimmers return for finals this year and was represented in every event, with the exception of the 100-yard backstroke.

The 200 IM relay of Tomas Marquez, Nathan Lopez, Humberto Banuelos and Armando Flores placed fifth overall with a time of 1:42.69. This time marks a new school record.

Senior Angel Lira placed 13th overall in the 200-yard freestyle. In the 200-yard IM, freshman Tomas Marquez finished third overall and set a new school record with a time of 2:00.74. Nathan Lopez placed eighth in the same event.

The 50-yard freestyle was an exciting race to watch with senior Andrew Cabrera taking fifth place in a time of 22.47. In the 100-yard butterfly, seniors Andrew Cabrera and Humberto Banuelos placed ninth and 15th, respectively.

Freshman Armando Flores swam a 50.75 in the 100-yard freestyle and placed 15th overall. The 500-yard freestyle saw two Downey swimmers place in the top nine. Tomas Marquez finished fifth in a time of 4:56.55 and Angel Lira placed ninth.

The 200-yard freestyle relay saw Andrew Cabrera, Jose Salazar Armando and Christian Gonzalez place sixth overall in a time of 1:31.82 and set a new school record in the process. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Downey had two qualifiers in Nathan Lopez and Werner Rosales. Lopez placed second overall with a time of 1:02.94.

The last event of the night, the 400-yard freestyle relay, saw Christian Gonzalez, Jose Salazar, Tomas Marquez and Andrew Cabrera take fifth place.

Coach Delhousay is extremely proud of how well his team swam last Friday night. It capped off an incredible night and season for Downey boys' swim. The Vikings are 2018 S.G.V.L. champions and C.I.F. Division 4 runners-Up.

WARREN BASEBALL: The Warren High School baseball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 20-8 and a S.G.V.L. record of 7-3.

The Bears finished league play in third place behind Gahr (9-1) and cross-town rival Downey (8-2).

Warren hosted Bellflower on Wednesday at Warren in a wildcard game (score unavailable at press time). Bellflower finished their regular

season schedule with an overall record of 13-13-1 and a Suburban League record of 8-4.

If Warren beat Bellflower on Wednesday, the Bears will play Cantwell Sacred Heart later today in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs.

WARREN SOFTBALL: The Warren High School softball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 17-12 and a S.G.V.L. record of 6-4.

The Bears finished league play in third place behind league co-champions Downey (9-1) and Gahr (9-1).

Warren traveled to South Hills yesterday to play in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 2 playoffs. South Hills finished their regular season schedule with an overall record of 19-6-1 and Palomares League record of 12-3. If Warren beat South Hills yesterday, the Bears will play the winner of the Newbury Park/Bishop Amat game next Tuesday.

WARREN BOYS VOLLEYBALL: The Warren High School boys' volleyball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 17-6 and a S.G.V.L. record of 8-2.

The Bears defeated Burbank 3-1 (25-19, 31-33, 27-25 and 25-19) on 5/8 in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 2 playoffs. The Bulldogs finished their season with an overall record of 19-10 and were 9-3 in Pacific League play.

Warren advanced to the second round of the C.I.F. playoffs and was defeated by Arroyo Grande 3-1 on May 10. Arroyo Grande was then defeated by Orange Lutheran, 3-0, in the third round of postseason play. Arroyo Grande finished its regular season with an overall record of 24-7 and a Pacific League record of 10-2.

Coach Lane, his staff and underclassmen will now get ready for next season.

DOWNEY BASEBALL: The Downey High School baseball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 16-13 and a S.G.V.L. record of 8-2. The Vikings finished second in league play behind Gahr (9-1).

Downey hosted Burbank Burroughs at Downey on Wednesday in the wildcard round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs (score unavailable at press time). Burroughs finished their regular season with an overall record of 13-15 and a Pacific League record of 7-7.

The winner of this game was set to face Santa Fe High School on Friday in the first round of the Division 3 playoffs.

DOWNEY SOFTBALL: The Downey High School softball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 23-6 and a S.G.V.L. record of 9-1. The Lady Vikings are the 2018 S.G.V.L. co-champions with Gahr (9-1).

The Lady Vikings hosted Redondo Union at Downey yesterday

in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 4 playoffs (score unavailable at press time). Redondo Union finished their regular season with an overall record of 12-15 and were 6-4 in Bay League play.

The winner of this game will play the winner of the San Dimas/Paloma Valley game next Tuesday.

DOWNEY BOYS VOLLEYBALL: The Downey High School boys' volleyball team finished its regular season schedule with an overall record of 21-4-1 and were 10-0 in S.G.V.L. play. The Vikings are the 2018 S.G.V.L. champions.

Downey defeated West Torrance 3-0 in their first-round playoff game on May 8, defeated Foothill Tech 3-0 (25-16, 25-16 and 25-21) in their second-round game on May 10 and defeated Claremont 3-1 (25-19, 25-23, 22-25 and 25-17) in their third-round game on May 12.

The Vikings traveled to La Palma Kennedy (23-3, 8-2) on Wednesday night in their semi-final game (score unavailable at press time) and will face the winner of the St. Margaret's/Tustin game in the C.I.F. Division 4 championship game if they defeated the Fighting Irish on Wednesday.

The Vikings were defeated by La Palma Kennedy in five exciting sets last season in the C.I.F. Division 4 Final at Cerritos College.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS: The middle school track and field season continued last Thursday afternoon when Griffiths and Stauffer traveled to Warren and Doty and Sussman traveled to Downey.

At Warren, the Griffiths 8th grade boy track and field team defeated Stauffer, 51-35, the Griffiths 7th grade boy track and field team defeated Stauffer, 48-38, and the Stauffer 6th grade boy track and field team defeated Griffiths, 51-34.

The Stauffer 8th grade girl track and field team defeated Griffiths, 48-38, the Griffiths 7th grade girl track and field team defeated Stauffer, 60-26, and the Stauffer 6th grade girl track and field team defeated Griffiths, 52-30.

At Downey, the Sussman 8th grade boy track and field team defeated Doty, 56-30, the Doty 7th grade boy track and field team defeated Sussman, 82-4, and the Doty 6th grade boy track and field team defeated Sussman, 71-15.

The Doty 8th grade girl track and field team defeated Sussman, 69-17, the Doty 7th grade girl track and field team defeated Sussman, 61-25, and the Doty 6th grade girl track and field team defeated Sussman, 67-19.

All four Downey Unified middle schools will now compete against each other at the all-city track and field meet later today at Downey High School. Six city championships will be up for grabs today in addition to the Champions Trophy for most team city championships.

Doty has held the Champions Trophy for the last four years and looks to keep it at Doty.



CRISTINA GARCIA IS LYING

#HYPOCRITE
#TIMESUP

SHE SAYS SHE HAS A PhD FROM USC.

LIAR:

HMG
HEWS MEDIA GROUP

IN A STUNNING ANNOUNCEMENT, DEMOCRATIC STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE CRISTINA GARCIA ADMITTED THAT SHE DOES NOT HAVE A DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (5/8/18)

SHE SAYS SHE HAS A MASTERS DEGREE FROM UCLA.

LIAR:

The Mercury News

Garcia has embellished her resume by falsely claiming to have earned a master's degree from UCLA. (4/24/18)

SHE SAYS IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE.

LIAR:

POLITICO

POLITICO has found that the Democratic lawmaker has embellished a part of her résumé — her claim to hold a master's degree from UCLA — marking the second time in her legislative career that Garcia has been discovered to have made false claims about her educational background.

LYING ISN'T GARCIA'S ONLY PROBLEM:

She also is an accused sexual harasser¹ who makes violent,² racist³ and homophobic⁴ comments, and then uses intimidation⁵ to cover her tracks.

WHO DOES THAT REMIND YOU OF?



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Police officers honored by school board

DOWNEY – Downey Police Department corporals Mike Pope and Kevin Kendall were honored at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting for their support of Downey Unified students and families over the past several years.

Police officers began patrolling Downey Unified campuses in 1998, when the initial school resource officer pilot program began. This program, which is a rotating shift of officers that spend their days off patrolling Downey Unified's three high schools, provides Columbus, Downey and Warren high schools with an armed officer on campus during school hours.

Participating in this program since its inception, Pope and Kendall are two of DPD's 20 sworn police officers enrolled in the department's school resource officer program.

"Working as the resource officer at Downey High is one of the most fun details I've ever done," said Pope. "It's very weird working at Downey since I'm a Warren graduate, but I look forward to my time on campus every Friday."

"I want to thank the district for this opportunity and the school administration for the very special friendship we have

developed over the years."

Both Downey Unified alumni, Kendall retired from DPD in December after serving for 30 years and Pope will be retiring this month after 31 years of service.

"The resource officer program is so powerful for students," said Tom Houts, Downey High School principal who took the podium to say a few words. "The students see a different officer each day and they begin to establish relationships with them and are able to see that they are just human beings, becoming a type of mentor to some students."

Kendall is also a teacher of the Career Technical Education (CTE) Law Enforcement Pathway at Downey High School, his alma mater. Teaching within Downey Unified since 2004, Kendall has educated countless students on the basics of law enforcement.

"I want to thank Phil Davis for starting this pathway," said Kendall. "It's been such a pleasure to work with these students each day and I want to thank everyone for all of their help. Of course I knew the law enforcement codes, but learning the education codes that needed to be incorporated into this pathway was something new to me."

14 teachers, 1 administrator retiring from Downey Unified

► Phil Davis, director of Downey's Career Technical Education program, is leaving in July after 32 years with the school district.

DOWNEY – The Downey Education Association and Downey Unified held a retirement celebration May 11 at the Rio Hondo Event Center for teachers and staff retiring at the end of this school year.

Fourteen teachers and one administrator are retiring. In all, they represent 390 total years of service to Downey Unified students.

Phil Davis, director of CTE (Career Technical Education) and Support Programs, is retiring in July. He has been with Downey Unified for 32 years and has been an integral part of further developing the district's CTE programs.

In 2015, he helped obtain a \$6 million Career Pathway Trust grant to expand Downey Unified's CTE programs and pathways, resulting in the district becoming one of the leading CTE districts in the state.

Davis also facilitated the advancement of the Project Lead The Way programs into all 20 schools, along with being the driving force behind Downey Unified's significant participation in the SkillsUSA state and national competitions.

"Phil has helped grow our Project Lead The Way programs at the lower levels, incorporating Launch at the elementary level, and Gateway at the middle school level," said Board of Education President Bobbie Samperi.

"Downey Unified is one of the very few districts in the nation to provide PLTW from transitional



Downey Unified retirees, top row from left: Kirby Drake (Warren), Marc Lurie (Warren) and Phil Davis (Downey Unified). Bottom row: Jane Chandler (Sussman), Karla Hufenbach (Lewis), Suzan Wilson (Rio Hondo), Maggie Stava (Rio Hondo), Monica Taylor (Rio Hondo) and Mary Esposito (Lewis).

Not pictured: Joy Clark (Imperial), Tracy Garrido (Columbus), Steven Guthrie (Downey), Susan Heckert (Imperial), Jim Quick (Warren) and Jon Zack (Alameda).

kindergarten through 12th grade. This is the main reason why our district as a whole was designated as a National P21 Exemplar District."

Retiring from the elementary school level are Joy Clark (Imperial), Mary Esposito (Lewis), Susan Heckert (Imperial), Karla Hufenbach (Lewis), Maggie Stava (Rio Hondo), Monica Taylor

(Rio Hondo), Suzan Wilson (Rio Hondo) and Jon Zack (Alameda).

The middle school level will only be saying farewell to one retiree this year: Jane Chandler from Sussman Middle School.

Retiring from the high school level are Kirby Drake (Warren), Tracy Garrido (Columbus), Steven Guthrie (Downey), Marc Lurie

(Warren) and Jim Quick (Warren).

"On behalf of the Board of Education, we want to thank you for the almost 400 years of dedicated service you've provided to our students," said Samperi. "Each of you has had a positive effect on children's lives and you are the reasons why Downey Unified is such an amazing district."

VOTE EARLY, VOTE BY MAIL!

A friendly reminder: Mail your Absentee Ballot today!
You can also take the ballot to your Polling Place on Election Day Tuesday, June 5th 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

KARLA V. SALAZAR

for

STATE ★ ASSEMBLY

— 58TH DISTRICT —

Feel free to contact my campaign with any questions about the Absentee Ballot procedures, my platform or to get involved.

Web: www.karlasalazar4assembly.com
Email: karlasalazarassembly58@gmail.com

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MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY

| 58th District Vote for One | Name & Title | Party Preference | Count | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------|-----|
| | CRISTINA GARCIA Math Teacher/Assemblymember | Party Preference Democratic | 184 | ➡ ○ |
| | MIGUEL ANGEL ALVARADO Small Business Owner | Party Preference Democratic | 185 | ➡ ○ |
| | IVAN ALTAMIRANO Vice Mayor/Businessman | Party Preference Democratic | 186 | ➡ ○ |
| | PEDRO ACEITUNO City Councilmember/Businessman | Party Preference Democratic | 187 | ➡ ○ |
| | KARLA V. SALAZAR Educator/Instructor/Businesswoman | Party Preference Democratic | 188 | ➡ ● |
| | MIKE SIMPFENDERFER Father/Victim's Advocate | Party Preference Republican | 189 | ➡ ○ |

I am grateful for your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy and would be honored to receive your vote by Absentee Ballot or at the polls on Election Day.
-Karla V. Salazar
Salazar Assembly 2018
P.O. Box 1433 Downey, CA 90240
FPCC ID# 1403802
Paid by Salazar for Assembly 2018

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The Southeast District Bar Association (SEDBA) held its annual Law Day on May 1 at the Downey Courthouse.

Students from Downey and Warren high schools toured the courthouse, watched small claims, traffic and criminal cases, and were able to ask questions of the attorneys, judges and court staff.

SEDBA President Jesse Arana, attorney Dennis Saab, attorney Gavril Gabriel, and Downey council members and attorneys Blanca Pacheco and Alex Saab guided the students throughout the morning.

Founded in 1934, SEDBA works to bring attorneys, judicial officers, and the public together to promote the law. This year, SEDBA will provide a free legal fair, free legal consultations at Cerritos College, and scholarships at Cerritos College.

"For the last 84 years, SEDBA has been proud to help educate students about the law and the legal profession," said 2018 secretary and treasurer Dennis Saab.



Discovering the vocational and career training offered by the military

► The U.S. military offers trade skills and leadership training to high school graduates, but not everyone will qualify.

By **Mario Guerra**
Contributor

As high-school seniors across the country prepare for life after high school, including advancing to the college or university of their choosing, many graduates are preparing for entry into the United States Armed Services.

In addition to their military training, they will receive specialized training in logistics management, health care, operational organization management, welding and building and over 150 various types of civilian careers.

Often overshadowed by their college-bound peers, military bound graduates are far too often looked at with less than cheerful support – in fact, it's generally the opposite. Some have discussions to persuade them to rethink their plans while others receive less than equal fanfare given to those who have been accepted to a

four-year university.

As Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army, I want parents and family members to know the military has an abundance of programs that lend to the academic development of a student starting with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, also known as ROTC.

Students can join the program in high school and continue with the leadership training into college having their tuition covered while enrolled in ROTC. Upon their graduation they enter the service as officers and debt free. ROTC spends approximately \$300 million in scholarships for students each year to over 1000 universities from Princeton and Harvard to Ohio State and UCLA. The United States Army is the largest single provider of college scholarships in the nation. Most people do not know this.

In addition to leadership and group training, U.S. branches of the military offer specialized training capable of launching a career in a high demand, highly skilled field in the private sector. Most of the military occupational

specialties in the Army have related civilian counterparts which gives our soldiers training and experience that others do not have.

As an example, the U.S. Army offers linguistics, IT specialists, engineers, cyber security, legal and law enforcement, transportation, aviation and healthcare (doctors, dentist and nurses) in addition to music training. The discipline aspects of an enlisted member of the services also helps with maintaining focus on studies increasing their grade point averages (GPAs) above those of non-enlisted peers in similar courses.

Most people don't know that student veterans are also more likely to graduate and have a higher GPA while earning their post-service degrees than their non-veteran counterparts.

Trade skills are also taught including HVAC technician training, truck drivers alongside construction and contractor skills in framing, welding, plumbing, electrical, and landscaping.

Joining the Armed Forces is a noble choice to begin with; something we all can agree that as a voluntary decision commands respect on its own

merits to serve our nation. Add to that the ability to obtain skill sets that allow you, as an individual, to leave the service and engage in the job market with the specialized training provided by one of the world's most elite leadership training organizations – the possibilities are endless.

While less than 3 out of 10 of our graduating high school students are eligible for the Army, the service and skilled training they will receive gives them the elite status that we appreciate so much in our soldiers.

To all the graduates, the future is yours -- make it a positive one for all of us. To all the parents of graduating students, congratulations this is a very special moment indeed. As a parent, I share your excitement. And to those students who have chosen the Armed Forces as their next step in life, thank you for your service and take advantage of all the service has to offer you.

To all may God bless you, care for you and guide you.

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

In Memory of *Alice Mae Fray*

August 18, 1929 - April 1, 2018



Funeral services were held on April 27 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Downey for Alice Mae Fray. Ms. Fray was born on August 18, 1929 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to parents Irvin Bernard Hoover and Bernice Herbert and died on Easter Sunday, April 1, at PIH Hospital in Downey.

She studied at Newcomb-Tulane College in Louisiana, was a medical secretary and later a stewardess for Delta Airlines. She was also a real estate agent and property manager. She donated her time to the Catholic Women's Guild where she met many good friends.

She was a member of the Board of the Downey Symphonic Society, the Downey Symphony Guild, the Assistance League, and the American, California, and Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliances.

She is survived by her daughters Martha Roehl, Nancy Romero and Janet Jacobs; her sons Alan, Darryl and Thomas; her brother IB Hoover; her grandchildren David, Mark, Garret, Amanda, Jonathan, Cristin and Jenna; and two great grandchildren Tyler and Kylee.

Internment was at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Miller Mies Downey Mortuary.

In Memory of *Marshall R. Skinner, Jr.*

February 28, 1935 - May 12, 2018



Marshall R. Skinner, Jr., 83, passed away on Saturday, May 12. He is survived by his son Rob Skinner, daughter-in-law Kelley Garcia; stepdaughter Debra North and son-in-law Mike North; stepson Jim England and daughter-in-law Sue England; granddaughters Kelsey England and Julie Barcia, as well as his great-granddaughter Isabelle and great-grandson Lucas.

Marshall, a Korean War veteran of the Air Force, worked for 40 years and retired from the aerospace industry. In his spare time, he enjoyed traveling, exploring the desert, and working on antique engines as well as on his collection of Packard cars.

He is preceded in death by his wife Phyllis and his daughter Marcia.

Services will be held at Hillside Chapel at Rose Hills on Tuesday, May 22 at 11 am with a short reception following at his home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the American Heart Association.

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As Metro considers new light rail line, it's still unclear if Downey would receive a station

► A proposed light rail system would link Downey and other area cities to Union Station.

One proposed route includes a rail station on the south Rancho Los Amigos campus.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Gateway City community members had their last chance to get informed on the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor project on Tuesday, with Supervisor Janice Hahn and Metro holding an open-house and presentation at City Hall.

The 20-mile light rail project will begin in Artesia and connect the 13 gateway cities, including going through Bellflower, Paramount, Downey, and South Gate before terminating in Downtown LA at Union Station.

"It will totally revolutionize your commute if you're going to Downtown LA," said Hahn.

As of now, it looks promising that the City of Downey will have a rail line station built as a part of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez said that the city has continued to lobby for a station to be built, however the project will first need to get environmental approval before station locations are confirmed. That vote should come early next week.

A representative for Hahn also confirmed via Metro that a Downey stop is being considered in the current plans but added that these plans were still "very preliminary" and that details should be finalized after a further study and technical work by Metro.

According to current plans, the station would be located on Gardendale Street, within the Rancho Los Amigos south campus.

The project is on a timeline to be completed in 2028, according to Hahn.

At Tuesday's meeting, attendees were presented with eight potential routes – four initially proposed and four alternatives created after community feedback from last summer's scoping meetings – labeled "A" through "H."

Alignment A would start as an aerial configuration before transitioning into at-grade, jogging west towards Little Tokyo before transitioning into an aerial configuration before terminating at Union Station.

Alignment B would similarly start as an aerial configuration before transitioning into an at-grade, following on Vignes Street transitioning into an aerial configuration to terminate at Union Station.

Alignments C and D would be parallel to the existing Metro Blue Line as an aerial configuration transitioning at grade to be under the 10 freeway before transitioning back aerially through Alameda Street before terminating at Union Station.

Alignment E would start aerially before transitioning to an underground configuration all the way to Union Station.

Alignment F would again be parallel to the Metro Blue Line starting aerially before transitioning into an underground configuration, before transitioning back to an aerial configuration to terminate at two possible locations at Union Station.

Alignment G would start as an aerial configuration before transitioning to at-grade, heading west into Downtown with stations at Arts District and South Park, before terminating at two possible locations – one closer to 8th and Flower Streets, with service to the existing 7th and Metro Station with a pedestrian connection, and the other closer to 5th and Broadway Streets, to service the existing Pershing Square station also via a pedestrian connection.

Alignment H will start as an aerial underground configuration to reach Arts District / 6th Street Station.

The Metro Board of Directors will vote on the final alignment next week, May 24. Metro staff will be recommending that the board select either options E, F, or G.

Hahn said that she backs alternative E.

"From the very beginning, it had sort of a different alignment up north by Union Station. Because of all the comments we've heard, particularly from this region, they really wanted a convenient 'one-

seat-ride' that they can get on and end at Union Station and not have to transfer," aid Hahn. "If we're going to build transportation projects that get people out of their cars, it has to be convenient, easy, and it has to save them time and effort."

When asked about Downey's preferred route, Mayor Sean Ashton said that the city as a whole had not made a decision yet, however he - like Hahn - preferred route E.

"With option E, you have connectivity to Union Station which is really important because

the northern part of this alignment is the second part that will go from Union Station out to Hollywood-Burbank Airport, and then from there possibly into Santa Clarita, possibly into Lancaster-Palmdale," said Ashton. "That's a northern option, that if you don't go to Union Station, makes it extremely more expensive to connect that part of it."

"Also, with the Downtown area, there were concerns about going aerial, because of the disruptions that they've already had with all the at-grade lines, so they wanted to have something underground. With option E, you're going

underneath Alameda which isn't going to disrupt too many of the buildings and the businesses, gives them access to the line, and as they've shown it's going to be the highest projected ridership out of all the eight options."

Additional information about the project can be found online at metro.net/wsab, or by emailing wsab@metro.net. Community members are also encouraged to follow on social media for updates, at @metrowsab on Twitter or at metrowsab on Facebook. Those with questions can also call 213-922-6262.

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Downey High student wins second place in art contest

DOWNEY – Downey High School senior Andres Flores won second place in the 25th Annual Lucille Roybal-Allard Student art competition for his piece called Unknown Wilting, created with acrylic paint, color pencil, marker, and watercolor.

The 139 entries submitted for the art competition were judged on originality, technical skill, artistic presentation, and use of color and contrast.

Flores will receive a \$750 scholarship and \$175 for art supplies.

Each winner's school is also eligible to receive a gift card to purchase supplies to advance their art program. In addition, schools with five or more entries are eligible to receive \$100 for art supplies.

"It is always a joy to honor the great work of our 40th District student artists at the Lucille Roybal-Allard Student Art Competition," said Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard. "They have dazzled us with their talent, and we are grateful to them for their courage and willingness to share that talent with the community. To every one of them, we offer our most sincere thanks, appreciation, and congratulations."

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Vikings cap a successful year in music

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Music Department wrapped up a successful year with a Music Gala on Thursday.

This year, the music department – under the direction of Cory Olariu and Eric Patterson – produced their first album – We Live for the Music – featuring the jazz band, jazz choir, and combo ensembles.

The Viking's Jazz choir was invited as the only high school jazz choir to perform at the American Choir Directors Association (ACDA) Western Regional in Pasadena in March, in front of 400 music

teachers from across the coast. They received a standing ovation.

Over the last few weeks, they've won the AA choir division at the famous Reno Jazz Festival. Senior Veronica Villarreal was selected as the best vocal high school soloist.

Downey's top jazz band – called the Jazz Ensemble – won the Aztec and Fullerton Jazz Festivals in the top "Heavy" Division.

They were also top three finalists at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, which qualified them as guest artist in the fall at the prestigious Monterey

performing on their main stage on Sunday, Sept. 23.

The group was also declared the 2018 winner of the Downbeat Magazine in the High School Large Jazz Ensemble division for the first time.

The prestigious worldwide jazz magazine selects the best in each category every year, based on recordings sent to them from all over the country.

UCLA alumni group hosts welcoming event at Porto's

DOWNEY – The Southeast L.A. Bruins held their "Welcome to the City: Downey, Southeast LA" event on Wednesday, May 16.

The event was part of a series of "Welcome to the City" events held by UCLA Alumni all over the world.

Southeast L.A. President Ricardo Pérez provided welcoming remarks during the opening reception at Porto's.

Betty Porto, of Porto's Bakery, herself a UCLA alumna, was the featured special guest of the

evening.

After giving attendees an account of the Porto family history, she led guests across the facility of Porto's Bakery, where guests were treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the inner workings at the bakery.

Guests were able to see Porto's staff prepare orders and saw first hand the state-of-the-art machinery that helps make Porto's an industry leader. Ms. Porto ended the evening by providing a sampling of the newest items that

Porto's will be launching.

The Southeast Bruins is recognized officially as the regional chapter of the Alumni Association of the University of California, Los Angeles (known as "UCLA"), and is known officially as the UCLA Alumni Los Angeles Southeast Network.

For questions about the group or a specific event, please contact Downey attorney Ricardo Perez at rperez@alumna.ucla.edu.

Cerritos College taking applications for study abroad program

NORWALK – Cerritos College is currently accepting applications for its study abroad program to Taipei City.

The College and The University of Taipei entered into a new agreement that gives current Cerritos College students an opportunity to study in Taipei City as a University of Taipei student. Participants will also work as a

Teacher's Assistant, teaching three days a week in public secondary or elementary schools. Students who participate in the semester-long program can take classes offered through the University at no cost.

Applicants must be current Cerritos College students, or a recent graduate, an English native speaker, and in good standing with the college. Participants may also

be a qualified California teacher.

Program benefits include free homestay with a sponsor, including free meals, free Chinese language lessons with Taiwanese students, free cultural experience tours and activities, free health insurance provided, and registry as a University of Taipei student and any course offered at the University at no cost.

In Downey, specialists are first to test new therapy for stroke patients

► 'Rewiring' the brain: Electrical nerve stimulation could help patients regain motor functions sooner.

DOWNEY – Rehabilitation specialists at Rancho Research Institute in Downey are among the first in the world to test a novel therapy that they hope will help stroke victims recover faster.

Researchers at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center are among the first in the world studying how a specific type of neurostimulator can improve rehabilitation for stroke patients.

As part of the clinical trial, an electrical device called a vagus nerve stimulator is surgically implanted in the patient's chest wall. The Vivistim device, which connects to the vagus nerve in the neck, is used to "rewire" circuits in the brain associated with certain motor functions.

Stroke can result in the loss of brain tissue and negatively affect various bodily functions from speech to movement, depending on the location of the stroke.

In an earlier pilot study, this approach known as Paired Vagus Nerve Stimulation was shown to benefit approximately 85 percent of the people who received the nerve stimulation, said Dr. Marcie Bockbrader, research physiatrist for the Neurological Institute at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

"This nerve stimulation is like turning on a switch, making the patient's brain more receptive to therapy," Bockbrader said. "The goal is to see if we can improve motor recovery in people who have what is, in effect, a brain pacemaker implanted in their



Dr. Marcie Bockbrader is leading a new clinical trial at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center studying how vagus nerve stimulation can improve motor function in patients who have suffered a stroke.

body. The idea is to combine this brain pacing with normal rehab, and see if patients who've been through all of the other usual therapies after a stroke can get even better."

The study is recruiting patients who suffered a stroke and have been left with poor arm function as a result. The study is open to patients who have suffered a stroke at least nine months ago up to 10 years ago.

Each participant will receive three one-hour sessions of intensive physiotherapy each week for six weeks to help improve their arm function.

Half of the group will also receive an implanted vagus nerve stimulator. During rehabilitation therapy sessions, when a patient correctly performs an exercise, the therapist pushes a button to trigger the device to stimulate the vagus nerve. This neurostimulator signals the brain to remember that movement.

"We are trying to see if this neurostimulator could be used to boost the effective therapy, creating a sort of 'supercharged therapy.' We want to determine if patients can recover more quickly through the use of this stimulation," Bockbrader said.

Previous research indicates that vagus nerve stimulation causes the release of the brain's own chemicals, called neurotransmitters that will help the brain form new neural connections which might improve participant's ability to use their arm.

Traditional vagus nerve stimulation has been used in the United States and around the world to treat more than 100,000 patients for epilepsy.

Ohio State is among 13 institutions in the United States and 5 in the United Kingdom participating in this clinical trial.

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Shared Stories: Homage to my abuelita

Vicente Madrid honors his grandmother with this memoir of her love and the critical role she played in his family. 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 Vicente Madrid

Speaking in the dialect of *la Capital* where they don't just say it, they sing it, the shaman explained the intention of *el Día de los Muertos*.

"The purpose of the ritual," he said, "is to remember those who have gone before us. We believe that one dies three times in this life. The first is when your heart stops beating. The second is when you're buried and returned to Mother Earth. The third and the one nobody wants, is when you are forgotten. Hence the notion of honoring loved ones by creating works of art, literature, altars and sweets to eat in the form of skulls and skeletons as metaphors for loved ones who have transitioned to the next world."

It is in this spirit that I commemorate the birthday of my *abuelita* Carmen Ramirez de Aceves. On May 4, 2018, *Abuelita* turned 113 years old. Those who were present in our family will tell you that without her sacrifices, we would not be here today.

Even though she was on call from the canneries where tuna ships docked at the harbor, Grandma made time to slow-cook traditional Hispanic delicacies. No one has even come close to duplicating the taste of her *fideo* and *nopales de camaron*. The first bite of her home-made tortillas made from scratch, straight from the fire with a dash of butter, is locked in the memory of my taste buds.

In addition to cooking, *Abuelita's* forte was her demeanor. A woman of uncompromising principles, proud of doing everything for herself and owing nothing to any one, she was the rock in our family.

Discourse was by no means wasted on small talk or chitchat; everything she said was important. Her honesty was brutal and her word was gold. When Dad died, she took full responsibility taking care of her mom, my mother and five fatherless children under the age of nine. With no formal education she made sure we never went hungry, paid the bills and sent us to school with new shoes and clean clothes.

Carmen Ramirez de Aceves, also known as Abuelita.



To my knowledge Grandma never drove a car. With broken English she managed to find work and commute with coworkers who lived nearby. Her main transportation was the red streetcar that stopped across the street from our house on Willowbrook Avenue. She also rode the bus and an occasional taxi.

After the Watts uprising when streetcars became obsolete and taxi cab service was suspended in Compton, she relied on her daughter and grandkids for travel.

I thank my lucky stars for the typesetting position at my job in downtown L.A. Although short on sleep, the night shift created the opportunity to take Grandma shopping, on road trips and doctor's appointments.

In those days there was no "me too" movement; women fended off unwanted proposals by telling superiors where to go when they overstepped their boundaries. Encouraged by coworkers, *Abuelita* practiced the phrase "go to hell." However, it sounded like "go tu hill" when she said it.

"What hill?" I asked, "there's no hills here." Bless her heart, who knows how many times she was obliged to employ that expression at the canneries in San Pedro harbor.

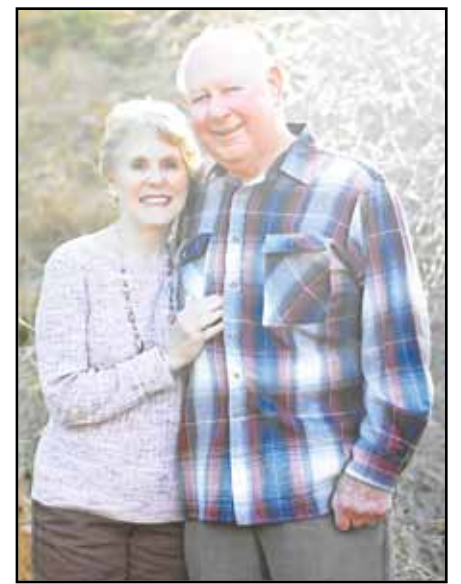
Every morning when I pass by her picture, I shower Grandma with praise. My chant starts in English and converts to Spanish in case she's listening. *Buenos dias Abuelita, te amo. Gracias por todo lo que isiste para nosotros. Descanse en pas. Te miro en el otro lado.*

Good morning Grandma, I love you. Thank you for taking care of us. I'll see you on the other side.

Ronald and Marilyn Sheldon of Downey will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next week.

The couple was married May 24, 1958 and plan to celebrate with extended family in June. They have one daughter, one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

They met in elementary school and are high school sweethearts.



Things you didn't know about Downey: Gallatin Road

DOWNEY – Many people who visit the Downey History Center/Museum ask questions regarding who some of the early settlers were and the different areas of the city get their names.

The two early settlements of Downey were Gallatin and College towns.

There is no accurate date of the Gallatin settlement, but by 1867 early settler's records called the area Gallatin. The story of the name was that W.S. Standifer, a local general store owner, was an enthusiastic race horse fan and had won a large sum of money on an eastern race horse named Gallatin. Hence the name, Gallatin. This settlement was located at the intersection of Jaboneria road and Lexington-Gallatin road which is now Paramount and Florence Avenue.

Many pioneers coming to the Downey area came by the Old Santa Fe Trail and is reputed to be the second American settled community in this part of the state.

If you want to learn more about Downey, visit the History Center.

Bobbi Bruce, Downey Historical Society

Things you didn't know about Downey: Judge Crawford

DOWNEY – There are many historic people who are buried in the Downey Cemetery who were instrumental in Downey's early history.

One such person is Judge Maston Duke Crawford, who was a native of North Carolina born on July 14, 1821.

Crawford and John G Downey formed the Downey Land Association of which Crawford later became secretary and attorney.

Crawford was responsible for securing the rights-of-way for the Southern Pacific Railroad by donating a ten-acre site for the Downey Depot which was named for John G. Downey. This honor was given by the insistence of Crawford. Later, friends of Crawford wanted a road through town to be named "Crawford Street," which is now called Downey Avenue.

Crawford also generously donated land for churches and a five-acre site for a college.

In 1844, Crawford married Miss Martha Charlotte Rush. They had seven children.

After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Belle Howard in 1873.

Crawford passed away in the Rivera home of one of his daughters in 1894.

On April 5, 1970, the City of Downey dedicated a new park to the memory of Crawford.

Bobbi Bruce, Downey Historical Society

Church giving away clothes

DOWNEY – The Annual Clothing Giveaway Day will be held at Downey First Christian Church from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturday, May 26.

Donations of gently-used clean clothes will be accepted at the church from 9 am to 5 pm on May 23-25.

Contact Pastor Mark Schoch at 562-862-2438 with questions or to volunteer for this community event.

Golf tournament to benefit St. Pius/St. Matthias

DOWNEY – St. Pius / St. Matthias will be holding their first annual Warrior Cup Golf Tournament on June 15 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club.

Registration will be at 11:30 am, with shotgun start at 12:30 pm.

There are several sponsorship tiers available. Registration costs \$175 per player, or \$40 per person.

For more information, call Gabriela Santos at (562) 861-2271 x2205.

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JUNE 11 - JULY 6

GRIFFITHS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS

Monday - Thursday

Free Child Care 7:00am - 9:00am

Summer 101 9:00am - 12:00pm

Free Lunch 12:00pm - 12:30pm

Onsite YMCA Child Care* 12:30pm - 6:00pm

*Additional fee may apply

YMCA (562) 862-4201

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Summer Basketball Camp

with
Downey High School Head Basketball Coach Larry Shelton and Staff

June 5 - June 21
Monday thru Thursday
8:00 - 10:00 A.M. at the Downey High School Gym

Note that the first day of camp will be held on Tuesday, June 5th due to the Athletic Open House at DHS on Monday, June 4th

Registration: Tuesday, June 5th at 7:30 am at the DHS gym
Early Registration: E-mail lsheltonhoops@aol.com

- Fundamentals
- In-camp Games and Tournaments
- Fun
- Summer league and Tournaments for incoming freshman who make the team.

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Includes:
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For Grades 4-9 in August

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Any Questions? Contact Larry Shelton
(562) 412-7528 (Cell) E-mail: lsheltonhoops@aol.com

'Elf,' 'Catch Me if You Can' headline Long Beach theater company's 2018-19 season



LONG BEACH – Long Beach's Musical Theatre West has released its 2018-19 show calendar, featuring the movie-turned-musical "Catch Me If You Can" and "Disney's The Little Mermaid."

The schedule also includes a bonus holiday production of "Elf: The Musical."

All performances are at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. Season subscriptions are now on sale; single tickets go on sale this summer.

Below is the full schedule.

"Bright Star" Oct. 19-24, 2018

Inspired by a real event, this original musical tells a tale of love and redemption set against the backdrop of the American south in

the 1920s and 1940s.

The New York Times called "Bright Star" a "shining achievement." Written by comedy legend Steve Martin, it was nominated for five Tony Awards.

"Oliver!" Feb. 8-24, 2019

The streets of Victorian England come to life as orphaned Oliver goes from mistreatment in the London workhouses and falls in with a gang of pickpockets led by the roguish Fagin, the kindhearted Nancy, and the menacing Bill Sykes, before finally finding a home.

This Tony And Olivier Award-winning show is one of the few musicals to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. It is based on the Charles Dickens novel, "Oliver Twist."

"Catch Me If You Can," March 29 - April 14, 2019

Teenager Frank Abignale Jr. runs away from home to begin an unforgettable adventure. With nothing more than his boyish charm, a big imagination and millions of dollars in forged checks, he successfully poses as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer -- living the high life and winning the girl of his dreams.

But when his lies catch the attention of FBI agent Carl Hanratty, the chase is on to make Frank pay for his crimes.

Based on the hit film and true story, "Catch Me If You Can" was nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

"Disney's The Little Mermaid," July 12-28, 2019

Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories, the musical adaptation of Disney's classic film takes audiences on an adventure from a magical kingdom beneath the sea to a palace in the human world as the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, searches for love.

With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, the production features several irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World."

"Elf: the Musical," Nov. 30 - Dec. 9, 2019

As a young orphan, Buddy mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth, Buddy leaves Santa and embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity.

"Elf: the Musical" is based on the 2003 hit film starring Will Ferrell.

POETRY MATTERS

My Grandmother Is Waiting for Me to Come Home

My Grandmother is waiting for me to come home.
We live with walnuts and apples
in a one-room kitchenette above The
Some Day Liquor Gardens.

My Grandmother sits in a red rocking chair
waiting for me
to open the door with my key.

She is Black and glossy like coal.

We eat walnuts and apples,
drink root beer in cups that are broken,
above The
Some Day Liquor Gardens.

I love my Grandmother.
She is wonderful to behold
with the glossy of her coal-colored skin.
She is warm wide and long.
She laughs and she lingers.

- Gwendolyn Brooks

"Poetry is life distilled," said Poet Laureate Brooks, writing here in the voice of a little girl whose grandmother is literally "there for her" every day after school. Brooks published her first poem when she was 13, and held fast to that ideal of warmth and wonder all her life. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks

Downey's Johnny Appleseed

DOWNEY – You may see this tall young man under cover of night – a form in the dark who weekly tends the fourteen trees which he has planted over the years on each side of his street.

Began as seedlings, these trees are now three and four feet tall.

He, and his one-gallon watering can, make the necessary trips back to his house for refills so those trees each get their weekly drink. So far, all are thriving.

He was surprised and gratified to see that one of his trees has a circle of colored tiles at its base which some homeowner gratefully provided.

However, not all residents have been as gracious. One has repeatedly yanked the young plant and its replacements out of the ground. Young Appleseed persevered, and now the tree seems to

have won the contest and is now thriving.

The variety of shade trees he has planted makes for an interesting mixture; pine, privet, mulberry, camphor and ficus.

This Downey Johnny Appleseed saw a need to beautify his block of modest homes. He envisions the time when his trees will purify the air, swing gracefully in the wind and shade the walk beneath on sunny days while providing a home for nesting birds.

It takes an unusual young man who saw the need for enhancing his environment and, in the process, provide a lasting benefit to his street in Downey and we salute him on this Arbor Day.

They will not bear apples, but the entire block of graceful trees will enhance one special block in the city of Downey because of this young man's vision, energy and foresight.

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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°
Saturday 71°
Sunday 76°

THINGS TO DO
Memorial Day Ceremony
FROM OUR FACEBOOK
City continues financial support of Stay Gallery

Downey Patriot wins 5 journalism awards

Beware of work done without permits

Dear Real Estate Adviser,

We are interested in buying a home that has two small bedrooms, which were added more than 30 years ago without permits. The sellers want to sell as is, and if we make an offer, we'll ask for a discount. If we hire an inspector, what would the inspector do? Would he or she open walls and ceilings to inspect electrical and plumbing work?

— Ken S.

Dear Ken,

First off, a home inspector will not tear into walls and ceilings to inspect wiring and other work, even if the house was never properly inspected after apparent illegal additions were built. That's not what inspectors do. When hired by you, a home inspector would work for you exclusively. His or her job would be to examine the physical elements of the home for flaws and stability. They often can't spot unpermitted construction unless it's overtly shoddy. And if they do identify some, they won't rat you out to the code-compliance people. So don't hesitate to hire one, especially given the property's history.

As for the unpermitted work, there are several not-so-great things that can happen if you buy the place:

The onus to disclose the work will now fall on you when it comes time to sell again, unless you, too, try to discreetly sell as is.

If the code-enforcement department discovers the illegal construction, it may still require you to remedy it, whether that includes minor changes or even a partial tear-down, and pay for permits (and possible penalties).

If the code-enforcement folks inform your taxing authority of the illegal addition after you buy the place, you may be assessed retroactively for back taxes based on the additional square footage and possibly interest and penalties. By the way, if there's a disparity between the square footage on the tax-assessor rolls and the square footage of the house now, that's a big red flag.

While permitted work is "grandfathered" after building codes get updated, code-enforcement officials may mandate that any illegal work be brought to current code.

Unpermitted additions often are not covered by homeowners insurance policies, so if a guest is injured in one of those two bedrooms, you might find yourself embroiled in a lawsuit if your insurer refuses to pay.

While a relatively rare occurrence, mortgage companies have been known to call a loan for immediate payment if they can prove you knew about an illegal addition, reasoning that they don't want to take a chance on exposing themselves to future liabilities.

If you somehow run afoul of your new neighbors, who may have been aware of the illegal work under the old owner, they just might "drop a dime" on you and report the unpermitted work.

If you do buy this place, make sure you get a steep discount because you will likely have to offer a discount yourself if and when you sell. Good luck!

Contributed by Bankrate.com

5 home inspection mistakes buyers and sellers make

A home inspection is an assessment of a home's condition. Home inspectors not only identify problems with houses, they can give buyers information that will help them with the upkeep.

"We want to teach them how to maintain the property because it's the biggest investment they'll ever make," says Alden E. Gibson, a past president of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

If you're getting a home inspection, here are five mistakes to avoid.

1. Not researching the inspector

Too many buyers and sellers hire whoever is recommended to them without doing any research. The inspection is only as good as the inspector doing it, says Troy Bloxom, owner of Home Inspections Plus near Anchorage, Alaska, and past president of the National Association of Home Inspectors.

A few questions to ask:

How long have you been inspecting homes?

How many inspections have you done?

What are your qualifications, certifications and training?

What was your job before you were a home inspector? (Ideally, your pro was in contracting or building.)

You want a certified professional who stays current. "There's a lot of stuff you have to know, and you want someone who's keeping up with ongoing education," says Kurt Mitenbuler, who is certified by the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) and owns an inspection company in Evanston, Illinois.

You're looking for an inspector who can analyze the home's strengths and weaknesses, then explain them.

2. Not attending the inspection

Being present for the inspection may not be mandatory, but it's a smart idea.

Simply reading the inspection report isn't enough to give most homeowners the full picture, Gibson says. "If they don't see it, they don't understand it."

Gibson says he turns down dozens of inspections a year "because people can't be there or don't want to be there."

The inspection might take an entire morning or afternoon, so set aside enough time. Some inspectors will sit with you afterward to explain things and answer questions.

A good inspector can give you an estimate of how much you'll need to spend on repairs and upgrades, which is very valuable information as you consider your budget.

3. Not reading the inspection report

Too many buyers and sellers just glance at the inspection report.

You need someone who uses "clear, concise" language in person and in written reports, Mitenbuler says. He recommends scanning a few reports by checking the inspector's website or asking for a sample report.

A knowledgeable pro will state simply what's wrong with the house and what it will take to fix, Mitenbuler says.

4. Not getting a presale inspection

Many sellers decide to leave the presale inspection to the buyers, Bloxom says. That's a mistake.

When the buyers get an inspection (and if they're smart, they will), the sellers may have little time to complete repairs and keep the sale on track, Bloxom says.

But if the seller has the home inspected before putting it on the market, he has more time to do repairs and to shop around and control his costs for the work, Bloxom says.

5. Not prepping the home

Inspectors get annoyed when homeowners don't

prepare their houses for inspection.

"Don't force the home inspector to empty the closet to get into the attic," Mitenbuler says. If you have a crawl-space hatch, move anything sitting on top of it.

Got a lock on a utility closet, basement or shed? The inspector needs access. So open it or provide keys.

For a seller, the best tack is to be at home to meet the inspector, introduce yourself, provide your mobile number — and then you can take off, Mitenbuler says.

To reduce the need for repeat inspections, hire professionals to do repairs, Bloxom says. Too many sellers will try DIY or get them done on the cheap. But poor workmanship will show up during the follow-up inspection, Bloxom says, and could result in more repairs — and another inspection.

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Thomas Edison

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