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Virus infections on the decline

■ Officials, however, warned that progress could be derailed with public gatherings on Super Bowl Sunday.

By Eric Pierce
Editor

DOWNEY - Covid-19 infection rates are dropping in LA County but health officials are cautioning against public gatherings on Super Bowl Sunday.

On Wednesday, LA County confirmed 256 new deaths and 5,189 new cases of Covid-19.

To date, Public Health identified 1,129,503 positive cases of Covid-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 17,308 deaths.

The County continues to make progress in reducing the number of daily new cases and slowing transmission.

However, the number of new cases remains substantially higher than the number of cases we saw in September, which were less than 1,000 new cases a day.

With the Super Bowl scheduled for this Sunday, health officials warned of past tragic consequences of gatherings.

In the weeks following every holiday, and many major sporting events, the county experienced increases in cases, and then hospitalizations and deaths.

Public Health recommended residents enjoy the Super Bowl and cheer for their team from their home with those they live with. Residents should connect virtually with their friends and not gather with people from outside their household to watch the Super Bowl.

Of the 256 new deaths reported Wednesday, 69 people who passed away were over the age of 80, 92 people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79, 51 people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64, 24 people who died were between the ages of 30 and 49.

Thirteen deaths were reported by the City of Long Beach and seven deaths were reported by Pasadena.

Testing results are available for nearly 5,543,000 individuals with 19% of people testing positive. There are 5,165 people with Covid-19 currently hospitalized and 27% of these people are in the ICU.

Fifty-two people are currently hospitalized at PIH Downey with Covid-19.

Along with the majority of the state, Los Angeles County is in the most restrictive purple tier in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

In order to move into the red tier and have additional opportunities for re-openings, L.A. County's daily case rate must be at or below 7 new cases per 100,000 people and the county's test positivity rate must be at or below 8%.

As of Jan. 23, L.A. County's adjusted case rate is 38.7 new cases per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate is 11.3%.

"It is clear we have quite a way to go before transmission in our county is considered no longer widespread; hopefully, by following all the rules, we can continue to make good progress slowing the spread and moving into a less restrictive tier," said LA County health director Barbara Ferrer.

Rent control? Downey city council set to consider issue

DOWNEY - A proposal to enact a city-wide rent control ordinance is scheduled to be discussed by the Downey City Council on Tuesday.

Proposed by Councilmember Catherine Alvarez, the ordinance would impose stricter rent control policies than those already mandated by California.

Under current law, landlords cannot raise rent more than 5%, plus inflation, per year.

Residents can provide their opinions on the proposed ordinance -- either for or against -- by emailing cpubliccomment@downeyca.org.

Comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm Tuesday.



Cerritos College lobbies to become vaccination site

■ The college says it is capable of serving as a mass vaccination facility; county supervisors need to give approval.

NORWALK - While Covid-19 cases continue to reach record high numbers in Los Angeles County, Cerritos College, in collaboration with seven cities the college serves in its district, is seeking to be designated as an official Los Angeles County vaccination site.

Pending the approval of county supervisors, the college

could serve approximately 480,000 residents across 12 cities.

The Southeast Los Angeles region carries more than 25 percent of the population living below the poverty line, and vaccine access and education are critical factors to ensuring the health and wellness of the communities the college serves.

The effort is supported by the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Cerritos, Lakewood, Norwalk, and South Gate.

Cerritos College continues to serve as a vital lifeline for many families in the region.

Since 2017, the college has been an active partner with the L.A. Regional Food Bank to distribute food to students and the community bimonthly. The College has served more than 21,000 families, distributing 332 tons of food over four years.

Under current public health orders, Cerritos College petitioned the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and County Supervisors to serve as a vaccination site to increase access to residents in the region.

While the College waits for approval, thousands of residents scramble to locate the life-saving

vaccine.

"As an institution of higher education, we play an important role in vaccine education and access. The southeast region is disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, but we are here to serve as a vested community partner to aid the region, and help fill in the gap for the underserved communities," said Dr. Jose Fierro, president and superintendent of Cerritos College.

"We hope the county supervisors will designate our campus to serve as a Covid-19 vaccination site."

Warren High band director to resign over sexual comments

■ Warren High School's David Niemeyer will resign after investigators confirmed students' complaints that he made "inappropriate and suggestive comments of a sexual nature."

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - Warren High School Band Director David Niemeyer will resign from his position at the end of the school year after an internal investigation revealed that he had "behaved unprofessionally" towards students.

Over the summer, the Downey Unified School District was given a rude awakening when several current and former students took to social media to disclose their personal experiences with bullying, discrimination, racism, and sexual harassment while attending Downey schools.

Within the movement were several allegations pinned against Niemeyer - who has directed Warren's band and color guard program since 2003 - and his staff and students, including one formal written complaint that was submitted to the District.

Niemeyer was subsequently put on paid administrative leave until the end of the school year when his resignation becomes official. His annual salary stands at \$99,454.

Upon his official departure, the District will begin the process of recruiting a new director to lead the program, with the

substitute continuing to teach the band until someone is hired. Once a new director is selected, the District and Warren will work to bring back additional coaches, who will be hired through the District application process and selected by site administration.

The conclusion of the investigation comes as some relief to Sarah Gonzalez, who issued the formal complaint against her former band director. Gonzalez was a part of the band program from 2012 to 2016, and subsequently worked for the WHS Band Booster Club from June 2016 to November 2016.

Gonzalez expressed satisfaction with Niemeyer's departure but said she wishes that the district had been harder on Niemeyer.

"I'm personally happy that he's resigning, but I wish they would have just fired him," said Gonzalez. "I feel like it just looks better that way."

The District was legally required to contact Gonzalez and make her aware of the investigation's results before they could release a statement to anyone else. Gonzalez received that letter late last week.

She expressed frustration in the District's official statement that Niemeyer's actions "did not reach the lawful definition of sexual harassment or a hostile work environment."

"They say he violated district policies, but they don't really say what they told me in the letter," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez shared the letter



David Niemeyer

that she received from the District on Twitter, which said, "...Liberati & Associates sustained the allegation that Mr. Niemeyer behaved unprofessionally with students with whom he interacted with at WHS by making inappropriate and suggestive comments of a sexual nature."

Still, Gonzalez says that she has been able to find some closure. She now hopes to start the process of healing.

"For me, it's something that's been haunting me since I graduated high school; it's been five years," said Gonzalez. "This is something I've dealt with for a long time."

The Patriot reached out to Niemeyer via his official district email to ask for comment but received no response. The District was made aware of this attempt.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 70°

Saturday 76°

Sunday 71°

ON THIS DAY FEBRUARY 4

1789:

Electors unanimously chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

1846:

The first Mormon pioneers made their exodus from Nauvoo, Illinois, westward towards Salt Lake Valley.

1861:

Delegates from six southern states met in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.

1902:

Charles A. Lindbergh, the American aviator who became the first man to fly the Atlantic solo nonstop from the United States to Europe, was born.

1913:

Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Ala.

1974:

Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

1977:

The album "Rumours" by Fleetwood Mac was released.

1998:

A 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, killing an estimated 4,000 people and leaving 15,000 people homeless.

2004:

The Massachusetts high court declared that gays were entitled to marry.

2004:

The social networking website Facebook was launched.

2020:

Casinos in Macau shut down as Covid-19 spreads across China.

Birthdays

Former vice president **Dan Quayle** (74), rock singer **Alice Cooper** (73), football hall of famer **Lawrence Taylor** (62), country music singer **Clint Black** (59), actor and comedian **Rob Corddry** (50), boxer **Oscar de la Hoya** (48), pop singer **Natalie Imbruglia** (46), singer **Gavin DeGraw** (44), comedian **Hannibal Buress** (38).

Deaths

On this day in 1983, singer and drummer **Karen Carpenter** collapsed at her parents' home in Downey. She was transported to Downey Community Hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was heart failure. She was 32.

Book Recommendation

"**The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal about Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power**" by Deirdre Mask

In this wide-ranging and remarkable book, Deirdre Mask looks at the fate of streets named after Martin Luther King Jr., the wayfinding means of ancient Romans, and how Nazis haunt the streets of modern Germany.

The flipside of having an address is not having one, and we also see what that means for millions of people today, including those who live in the slums of Kolkata and on the streets of London.

Filled with fascinating people and histories, "The Address Book" illuminates the complex and sometimes hidden stories behind street names and their power to name, to hide, to decide who counts, who doesn't—and why.

Sweet Deals for Valentine's Day



Fall in Love With These Valentine's Day Decor Ideas

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, celebrations may include romantic dinners, Galentine's Day plans or even family fun. The experts at Dollar General have provided a few budget-friendly decor ideas that everyone will love.

Romantic Night in for Two

Make a night in special by adding a few romantic details around the home. Spruce up the dining table with a vase of fresh roses, candles and a decorative tablecloth—all of which is available at your local Dollar General the week of Valentine's Day. Also consider filling the room with colorful heart-shaped balloons and bowls of sweet candies. Dress up a wall or mantle with a banner and some of your favorite photos. Pitch a blanket fort in the living room for a fun indoor movie night. Decorate it with a holiday-themed blanket and pillows to help create a unique and memorable Valentine's Day.

Be Mine, Galentine

For those spending the holiday with friends, incorporate all the fun Valentine's Day decor into a Galentine's Day celebration. Assemble a picture-perfect balloon arch by taping or stringing together pink, white, red and heart-shaped balloons. Create another space for photos by hanging streamers and a heart-shaped garland from windows or walls. Fill glass vases with red and pink candies for a charming coffee table centerpiece. Lastly, a message board could provide a fun opportunity for gathering gals to express appreciation or positive quotes. This can easily be celebrated digitally by distributing Galentine's Day kits to friends, so everyone can that share in the decorating and celebrating.

DIY Valentine Crafts

For a fun family night in, set aside time to create crafts with the kids. Crafting can be a great way for kids to express themselves, plus their creations can serve as cost-effective decorations. One example is to hang a paper heart chain, like a garland, above a fireplace or along kitchen cabinets. For this easy and adorable craft, gather red and pink craft paper, ribbon or string, scissors and tape. Cut out hearts and a small hole in a corner to string ribbon or string through. Another fun option is to gather the family to paint glass jars with hearts or sayings. Place tasty treats like cookies or candies inside or use the jars as a vase for flowers. Don't forget front door decorations! Find the directions to craft an easy DIY Coffee Filter Wreath for the door on DG's crafts web page.

For more holiday decoration inspiration and ideas, visit dollargeneral.com and browse under the Inspiration tab.

By planning ahead and seeking out decoration tips and tricks, anyone can be ready to celebrate Valentine's Day with less stress and hustle. (StatePoint)



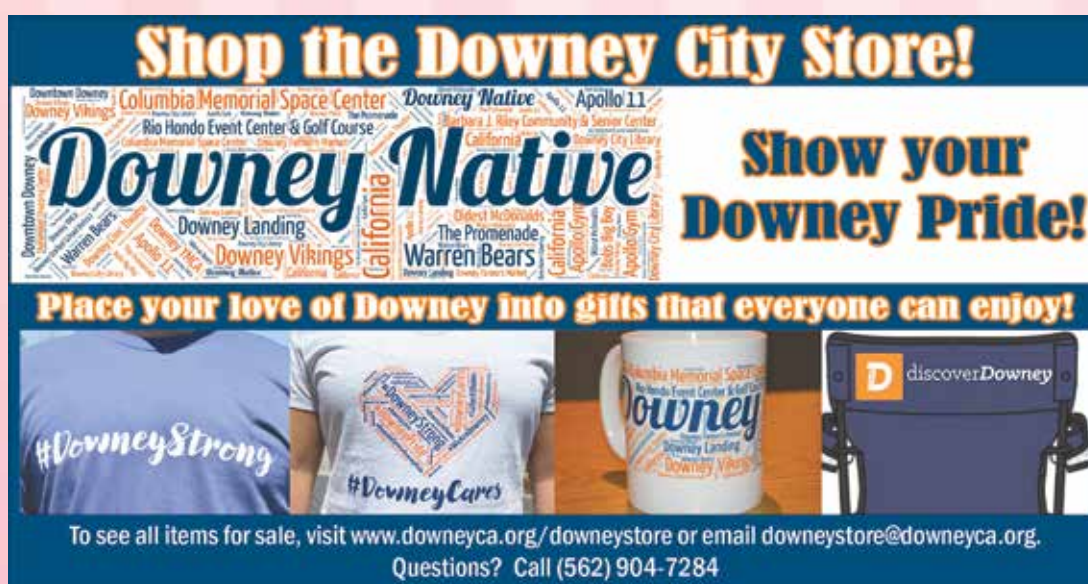
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Love is in the air...
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To: Person
 From: Person
 Especially today, I hope you feel how much I love you and how grateful I am to have you in my life. Wishing the sweetest, happiest day to my forever Valentine. Thank you for all your love and support this year, I couldn't have gotten through it all without you! I fall in love with you just a little bit more every day. We've got Valentine's locked down
Be My Valentine

Actual Size 3.75 inches wide by 2.5 inches tall

Downey couple writes children's book

■ Tim and Alicia Santana-Taylor authored "To Hobbyville We Go," a book that encourages kids to discover hobbies during quarantine.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - Tim Taylor plays golf. His wife Alicia Santana-Taylor makes and sells hair bows.

Their new book aims to help young children find hobbies that they can enjoy as well.

The couple both currently work for Los Angeles Unified School District, Taylor as a school psychologist and Santana-Taylor as a psychiatric social worker.

As the coronavirus first began to take hold, both started to notice a troubling trend: many of the students they worked with were finding it hard to cope with their newfound isolation.

To help, they wrote and self-published "To Hobbyville We Go!"

"The book is a rhyming book for children; early elementary, kindergarten through second grade age," said Taylor. "Basically when the pandemic started, we had the idea, 'Hey, let's write a book about hobbies,' because...we were doing a lot of therapy sessions over Zoom with our students, and what we were hearing was, 'All I do is watch TV, there's nothing to do.'"

"We felt like 'Hey, let's put a book out there that encourages them to find hobbies that are just not sitting around and watching TV.'"

Santana-Taylor added that they wanted to help kids find things that were easy to do at home during the current time.

"They don't have to really go anywhere because we knew they were stuck in a certain location," said Santana-Taylor.

"We understand the mental health piece because we're working in that field. We understand all the benefits that come from having a hobby; not just fun - that's a great thing, kids want to do fun things - but it's also benefiting their physical health and their mental

health."

"It boosts confidence, it boosts creativity. They have better social skills because of it. There's so many benefits. We wanted them to be able to explore all the hobbies that are out there."

"To Hobbyville We Go!" is the couple's first book. It is their first venture into a self-published work.

"It's absolutely been an amazing process," said Taylor. "...it was months and months and months of perfecting every line of text, working with an illustrator who's in Canada who's really talented via Zoom and email."

The book was illustrated by Robyn Leavens.

"It had it's challenging moments just because I couldn't just pick up the phone and call her; we had to schedule times," said Santana-Taylor. "She's really good, so we really wanted to stick with her because we knew that she would bring our book to life."

"It was interesting having to work with someone via Zoom in a different country, but I think

the end result, I think we're really happy with it."

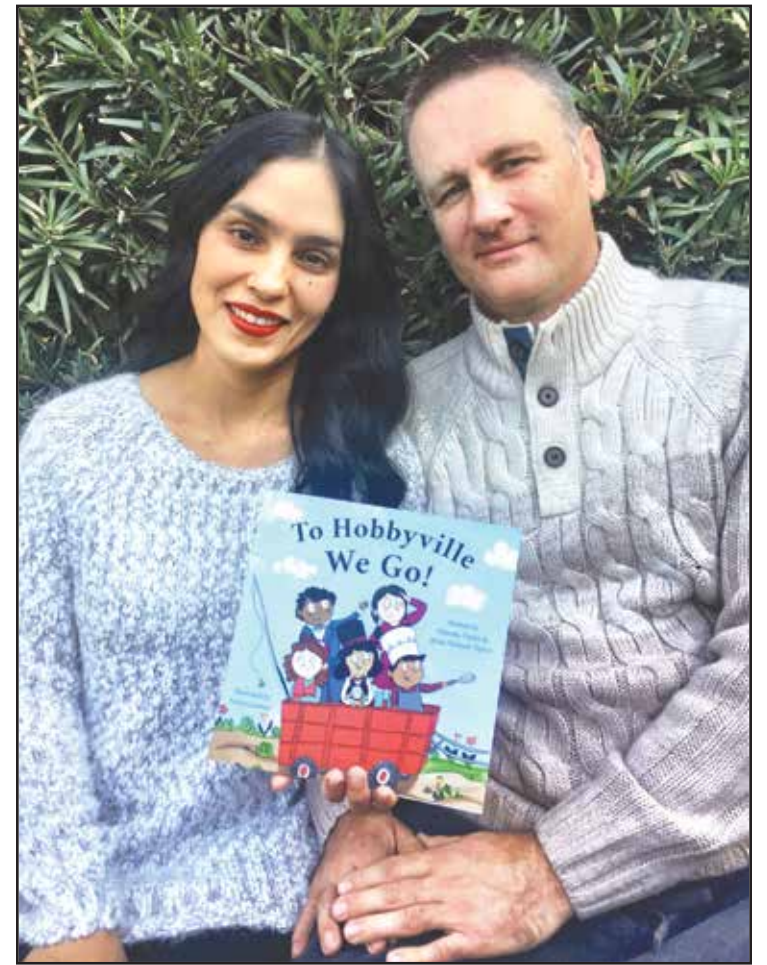
The Taylor's say that they have invested thousands of dollars into the project, however it's really not an endeavor to make profit from.

"We want [kids] to be able to feel better, and we know the benefits of hobbies," said Santana-Taylor. "We really want as many kids to be able to see this and be excited about trying a new hobby..."

Taylor and Santana-Taylor plan on donating hundreds of their books to inner-city schools, as well as to Downey Library and to Carpenter Elementary School, where their daughter attends.

More information can be found on Instagram at @hobbyvillebooks, and it can be purchased at www.hobbyvillebooks.com.

Downey residents who purchase a book can request contactless porch drop-off.



Tim and Alicia Santana-Taylor (courtesy photo)

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DA expands team with investigative chief

■ Robert Arcos is the latest hire by District Attorney George Gascón, who also tapped Downey Councilman Mario Trujillo to serve as his government affairs liason.

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón on Monday administered the oath of office to Robert Arcos, who will serve as chief of the Bureau of Investigation, the fourth largest law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County.

Arcos, who served as an assistant chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, is a respected law enforcement leader with more than 30 years of policing experience.

“Bobby Arcos brings a depth of law enforcement experience and compassion to the District Attorney’s Office,” District Attorney Gascón said. “I am proud that Bobby has agreed to join my executive management team and will help me fulfill my promises to voters that we will protect our community by preventing crime, reducing recidivism and restoring victims. Together, with other members of the team, we will rely on data, science and research to guide this office into the future.”

Most recently, Arcos served as the director of LAPD’s Office of Operations. He joined the department in 1988 and is a reform-

minded leader who has worked tirelessly to address homelessness, substance abuse and mental health issues, and the concerns of immigrant communities. He has created lasting relationships with neighborhood advocates, nonprofit organizations, the business community and civic leaders. He strengthened restorative justice systems and implemented new processes to more effectively use technology and departmental resources.

Arcos will lead the nearly 300 sworn peace officers assigned to the Bureau of Investigation, which supports the investigative work of the office’s approximately 1,000 deputy district attorneys.

In addition to Arcos, District Attorney Gascón’s executive management team currently includes Interim Chief Deputy District Attorney Joseph Iniguez, Chief of Staff Victoria Adams, Chief Administrative Officer Dorinne Jordan, Assistant District Attorney for Line Operations James Garrison, Special Advisors to the District Attorney Diana Teran, Alisa Blair and Alex Bastian; and Community and Government Affairs Liaison Mario Trujillo, the Downey council member.

Iniguez serves as second-in-command and assists in directing and managing the daily activities and operations of the office.

Adams directs and plans all operational and strategic aspects of the office and organizes and prioritizes critical issues and information

to facilitate decision-making processes by the District Attorney.

Jordan oversees administrative functions, including budget, human resources, systems, property management and employee relations.

Garrison leads the deputy district attorneys and staff assigned to branch and area offices.

There are three Special Advisors to the District Attorney:

Teran advises the District Attorney on post-conviction review, Brady compliance and justice system integrity;

Blair advises the District Attorney on juvenile, diversion, collaborative courts and all related matters; and

Bastian is responsible for providing guidance and direction in the development of internal and external messages and media strategies and handling additional routine and complex responsibilities as delegated by the District Attorney.

Trujillo represents the District Attorney in both routine and complex matters with municipalities and community-based organizations.

Crime Report

• On 1/25/2021 at approximately 3:15 pm, officers responded to 9001 Apollo Way (Walmart) regarding a male adult suspect armed with a knife and slashing vehicle tires. Officers located the suspect. The suspect assaulted the officers as he was being taken into custody. Officers used minimal force during the arrest. The suspect was booked for felony vandalism.

• Detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred on 1/26/2021 at about 1:20 am in the 12500 block of Brookshire Ave. Officers responded to check the welfare of an apartment where there were sounds of an argument and a possible gunshot was heard. Officers arrived and made contact with a female inside the residence. She advised she was arguing with her boyfriend who had left prior to officers’ arrival. Officers located a spent 9mm casing just outside the front door of the apartment. Officers checked the area for witnesses and bullet holes but were unable to locate any. No one was injured during the incident.

• On 1/27/2021 at approximately 11:15 am, the Gang Unit stopped a vehicle leaving the Downey Inn (11510 Lakewood Blvd) which was occupied by 4 gang members and a female companion of theirs. One of the subjects, a juvenile male, had a loaded unregistered Glock handgun next to him. The juvenile was arrested for the weapons possession and was subsequently transferred to juvenile hall for a no-bail arrest warrant.

• Detectives are investigating an assault with a deadly weapon that occurred on 1/28/2021 at about 9:25 am in the 9000 block of Hall Rd. The adult male victim was walking to work when he was approached from behind by two male adult suspects. One of the suspects struck the victim on the back of head with a metal pipe. When the victim fell to the ground, he dropped his cellphone. Both suspects then fled on foot southbound on Bellflower Blvd. Nothing was taken. The victim sustained minor injuries.

• Detectives are investigating a stabbing that occurred on 1/30/2021 at about 5:35 pm at Independence Park (12334 Bellflower Blvd). The adult male victim was at the skatepark when five subjects ran up and began to assault the victim. During the assault, the victim was stabbed in the back. The suspects fled the scene in an unknown vehicle. Despite many witnesses at the scene, no one could provide any further information regarding the incident. The victim was transported to the hospital and his injuries were not life threatening.

Downey Police conducting DUI patrols

DOWNEY – Additional officers from the Downey Police Department will be out on patrol during the month of February looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Downey Police Department is committed to keeping the public safe when they need to run essential errands.

“Safety is paramount, but especially during the Covid-19 pandemic,” Chief Dean Milligan said. “We are all in this together and want everyone to be as safe as possible when they are out. One way to do that is by not driving impaired.”

The Downey Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or operating heavy machinery, which includes driving a car.

While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal.

If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home.

Drivers caught driving impaired and charged with DUI will pay a stiff price: an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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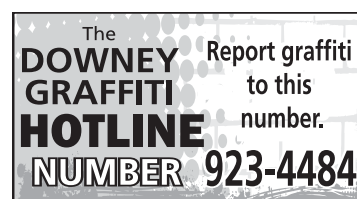
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Economists agree: rent control doesn't work

By Megan McArdle

There aren't that many things you can get economists to agree on. Fiscal stimulus, minimum wages, monetary policy, health care, bank regulation — on almost all the major issues of the day, you can find a respected economist to argue for either side.

But there are a few questions where there's near unanimity, and rent control is one of them. Pretty much every economist agrees that rent controls are bad. And in the last decades of the 20th century, economists had some success persuading state and local governments to curb these policies.

Now the policy appears to be making a comeback. City governments may have to relearn why their predecessors pruned back rent-control policies.

Rent control is supposed to protect poor, deserving tenants from the depredations of greedy landlords. And it does, up to a point. Research on rent control shows that many of the beneficiaries are low-income, and that controlling their rents makes it more likely that they'll stay in their apartments for a good long time.

The problem is that rent control doesn't do anything about the reason that rents are rising, which is that there are more people who want to live in desirable areas than there are homes for them to live in. Housing follows the same basic laws of economics as other goods that consumers need: When the demand for a product consistently exceeds the supply, prices will rise until the quantity demanded is equal to the amount that suppliers have available.

As long as there's no new construction, controlling that natural increase is just a game of musical chairs. You can change which people get to live in a city, but you still leave just as many people out in the cold. Actually, a few more, because rent control also reduces the incentive to supply rental housing.

All this suggests an actual solution to skyrocketing rents: Build more housing, so that the rent controls won't be necessary, and offer subsidies to the smaller number of low-income people who simply can't afford decent housing. To do that, cities would need to ease the costly land-use regulations that make it so difficult for developers to fill the unmet demand. And in many cases, cities would also need to get rid of rent control, both to reassure potential landlords that they can build without fear of new controls and to encourage landlords to

tear down smaller buildings and put up bigger ones, something that rent protections often prevent.

Alas, that's not going to happen, so coastal urbanites should brace for what will. Declining housing stock is just one of the many potential costs of rent controls; others include a deteriorating housing stock as landlords stop investing in their properties, and higher rents. Yes, higher, because rent control creates a two-tier housing market. There are cheap, price-stabilized apartments that rarely turn over, because why would you give up such a great deal? Then there are the uncontrolled apartments, which everyone else in the city has to fight over, bidding up the price.

Perversely, the people paying above-market rent are often worse off than the people enjoying a hefty subsidy from their landlords. There's no means test for rent-stabilized housing, and while the average income of people in New York's rent-stabilized apartments is somewhat lower than that of people in market-rate housing, a recent analysis by the Wall Street Journal showed that the people getting the biggest benefit are white, affluent Manhattanites who presumably landed the apartments decades ago and held on while rents rose around them.

That could be an argument for controlling the rent on all the housing stock. But cities don't do that for a reason: If you force the price of something below market level, people will supply less of it. Since cities tend not to impose rent controls unless they're already experiencing a severe housing shortage, that would be bad. Thus, rent control usually applies only to older buildings, since you can't go back and unbuild an apartment house that was constructed before 1947. It doesn't completely solve the problem, since landlords still withdraw less-profitable units from the market, shrinking the housing stock over time. But it turns what would be a disastrous policy into one that is merely terrible.

"Merely terrible" is a low aspiration for something as important as housing policy, but at this point it's probably the best that New Yorkers and Californians can hope for.

Megan McArdle writes for the Washington Post, where this article first published.

Conservative distress goes way beyond the face on the \$20 bill

By Salena Zito

Drive along U.S. 11 in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and here in West Virginia and you are pretty much roaming through the more conservative enclaves of the region.

The road, one of the first north-south routes in the country, takes the traveler through places such as Chambersburg, Shippensburg, and Carlisle, Hagerstown and Martinsburg.

The offramps wind down to treasures such as those here in Ranson.

Drive too fast and you miss meeting some really great people or seeing some beautiful places, some gorgeous preservation projects that have brought homes and businesses back to life, some of which reflect beauty even in decay.

Fly over the states or use an interstate and you are likely to never know who the people who live along U.S. 11 are and what they care about. That's OK. People really don't like feeling like a specimen, but if you are going to write about them, you should probably have a conversation or two.

And just stop and sit a spell.

Do that and you will probably learn a few things about them that might dispel some assumptions that exist, such as: Not all people who live in rural areas are Republicans. You often find a healthy mix of Democrats, Republicans and independents who believe the most important election day is the one for mayor, sheriff, county commissioner, school board or state legislator.

More often than not, you will find that they are not as obsessed with politics in the way social media would have people believe, and that they are capable of having conversations with people who have different points of view and conduct their lives way outside the boundaries of the stereotypes those who don't know a thing about them imagine.

They have long figured out two things about the people who write about them in a story or reference them on social media: Nuance is dead, and it is much easier to make a monster out of someone you don't understand than to try to make an honest attempt to understand them.

Last week, there was a column in the Washington Post about how conservatives feel in the light of the news that President Joe Biden's administration revived an effort to replace the image of Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill with Harriet Tubman.

The column declared, "Many conservatives will find the new Tubman bill distressing, even if they could barely tell you the first thing about Jackson."

There is so much to unpack here, beginning with where the "many conservatives" come from, because I was hard-pressed to find "many conservatives" who found the news distressing.

I was also hard-pressed to find "many conservatives" who didn't know about who Jackson was, his presidential failures and successes, his role as a general, and the painful legacies of the Trail of Tears and slave ownership.

All you have to do is ask. All you need to do is listen.

In fact, had the columnist asked what truly distresses them right now, you'd find that it's the coronavirus and the toll it has taken on not just the people who have lost family members but the mental health of children, seniors, mothers and fathers.

So does the uncertainty of their jobs, their small businesses, their shuttered communities.

So does having not hugged someone in nearly a year.

Tubman? Hardly. Talk to a conservative and they will tell you unequivocally that it is hard for them not to admire a gun-toting woman of faith who risked her life to free slaves.

Perhaps the columnist made the "many conservatives" assumption from scrolling through Twitter. But Twitter is not really the place to find a good cross section of everyday people.

In mid-October, the Pew Research Center released a comprehensive study on Twitter use, and in many ways, its conclusion should shake any person who uses the social media platform as a guide to the pulse of what America thinks.

In short, "just 10% of users produced 92% of all tweets from U.S. adults," with an eye-popping 69% of those "highly prolific users" identifying as Democrats.

That pretty much kills the idea that Twitter thought or distress represents public thought or distress.

Going even more granular, the survey found those Democrats who are on Twitter are much further left than Democrats who are not.

It is a reminder for reporters to shy away from using Twitter as an indication for public perspectives.

So, just because everyone on Twitter says conservatives are mad about Tubman and don't know who Jackson is, be a wee bit skeptical, because your words continue a narrative that may not be true.

There is a line in the J.D. Vance book "Hillbilly Elegy" that says, "Where we come from is who we are, but we choose everyday who we become."

All people out here want is to be able to tell the story of where they've come from and who they've become, not for someone to write the story of who they think they've become.

Salena Zito is a CNN political analyst, and a staff reporter and columnist for the Washington Examiner.

Super-spreaders

Dear Editor:

As someone with health issues, I try hard to stay away from situations that could expose me or my family to the virus. Living in a multi-unit apartment building, however, has demonstrated that there is no amount of caution that I can take to protect me from my neighbors.

We share hallways, doorways, doorknobs, elevators, etc, which are cleaned maybe twice a month (by a pair of workers wearing no masks). Hearing my upstairs neighbors greet dozens of guests upstairs and play games all night, I know that they can't possibly be social distancing.

I also know that the managers/owners will not do anything if I call them, and neither will the police; enforcing covid capacity restrictions in private homes is hardly a priority.

It would be nice if any of these people -- neighbors, landowners, public servants -- would take some responsibility for these actions. Perhaps this virus would not have taken 17,000 of us in LA County alone so far if they did.

**Rhianan Thomas
Downey**

Republican playbook

Dear Editor:

I read Randy Evan's letter about our congresswoman and thought his rant off the mark. ("Roybal-Allard's Hypocrisy," Letters to the Editor, 1/28/21).

I was particularly illuminated when he pronounced that Americans who voted against Clinton and Biden were "capitalists opposed to communists." Really? There was more: Bernie Sanders would be more comfortable in Cuba. The best was his reference that we should come together in "unity and piece." (his miscue of peace, not mine)

For the record, I don't know Roybal-Allard but I would take her any day over Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), that real prize the Republicans will have to deal with. She may not be a communist but she's no American, either - at least not the kind that I'm familiar with.

To my knowledge the Democrats have never had anyone of her ilk in their caucus. If the Republicans in the House weren't so fearful that the Trump base might take offense and toss them out on their ears, they'd do what is right and expel her from Congress. What a pity that they might actually have to go look for jobs again.

As for the business about unity and peace: before that can happen the Republicans in the Senate and the House have to concede that Biden won the election fair and square -- something Trump did not do in 2016. They have to demonstrate their willingness to cooperate with Biden, and that means bypassing both McConnell and McCarthy. Otherwise, there is no basis for unity and peace.

Since January 6, 2021 at least 30,000 Republican voters have left the Republican Party - and that's a partial count. Demographics were already against the GOP increasing its strength; voter defections are just more icing on the cake.

I look forward to Biden's AG taking action against states that engage in voter suppression - the priority in the Republican playbook for winning elections since they can't compete otherwise. None of this is going to please Randy Evans, but it's all in line with what the sane majority of voters want in this country. How do I know? They elected Biden.

**Muriel Schuerman
Downey**

Justice before unity

Dear Editor:

While Mr. Julio Rivera makes some good points in regard to unity, I have to ask how you can have unity without justice. ("Uniting the Country," Letters to the Editor, 1/28/21)

In his statement, he references the quest for justice as vengeful and evil against Donald Trump. Mr. Trump while president incited his supporters to attack our country's Capitol building, a sacred building and homage to our Democracy. To me that is evil and vengeful.

I have to ask Mr. Rivera, after the attacks on Pearl Harbor or 9/11 should we just forget? As Americans should we not seek out Justice after attacks on our Country in the future.

Insurrectionists attacked our democracy on January 6, thus committing an act of treason. Trump violated his oath of office by not defending the Constitution or our democratic right to vote, inciting the crowd to storm the Capitol endangering the lives of Congress members, Vice President Mike Pence and resulting in five lives lost.

Trump watched the whole incident on television and did nothing to stop the crowd. American flags were used as weapons against Capitol police.

Trump should be held accountable for the crimes he committed as president. If not, future presidents will do worse without accountability. No one is above the law, not even a former president.

It was a planned insurrection and all based on a lie that the election was stolen. Trump tried to overturn an election voted by the people.

It angers me that some want to just let it go and forget about it. I cannot just sweep the attack on America, the Constitution or the American flag under the rug. Justice comes before unity.

**Joanne Gallo
Downey**

Our Republic

Dear Editor:

I am starting to worry.
I am starting to worry the direction our country is heading.
I am starting to worry when dissent is not acceptable and speech is muted.
I am starting to worry when social platforms are eliminated.
I am starting to worry about the power of "Big Tech" and "Wall Street".
I am starting to wake up and share my thoughts openly.

**John Lacey
Downey**

Cerritos homeless

Dear Editor:

Why is it that there are no homeless people in Cerritos? But there are many in Norwalk and in surrounding cities.

**Larry Arellano
Norwalk**

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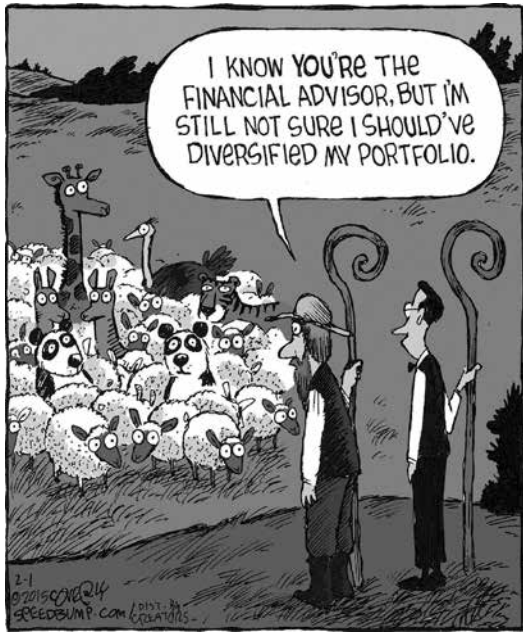
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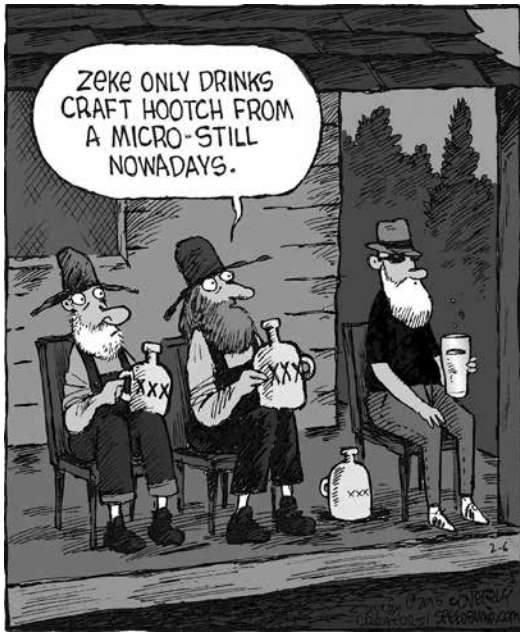
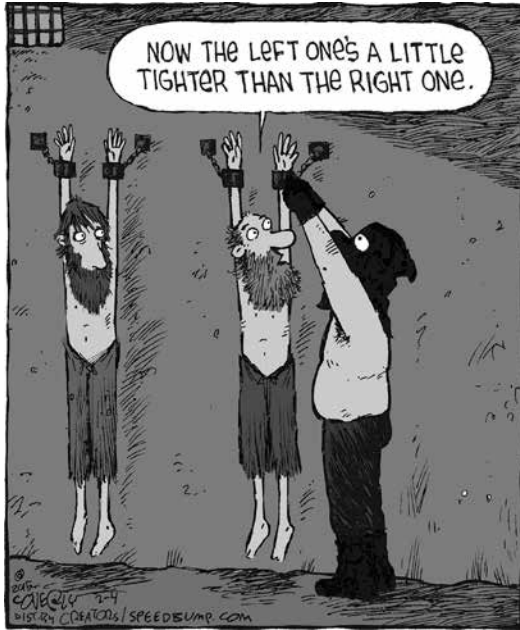
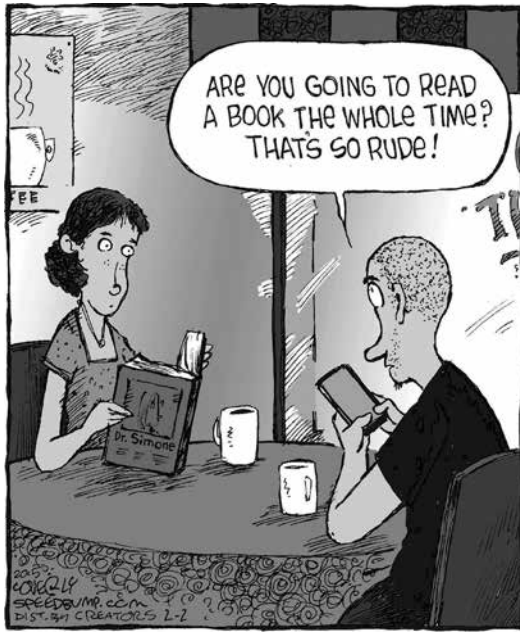
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SPEED BUMP



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.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.
 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.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 310-386-8112.
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 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 William Medina 413-3447.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 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.
 7 am: 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, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 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 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806-3102.
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 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, will resume meeting online in January, call 562-500-5093.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 1st Thurs.: People of Faith Ministries, Schroder Piano, call John Veiga 562-412-7192.
 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., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi'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.

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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
 MARK MY WORDS: What Mr. Twain had to say by S.N.

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"The Land of 10,000 Lakes."
 When the original Broadway run of *Les Miz* (9 Across) concluded, it was the second only to *Cats* as the longest-running Broadway musical. On a British Monopoly board, *MAYFAIR* (63 Across) is the most expensive property, corresponding to Boardwalk in the American version. The NBA's Los Angeles *LAKERS* (6 Down) got their name from their original home of Minneapolis, Minnesota being

Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com

Black Leaders that Inspire Us

Amanda Gorman was born and raised in Los Angeles. She graduated from Harvard University in 2020.

She is the author of the poetry collection "The Hill We Climb" (Viking, September 2021) and "The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough" (Pemmanship Books, 2015).



In 2017, Gorman was named the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States. She previously served as the youth poet laureate of Los Angeles, and she is the founder and executive director of One Pen One Page, an organization providing free creative writing programs for underserved youth.

Gorman was selected by President Biden to read an original poem for his inauguration, making her the youngest poet to have served in this role.

At a December event hosted by the National Urban League, Dr. Anthony Fauci had one very important thing to say about the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine, aka "mRNA-1273," approved by the FDA for emergency use on Dec. 18.

"The first thing you might want to say to my African-American brothers and sisters is that the vaccine that you're going to be taking was developed by an African-American woman," Fauci said. "And that is just a fact."

Indeed, **Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett**, a 35-year-old viral immunologist and research fellow in the Vaccine Research Center of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is the lead scientist on the team that developed the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine. She built on her six years of experience studying the spike proteins of other coronaviruses like SARS and MERS in order to design the vaccine within two days of the novel coronavirus being discovered. (Spike proteins sit on the surface of coronaviruses and penetrate human cells, causing infection.)

"I like to call it the plug-and-play approach," Corbett, who has a PhD in microbiology and immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said in a virtual NIH lecture on Oct. 15.

"Basically the idea [is] that we had so much knowledge based on work from us and from other labs previously that we were able to pull the trigger on vaccine development and start the ball rolling toward a phase 1 clinical trial."

When NASA astronaut **Victor Glover** arrived at the International Space Station — roughly 250 miles above earth — on a SpaceX Crew Dragon Capsule in November, he settled in for a six-month stay to become the first Black astronaut to live and work on ISS for an extended period of time.

"It is bittersweet, because I've had some amazing colleagues before me that really could have done it, and there are some amazing folks that will go behind me," Glover, who is serving as pilot and second-in-command on the crew, told The Christian Chronicle in a November story. "I wish it would have already been done, but I try not to draw too much attention to it."

Before becoming a NASA astronaut, Glover was a commander and test pilot in the U.S. Navy, where he flew 2,000 hours in over 40 aircraft and 24 combat missions. Glover got his bachelors in general engineering from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California and received multiple related graduate school degrees including a masters in flight test engineering from Air University and a masters in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

It was Glover's fifth grade science teacher at Allison Elementary in Pomona, Mr. Hargrove, who inspired Glover to pursue STEM (an area where Blacks in the U.S. are under-represented, and Black and Latino students drop out of STEM degrees at higher rates than their white peers).

"My interest in math encouraged him to suggest that I consider engineering. At the time... I didn't know any engineers," Glover told Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Josh Dobbs during a Jan. 15 interview from aboard the ISS. "[B]ut Mr. Hargrove's belief in me still continues to resonate with me today and is one of the reasons I chose engineering as a profession."

"Journalism is such a complicated industry," **Rashida Jones** said at a 2015 conference at the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. "If you really want to be a next-level journalist that's coloring the history of our world, that's the only reason you should be on this path."

In her eight years at MSNBC and her 21 years in the business, that's exactly what Jones has been doing. On Feb. 1, Jones started her new role as president at MSNBC, making her the first Black executive to lead a major television news network.

Jones was previously senior vice president of news at MSNBC and NBC News, where she oversaw breaking news coverage, like the coronavirus pandemic and 2020 election. Jones set rating records for two town-hall specials and helped oversee the second presidential debate, during which NBC correspondent Kristen Welker became only the second Black woman to moderate a presidential debate solo. (The first was ABC News journalist Carole Simpson in 1992.)

Jones has also helped to bring more diversity to MSNBC's daytime and weekend schedule, like extending Nicolle Wallace's show, "Deadline: White House."

"Rashida fully understands and supports the importance of representation, diversity, and inclusion," said Dorothy Tucker, president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in a statement. "Her promotion is bigger than our industry, it's the kind of story Black and Brown children everywhere need to see, so they can know what's possible."

Rosalind "Roz" Brewer was recently named as the new CEO at Walgreens, effective July 2021. She will be the only Black woman CEO leading a Fortune 500 company.

Brewer has served as Chief Operating Officer at Starbucks since 2017 when she also joined the Starbucks board of directors. She was the first Black woman to be COO of Starbucks and to head a division there.

As chief operating officer and group president for Starbucks, Roz Brewer leads the company's operating businesses across the Americas (Canada, U.S. and Latin America), and Starbucks license stores as well as the global functions of marketing, technology, supply chain, product innovation, and store development organizations.

She previously served as CEO of Sam's Club and made history by becoming the first woman and first African American to lead a Walmart division.

She is a current director of Starbucks, Amazon and a former director of Lockheed Martin and Molson Coors Brewing Company. She also chairs the board of trustees at Spelman College.

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2020 LA River Master Plan

California Environmental Quality Act Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

The County of Los Angeles has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the 2020 LA River Master Plan (Project). The County is soliciting comments from members of the public, organizations, and government agencies on the PEIR.

The proposed Project builds on the adopted 1996 Master Plan and other regional planning studies since then. The Project proposes six categories of project improvements, or "kit of parts" (KOP): KOP Category 1: Trails and Access Gateways; KOP Category 2: Channel Modifications; KOP Category 3: Crossings and Platforms; KOP Category 4: Diversions; KOP Category 5: Floodplain Reclamation; and KOP Category 6: Off-Channel Land Assets. Each KOP category includes a recommended collection of design components that can be implemented individually or in any combination. In addition, the 2020 LA River Master Plan includes a series of smaller common elements and Design Guidelines.

A public meeting on the Draft PEIR will be held to inform interested parties about the Draft PEIR's analysis of the Project and to gather input from interested persons and agencies on the content of the Draft PEIR.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Due to COVID-19, the public meeting will be held online. To access the Draft PEIR and related documents, Notice of Availability, and registration information for and details about the public meeting, please visit pw.lacounty.gov/go/larmpceqa. Spanish translation will be provided.

The Draft PEIR identifies the potential for significant impacts in the following environmental areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use; Noise; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities; and Wildfire. There are known hazardous waste sites located within the project study area (Government Code Section 65962.5).

Comments on the Draft PEIR are due no later than March 18, 2021, which marks the end of the 45-day public review period. Please send comments in writing to the physical address or e-mail address shown below. If sending an email, please include "LARMP Draft PEIR Comments" in the subject line. Include a return address or e-mail address and a contact name in your agency with your comments:

Grace Komjakraphan-Tek
 Los Angeles County Public Works Stormwater Quality Division
 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
LARiverCEQA@pw.lacounty.gov

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Obituaries

Sophie Xeon

Sophie Xeon, known professionally as Sophie, a Scottish Grammy-nominated musician and producer known for her electronic hyperpop music, died Jan. 30 after a fall. She was 34.

Sophie released her debut single, "Nothing More to Say," in 2013, and a few months later, she received critical acclaim for her follow-up single, "Bipp."

Her 2014 single "Lemonade" was widely considered one of the best singles of the year and was later used in a McDonald's commercial. Her bright, kinetic music became an early example of the hyperpop genre.

Sophie received more notice with the release of the 2018 album "Oil of Every Pearl's Un-Insides." Previously performing anonymously, she came out as a trans woman with the release of the album's lead single, "It's Okay to Cry."

The album received a Grammy nomination for Best Dance/Electronic Album.

Also a producer, Sophie produced Madonna's 2015 single "Bitch,



I'm Madonna" and the Charli XCX EP "Vroom Vroom."

Andrew Brooks

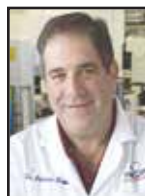
Andrew Brooks, a research professor at Rutgers University and CEO of Infinity Biologix, who developed the first FDA-approved rapid saliva test for COVID-19, died of a heart attack Jan. 23. He was 51.

Brooks joined the faculty at Rutgers in 2004, and in 2009, he began working at the university's Cell and DNA Repository. The company later went private, renamed Infinity Biologix, with Brooks at its helm.

As the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the U.S. in 2020, Brooks began leading the company's effort to develop a saliva test. This test is able to produce faster results than a nasal or throat swab, without requiring a health worker to closely approach a potentially infected person to take a sample.

The person being tested simply spits into a tube, and the saliva can be quickly analyzed.

Since the FDA approved the test in April, it has been administered more than four million times, and it is one of the most reliable Covid-19 tests available. Brooks' test is credited with saving many lives by enabling fast detection of Covid-19.



Duke Bootee

Duke Bootee, born Edward Fletcher, an early rapper who co-wrote the influential hip-hop song "The Message," performed by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, died Jan. 13 of congestive heart failure. He was 69.

Fletcher was a studio musician at Sugar Hill Records, the seminal label that released early hip-hop classics. There, he performed with bands including the Sugar Hill Gang and the Furious Five.

When Fletcher first wrote "The Message," other artists at Sugar Hill were uninterested in performing it. The song was gritty and serious, worlds apart from the era's light-



hearted party hip-hop.

"The Message" told a story of a grim existence in the inner city, featuring the rhythmic refrain:

Don't push me 'cause I'm close to the edge

I'm trying not to lose my head

It's like a jungle sometimes, it makes me wonder

How I keep from going under

Sugar Hill Records co-owner Sylvia Robinson liked the song and pushed for it to see the light of day, so the Furious Five recorded it with a verse added by Melle Mel. Fletcher played most of the instruments and shared vocals with Mel, rapping the verses he wrote, though he wasn't included in the video.

The song became an instant hit and an enduring classic, sampled widely and opening up a new direction for rap music to become a tool of social justice, not just the fun and boasting rhymes that were its origins.

It was ranked among the top hip-hop tracks of all time by VH-1, About.com, and Rolling Stone, which ranked it No. 1. "The Message" was the first hip-hop song added to the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress.

Fletcher worked again with Mel on the singles "Message II (Survival)" and "New York New York." In later years, he became a lecturer in critical thinking and communications at Savannah State University.

Dustin Diamond

Dustin Diamond, an actor best known for starring as Samuel "Screech" Powers in "Saved by the Bell" and its spin-offs, died Feb. 1 from small-cell lung carcinoma at the age of 44.

Diamond joined the "Saved by the Bell" cast in its earliest days in 1988, when the show was still called "Good Morning Miss Bliss" and revolved around a junior high school teacher.

When, after a year, the show was retooled into "Saved by the Bell," Diamond remained with it, playing the school nerd who was friends with his popular classmates at Bayside High.

After "Saved by the Bell" ended in 1993, Diamond jumped to its one-season spin-off, "Saved by the Bell: The College Years," attending the fictitious California University with his high school classmates.

And when the franchise returned to Bayside for "Saved by the Bell: The New Class," Diamond joined the cast in season two, playing Principal Belding's assistant.

Screech was one of only two characters to remain a regular from the franchise's beginning in 1988 through its end in 2000.

Though Diamond's career largely revolved around "Saved by the Bell," he also made other appearances. He had guest roles on TV shows including "The Wonder Years," "The Munsters Today," and "Duck Dodgers." His movie credits include "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" and "Made."

Diamond also appeared on several reality TV shows, joining the casts of "Celebrity Fit Club" in 2007 and "Celebrity Big Brother" in 2013.

His 2009 book, "Behind the Bell," was ghost-written, and it caused rifts between Diamond and other cast members as it included allegations about on-set behavior that they said were untrue.

Diamond also played bass in the band Salty the Pocketknife, and he did stand-up comedy.



POETRY MATTERS

A Boat

O beautiful
was the werewolf
in his evil forest.
We took him
to the carnival
and he started
crying
when he saw
the Ferris wheel.
Electric
green and red tears
flowed down
his furry cheeks.
He looked
like a boat
out on the dark
water.

Richard Brautigan, The Pill Versus the Springhill Mine Disaster. Houghton Mifflin 1968.

"A kind of Thoreau who cannot keep a straight face," as critic Guy Dav-enport said, Brautigan looked to nature as the one constant, despite its increasing contamination. He wrote the classic novel Trout Fishing in America, a postmodern view of the loss of the American Dream. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

Middle school, high school novels available for review

DOWNEY - Downey Unified invites the public to examine novels being considered for adoption by the Board of Education for use in middle and high school Social Studies and/or English courses.

The materials selected are in alignment with State Content Standards as required by California Code of Regulation (CCR), Title 5, Section 953(a).

Copies of the novels will be displayed for three consecutive weeks on the second floor in the Instructional Services Department of the Downey Unified Gallegos Administration Center, Monday through Friday, from Feb. 2 until March 2, 2021.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, appointments will be made for any person wishing to view these novels. Contact the office of Secondary Education at (562) 469-6781 to make an appointment.

The policy of the Board of Education provides that anyone wishing to offer suggestions or criticism about textbooks proposed for adoption must submit comments in writing to the Superintendent seven days prior to the Board meeting at which the books will be adopted.

Adoption will be recommended at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for April 20.

City of Downey

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- Residir en la ciudad de Downey*

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<https://www.downeyca.org/rentalassistance>

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Thrills and Spills

By Sharon Benson Smith

"Once upon a time never comes again." But my memory tells me that it's yesterday once more; I'm in grammar school, and roller skating is my favorite pastime.

WWII ended on September 2, 1945. It was a chilly, windy day and I was skating in front of Mason's Drug Store. Suddenly, I could hear passersby yelling out the car windows that: "The war is over." I was seven years old, and all it meant to me was that tasty "Fleer's Double Bubble Gum" would be available again at the corner drug store.

I was twelve years old when "Santa" brought me a pair of Chicago Roller Skates. I had been going to the Montebello Roller Drome and renting skates, but now I had my very own! They were white with wood wheels; I made fluffy pom-poms for them and kept them clean and polished; they fast became my pride and joy. They came with a snazzy metal box for storing.

I guess I must have been pretty good at skating as the rink instructor asked if I would like to train to enter an upcoming competition. I was sure willing to take on new skills; learn to skate dance, skate backwards, do the eagle spread, jumps and

spins and all the various lifts and turns and combinations. This is where the real "spills and thrills" would be experienced. We were well on our way to the long awaited big competition.

But, as fate would have it, I was hit by a car on my way to school one day; hospitalized for awhile with a broken ankle, and had to have a cast on my leg for what seemed like a lifetime to a kid. The length of the cast was changed two times...thigh length, then mid-calf length.

I returned to school in a cast and on crutches. The mid-calf cast was so much easier to maneuver around in. I no longer had to totally rely on crutches because a metal "post" was built into the cast at the bottom of my foot, and I could hobble around on it. My friends and other students were so helpful to me. I'd bet that everyone in school autographed that cast!

The positive of this was that we learned I would be restored to absolutely normal condition. However, the negative turned out to be that although I loved roller skating, and had been taking lessons to be groomed for pairs competition, I just could not seem to overcome the fear of re-injuring my ankle. Worse still, I could not regain the confidence needed to put on those Chicago Skates and move forward with any out-of-the-norm skating, let alone any competition.

I recall years later when we lived on Creedmore Drive that I gathered the courage to don those skates late one night and wheeled around our block for awhile. My three kids were surprised but very pleased that I did that!

I recall the last time I skated was when Steve and Shawna, plus their sons, my grandsons, Cameron and Casey, took me on a surprise Mother's Day outing at the roller rink that existed then in Cerritos. It was a WOW! surprise, and it really made my day!

Years later, when I lived in the mobile home park and stored the skates in their snazzy metal box in the shed, I saw that the metal box was deteriorating. The skates were also showing signs of deterioration; the leather was torn and had discolored spots, some of the eyelets were missing. I made a snap decision to put them in the trash, and have often had second thoughts about it ever since.

Sharon Benson Smith is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

The Miraculous Mr. Carlone

By Sharon Benson Smith

Mr. Carlone was blind and crippled but, despite his many challenges, we Gleason Street, East L.A. kids, were soon to learn that he was smarter than the entire neighborhood.

Early every morning as we walked to school, he would be standing on the sidewalk in front of his house. With his wheelchair at his side, and clinging to the chain-link fence, he exercised his legs in a "marching" motion. And he was there "clinging" and "marching" when we returned from school in the afternoon.

Over time, he learned the names of all the neighborhood kids, and we were greeted by name each morning as we walked by. He even learned to distinguish between our footsteps! He was a real conundrum to our young minds.

We were so ornery. We tried to trick him by disguising our voices or walking in a different manner but, try as hard and often as we did, we could never fool Mr. Carlone. He just intuitively knew. We was blessed with a sense that the rest of us lack.

I guess that's God's way of compensating for the less fortunate amongst us.

Sharon Benson Smith is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

Lions Club selling raffle tickets

DOWNEY - Downey Lions Club is hosting a virtual raffle on Thursday, March 18, at 7 pm.

Cost is \$20 for a set of 25 tickets. Multiple specialty baskets of goods are up for grabs.

To purchase tickets or for more information, email downeylions@gmail.com or call Lenora at (310) 283-9825 or Rosa at (562) 879-5130.

Payment can be made via Venmo (@Anthony-Perri-6). The Zoom meeting ID is 846-5138-5571 and the passcode is U91fZZ. Proceeds will benefit the Downey Lions Club's community service projects.

In Memory of

Kitty Madelyn DeTilla

October 9, 1925 - January 5, 2021



Madelyn DeTilla entered into the more immediate presence of her Lord and Savior as she died peacefully in her sleep at age 95 in La Mirada, California.

Kitty Madelyn Dennis was born in Baxter Springs, Kansas to Vaud and Naomi Dennis. The family, including two younger brothers, moved to Southern California during the 1930s Dust Bowl.

Madelyn graduated from Excelsior High School in 1943. She married Laurence DeTilla, a U.S. Navy pilot, on May 7, 1944. They moved to Downey in 1950. They were active, with their three children, in the Moravian Church of Downey. Madelyn was also involved in Forest Home Women's Auxiliary, Church Women United, Bible Study Fellowship, Woman's Club, PTA, Girl Scouts, and later United Methodist Church. She spent her last 7 years active at The Palms senior residence in La Mirada.

Madelyn was predeceased by Laurence DeTilla, husband of 68 years. She is survived by children Cheryle (Clark) Steddom, G. Paul (Pamela) DeTilla, Laurel (Jay) Anderson, 10 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, 1 great, great granddaughter. She was a loving and much loved Christian woman.

In Memory of

Holly Joy Winter

December 14, 1960 - February 1, 2021



After a long battle with complication from strokes, Holly passed away on February 1. She is survived by her two sons Zach and Brandon, 2 granddaughters, Harmony and Remedy, her sister Cheryl Litton and her husband Gilbert Smith. May you rest in peace in that big casino in the sky. We all love you and you will be

missed dearly.

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Roybal-Allard pushes for immigration reform

DOWNEY - On Tuesday, after President Biden announced additional executive orders to rebuild and strengthen the nation's immigration system, including the organization of a task force to help reunify families separated at the southern border, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) issued the following statement:

"President Biden's additional executive orders relating to immigration confirm that he considers creating a modern, fair, and just immigration system to be a top priority.

"The family reunification task force, chaired by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will enhance efforts to reunite the families who were cruelly separated by the previous administration. As someone who has fought against the family separation policy, I am optimistic that the Biden Administration's efforts to work alongside key stakeholders, representatives of impacted families, and other partners will strengthen our ability to reunite children and their parents and

prevent similar tragedies from reoccurring in the future.

"President Biden's plan to examine the factors driving migration to our southern border from Central America is essential to develop strategies to address the root causes of migration to the United States. I am also pleased that President Biden's executive orders will review the Public Charge Rule, re-establish a Task Force on New Americans, and develop an equitable, efficient naturalization process.

"While I applaud President Biden for issuing these executive orders, much more work remains to be done in Congress to pass long-overdue immigration reform legislation. Our nation is stronger and more prosperous with a fair immigration system that secures our borders, treats immigrants with dignity and respect, and enables immigrants to contribute to our country and pursue the American Dream without fear."

Legislation would require nursing homes to provide virtual visits

NORWALK - Norwalk Congresswoman Linda Sánchez this week introduced The Facilitating Virtual Visitation for Nursing Home Residents Act, a bill that would require skilled nursing facilities to provide a means for residents to conduct virtual visits with loved ones during the pandemic.

"It is awful for both families and people in nursing homes not to see each other during the pandemic," Sánchez said. "Because of Covid-19, families are understandably being told they can't see family members in person - my family included. Social isolation in our nursing home residents is a real concern, so I'm pleased to reintroduce this legislation that would require facilities to provide televisitiation services.

"We've seen the videos of loved ones visiting outside windows,

but that cannot be the only way residents communicate with those most important to them during the pandemic."

The legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to nursing homes on how to provide residents timely and equitable access to televisitiation during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nursing homes would also be required to tell residents, representatives of residents, and relatives of residents of the rights for these services.

Sánchez has long championed legislation to protect nursing home residents since first elected to Congress, including reintroducing the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act in 2019, a bill that would prohibit long-term care facilities from requiring or soliciting residents to enter into mandatory, binding arbitration agreements.

Cheerleading season canceled by pandemic

By Mark Fetter Contributor

DOWNEY - The C.I.F. Southern Section officially canceled its traditional competitive cheer championships Monday due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This announcement includes both Downey and Warren High Schools as well as other San Gabriel Valley League squads. The competitive cheer championships were scheduled for April 3.

After the CIF met with its Cheer Advisory Committee, it was decided that it could not hold the championships "in the manner they deserve." Therefore, cheer has been canceled for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic school year.

The CIF explained that the California Department of Public Health restrictions will keep cheer programs from adequately preparing for the competitions and as a result, was determined to not be possible to have cheer teams from the seven counties within the Southern Section compete in the same location with so many people in attendance.

Interestingly, the Cheer Advisory Committee rejected the notion to have virtual competitions because the standards of an officially sanctioned CIF championship competition "could not be met."

I am certain there are many disappointed and upset coaches, parents and cheerleaders as a result of this highly unpopular

decision. Competitive cheer has been a CIF sanctioned sport since the 2017-18 school year and many cheer scholarships have been earned by standout cheerleaders.

Cross Country

On Jan. 25, the California Department of Public Health ended the stay-at-home order that had been in place since Nov. 21, providing a green light for specific sports to begin competitions. While most of California's counties remain in the "purple tier," cross country, skiing and snowboarding are the only CIF Season 1 sports the CDPH is allowing to stage competitions.

As a result of that decision last week, a few public schools in Riverside wasted no time in scheduling a cross country competition. Ramona and Arlington High Schools of Riverside held a dual meet on the first available Saturday. This dual meet marked the beginning of officially sanctioned high school sports in Southern California.

A handful of northern California high schools held dual meets earlier in the week and again on Saturday as well.

The Southern California meet was held on the campus of Ramona High School. Ramona High had safety protocols in place, including mandatory temperature checks and face coverings for anyone who entered the stadium. Runners wore face coverings at the start of the race but could take them off once the race began.

There must be winners of the races and indeed there were. Arlington junior Karlee Littler won the girls' race in a time of 22:25 and Ramona Junior Juan Espino won the boys' race in a time of 15:47.

Perhaps this is truly the beginning of a C.I.F. Southern Section cross country season.

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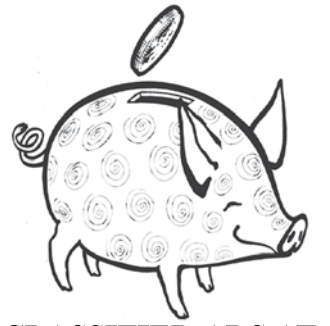
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JOHN OSKOU
City Treasurer
City of Downey
February 4, 2021

The Downey Patriot
2/4/21, 2/11/21

CITY OF DOWNEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SITE PLAN REVIEW, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the DOWNEY CITY PLANNING COMMISSION on the 17th day of February, at 6:30 p.m. to consider the following item:

(PLN-19-00173) Site Plan Review, Conditional Use Permit and Variance: A request to demolish an existing 2,231 square foot restaurant building, and construct a new 1,498 square foot coffee shop with outdoor seating, drive-through facilities and a parking reduction. The subject site is located at 902 Firestone Boulevard, within the Lakewood/Firestone Specific Plan (SP-91-2).

Public Participation and Accessibility for the February 17, 2021 Downey Regular Planning Commission Meeting
Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Executive Order N-29-20 executed by the Governor of California on March 17, 2020, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Officer Order Revised December 6, 2020 - Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of COVID-19: Tier 1 Substantial Surge Response, and the State of California Regional Stay at Home Order Triggered by ICU Capacity, this Regular Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. will allow members of the public to participate and address the public comment portion of the meetings via teleconference.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments and/or participate via teleconference to give testimony. The agenda and staff report, which provides a detailed description and analysis of this project, will be posted to the City's website (<http://www.downeyca.org>) on the Friday prior to the public hearing. The agenda will include a special notice with clear instructions on the various methods that the public can participate in the meetings.

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this request has been found to be Categorical Exempt from CEQA, per CEQA Guideline, Section 15332, (Class 32, In-fill developments).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, contact the City Clerk's Department at 562-904-7280 or the California Relay Service at 711. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make arrangements to assure accessibility. The City of Downey does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act may be forwarded to the City's ADA/Section 504 Coordinator at 11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241, ADACoordinator@downeyca.org, Phone: 562-299-6619, Fax: 562-923-6388, and California Relay 711.

If you have any questions concerning this application, please contact Principal Planner Guillermo Arreola at (562) 904-7154, or at garreola@downeyca.org

The Downey Patriot
2/4/21

CITY OF DOWNEY PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS & VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE LIMIT

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Downey Ordinance No. 20-1421, Section 2943(B)(1)(2); and, Section 2945 (A)(1)(2), these are the Campaign Contribution Limitations; and, Voluntary Expenditure Limits for candidates and their controlled committees. The Voluntary Expenditure Limit shall be automatically adjusted annually following the November 2020, election, based on the increase or decrease in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, All Urban Consumers, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the prior twelve (12) month period ending on August 31.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS:
For City Council elections in Districts 1 through 4, candidates or their controlled committees may accept contributions of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) from any single person in any single election.

For City Council elections in District 5, candidates or their controlled committees may accept contributions of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) from any single person in any single election.

VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE LIMIT:
For City Council elections in Districts 1 through 4, no candidate or the candidate's controlled committee who voluntarily accepts the expenditure limit shall make campaign expenditures, including the expenditure of loan proceeds, in excess of an amount equal to forty thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$40,800.00).

For City Council elections in District 5, no candidate or the candidate's controlled committee who voluntarily accepts the expenditure limit shall make campaign expenditures, including the expenditure of loan proceeds, in excess of an amount equal to sixty-six thousand, three hundred dollars (\$66,300.00).

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (562) 904-7280.

M. Alicia Duarte, CMC, City Clerk

February 4, 2021

The Downey Patriot
2/4/21

LIEN SALES

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of CA Commercial Code, Sections 1812.600 -1812.609, Section 1988 of CA Civil Code and Section 535 of the CA Penal Code.

The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storage treasures.com on February 17th, 2021 ending at 10:00am. The personal property including: general household goods, tools, electronics, and personal effects, have been stored and which are located at: Paramount Self Storage, 8160 E. Rosecrans Ave, Paramount, CA 90723, County of Los Angeles, State of California, the following:

Name	Unit #
Daissey Gutierrez	1574
Joseph Henry	1043
Armando Ramirez	2073
Shonedla D Thompson	2183

Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 28th day of January 2021 and 4th day of February 2021.
Self Storage Management Company
Bond #: WLI1254152

The Downey Patriot
1/28/21, 2/4/21

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER: 20NWCP00323
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner EMELY MYRANDA BUSTAMANTE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) EMELY MYRANDA BUSTAMANTE to Proposed name (1) EMILY CANIZ
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MARCH 1, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 29, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
EMELY MYRANDA BUSTAMANTE
21321 NORWALK BLVD, APT 148
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716
(714) 495-0708
EMELY503@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00028
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alexander Avila-Renteria filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) Alexander Avila-Renteria to Proposed name (1) Alexander Avila, Jr.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: APRIL 2, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 28, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ALEXANDER AVILA-RENTERIA
10140 GROVESIDE AVE
WHITTIER, CA 909603
(562) 322-4606
ALAVILA@CHARTER.NET

The Downey Patriot
2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00015
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO to Proposed name (1) ANITA VALDIVIESO
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection

is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MARCH 19, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 19, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO
19127 PIONEER BLVD, SPC 38
ARTESIA, CA 90701
(562) 441-7800
SVAL2004@YAHOO.COM

The Downey Patriot
1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00033
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SUSANA MADRID filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) SUSANA MADRID to Proposed name (1) SUSANA MADRID-NAVA
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of

name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: APRIL 2, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 29, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
SUSANA MADRID
9643 PRISCILLA ST.
DOWNEY, CA 90242
(562) 405-7002
SMADRID2005@YAHOO.COM

The Downey Patriot
2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 20NWCP00303
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names

as follows:
Present name (1) RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO to Proposed name (1) RACHEL MARIE GALINDO
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MAY 17, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT December 22, 2020
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO
9749 MYRON STREET
PICCO RIVERA, CA 90660
(323) 482-7608
RACHEEBAROCIO@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
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What is a VA loan and how does it work?

■ If you're a veteran, a VA loan is a helpful tool to purchase property. Here's what you need to know.

A VA loan is a mortgage loan available through a program established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (previously the Veterans Administration). The VA sets the qualifying standards, dictates the terms of the mortgages offered and guarantees a portion of the loan, but doesn't actually offer the financing. VA home loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies, instead.

How a VA Loan Works

VA loans assist active

service members, veterans, and surviving spouses to become homeowners. The individual presents a certificate of eligibility from the VA to the lender in the course of a loan application. Although some of the lender's own underwriting requirements must still be met, in most cases, VA loans are easier to qualify for than conventional loans.

The Veterans Administration offers a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help qualified veterans or their eligible family members buy, build, repair, retain or adapt a home for personal occupancy. VA loans offer up to 100% financing on the value of a home. VA loan recipients do

not have to be first-time home buyers. Also, they may reuse the benefits and assign the loan to another qualifying person.

The terms of VA loans are quite generous, compared to other mortgages and even other federal loan programs. Among the benefits:

- No down payment is mandated unless required by the lender, or if the residence's purchase price is above the established property value.
- There is no private mortgage insurance premium requirement.
- Closing costs are limited and may be paid by the seller.
- The lender may not charge

a prepayment penalty if the borrower pays off the loan early.

■ Assistance is available from the VA to help borrowers avoid default.

VA loans, FHA loans, and other loans insured by departments of the United States government have securitization through the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), which is also known as Ginnie Mae. These securities carry the guarantee of the United States government.

Types of VA Loans

The VA offers several types of mortgage loans to help veterans and their families.

VA home purchase loans help veterans to buy a home

at a competitive interest rate. Often these purchase loans do not require a down payment or private mortgage insurance.

Cash-out refinance loans allow mortgage holders who are veterans to borrow against home equity to pay off debt, fund school or make home improvements. This refinancing option offers a new mortgage for a larger amount than the existing note and converts home equity into cash.

Interest rate reduction refinance loans (IRRRLs), also known as streamline refinance loans, help borrowers obtain a lower interest rate by refinancing an existing VA loan. This is a VA-loan-to-VA-loan process that allows homeowners

to refinance a fixed loan at a lower interest rate or convert an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) into a fixed-rate mortgage.

The Native American Direct Loan Program helps eligible Native American veterans finance the purchase, construction or improvement of homes on federal trust land. Reductions in interest rates also come with these loans.

Adapted housing grants help veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability to purchase or build an adapted home or modify an existing home for their disability.

Investopedia

What credit score do I need to buy a house?

Credit scores are crucial to the homebuying process. Not only does your FICO score determine if you can qualify for a loan in the first place, it will also have an impact on your mortgage terms. See whether you've got the credit score to buy a house with the type of loan you'd prefer.

What credit score is needed to buy a house?

You don't need flawless credit to get a mortgage. In some cases, scores can even be in the 500s. But because credit scores estimate the risk that you won't repay the loan, potential lenders will reward a higher score with more choices and lower interest rates.

For most loan types, the credit score needed to buy a house is at least 620. But higher is better, and borrowers with scores of 740 or more will get the lowest interest rates.

Credit score minimums by loan type

Conventional loan: 620

Though you may be able to get a conventional loan with a credit score as low as 620, these mortgages often require higher scores. FICO scores for home buyers using conventional loans

averaged 756 for the 6-month period ending June 2020, according to Ellie Mae data.

Borrowers with higher scores also earn a break in the cost of private mortgage insurance, or PMI, which is required if they make down payments of less than 20% on a conventional loan. With a 10% down payment, a 620 borrower will pay 1.1% in PMI, according to Joe Parsons, a branch manager and senior loan officer in Dublin, California. A 760 FICO borrower would pay just 0.30%, he says.

FHA loan: 500

If you have a credit score in the 500s, your best chance for a home loan will be one insured by the Federal Housing Administration. FHA loans allow down payments as low as 3.5%, but to qualify, you'll need a FICO score of 580 or better. With a credit rating of 500 to 579, you'll be required to make a 10% down payment.

That said, lenders can impose their own credit minimums for FHA loans. According to Ellie Mae, the average FICO score for home buyers with FHA loans was 680 for the 6-month period ending June 2020. Even lenders that are willing to take on a borrower with a credit score that's under 600 will want to see that other aspects of your financial situation are secure.

"Someone with a 500 credit score is likely to have some combination of collection accounts, liens and judgments," Parsons says. "Even though FHA will insure a loan with a 500 score, the lender will require that collections, judgments and most liens be paid off before closing."

VA loan: 640

Mortgages guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, better known as VA loans, don't have a government-set minimum credit score to buy a house. Their main qualification

is that you be a veteran, an active-duty member of the military or an eligible spouse.

That said, VA lenders choose their own minimum credit scores. These vary, but are generally in the low to mid-600s

Jumbo loan: 700

In order to get a mortgage

that's larger than the conforming loan limit — better known as a jumbo loan — most lenders will want to see a credit score that's north of 700 or even 720. Because lending that much money is inherently risky, lenders look for potential home buyers to have solid financials, including a strong credit score.

With a FICO score of 740 or higher, you're likely to get the best jumbo mortgage rates. Using a mortgage calculator can make clear how even a slightly lower rate can make a big difference.

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"Cecilia Mota was awesome! She was a blessing, and we were in great hands!!" - Laura Macias

"Miriam Villanueva always came through and provided excellent service!!" - Ricardo Villanueva

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Mobile home in the City of Santa Ana. Home features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, master bedroom with walk in closet, kitchen with center island, spacious living room. Park features swimming pool, party salon, and much more. Close to schools and shopping. House interior and exterior is in excellent condition. CALL TODAY!!!

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- 2 story home!
- Beautiful 5 bedrooms
- Cathedral ceilings
- Large rear yard

PRICED AT: \$1,599,999

IN ESCROW!



Downey Investment!

- 2 homes on a lot
- Front: 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Back: 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Light fixer

PRICED AT: \$675,000

CALL TO GET A FIRST LOOK!



Located in North Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Approximately 1,500 sq. ft.
- Large lot
- Close to Rio San Gabriel Elementary and Doty Middle School
- Great location!

PRICED AT: \$795,000

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?

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WHETHER YOU NEED A HOME EVALUATION OR JUST A FEW QUESTIONS ANSWERED, IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO HELP!

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IN ESCROW!



8110-12 Comolette Street, Downey

2 HOMES ON ONE LOT

- Front: 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Back: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2 car garage has been converted to living space (not permitted)

PRICED AT: \$795,000

CALL FOR MORE INFO!

FOR RENT



11705 Coldbrook, Downey

2 bedrooms, 1 bath upstairs Apartment and 2 carport \$1,800 a month Available Now Call 562.382.1252

SOLD!



Closed in 30 days!

- 3,700 sq. ft. home in Downey
- 5 bedrooms
- 5 bathrooms

PRICED AT: \$1,199,999

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- Detailed market analysis sent to you in less than 24 min
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IN ESCROW!



7649 Arnett Street, Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Over 1,700 sq. ft.
- Original hardwood floors

SOLD IN LESS THAN 5 DAYS!



6723 Arbutus, Huntington Park

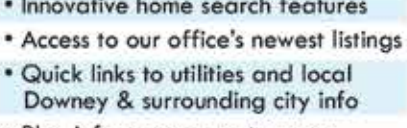
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SOLD!



Northridge Condo!

- 2 bedrooms
- 1.5 bathrooms
- Spacious living room and dining area
- 1,026 sq. ft.

PRICED AT: \$355,000

SOLD!



3640, 3642 & 3642 1/2 E 52nd, Maywood

- 3 separate units
- 1 unit: 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2 units: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2,810sq. ft.

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