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## Norwalk opens drive-up testing site

■ In response to rising coronavirus cases, a free COVID-19 testing site opened at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station.

By Vincent Medina  
Contributor

**NORWALK** - A mega COVID-19 testing site opened at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station on Monday, after Norwalk partnered with the American Safety Group (ASG) to create the free PCR testing site.

Appointments are not needed, but pre-registration is recommended.

Project manager Jacob Perez observed other testing sites and helped organize a system to ensure people could get tested and leave within minutes.

"What we implemented here is the process of getting registered within five minutes, then tested in three minutes. So the whole process should take eight to 10 minutes," said Perez.

"It's all about knowing each step of the process."

Executive director of operations, Zack Barrington, emphasized that half of the testing site employees are military veterans. Still, the center also employs local non-veterans.

Other testing sites, such as Kaiser's Downey Medical Center, have testing lines that extend down the block with patients waiting for hours in their vehicles. Then, after receiving the test, they have to wait multiple days to find their results.

ASG president Alfredo Valdez explained that they reached out to multiple local laboratories to yield faster results.

"With some of these sites in LA County, people are waiting five to seven days to get their results, but by then they are already over it or can tell they have it," said Valdez. "We are bringing in other laboratories to get our test results in 24 - 48 hours."

The testing site only administers PCR tests, which are more reliable than rapid antigen tests.

"As the virus mutates, we are finding more breakthrough cases. So testing is still necessary even though most people are vaccinated," said the ASG president.

Valdez continued to encourage people to get vaccinated to have more resistance against the virus.

According to the LA County public health department, approximately 69.1% of eligible Norwalk residents are fully vaccinated.

"My City Council colleagues and I are being briefed daily about the surge in COVID-19 positive cases in LA County. We decided to be proactive in making a testing site available for our residents and our neighboring communities," said Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez. "Once the site is fully operational, it will be able to accommodate over 1,000 people every day. The public can get tested as quickly as possible to avoid potentially spreading the virus if they are positive."

Perez also says there are plans to set up a vaccination station at the site.

The testing center is open every day from 7 am - 7 pm. The site will close on Jan. 31 but can be extended if the city deems it necessary.

## Promising teen killed in New Year's crash

■ 18-year-old Christian Lopez, of Whittier, died in a traffic collision at Florence and Woodruff avenues.

Lopez graduated last year as valedictorian at Whittier High.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** - Police are looking for information on a deadly traffic collision that occurred at the intersection of Florence and Woodruff Avenues on New Year's Day.

At approximately 4:16 pm on Jan. 1, a vehicle driven by a 26-year-old male resident of

Chandler Arizona was traveling eastbound on Florence Avenue when it collided with another vehicle driven by an 18-year-old female from Whittier, who was turning southbound on Woodruff Ave from westbound Florence Ave.

The passenger of the turning vehicle, later identified by family as 18-year-old Christian Lopez of Whittier, succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at a local trauma center.

One other person sustained non-life-threatening injuries, according to police.

Lopez, a recent graduate and valedictorian at Whittier High School, was a student at UCLA where he was studying Political Science, though his mother,

Veronica Sandoval, says that he had intended to make the switch to medicine as early as the upcoming semester.

Sandoval described her son as "a good friend, and a good boy."

"He didn't deserve this," she said.

She added that a vigil has been planned by friends and loved ones for Friday at the site of the crash. No time was given.

The investigation is still ongoing, and no arrests have been made. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Downey Police Department at 562-904-2342, or Investigator Alaina Clark at 562-904-2339.



## Rio Hondo golfer wins Tournament of Champions

■ Nesthee Padilla started playing golf as a sophomore at Downey High. Nearly 30 years later, he won the SCGA's prestigious Tournament of Champions.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** - A familiar face at the Rio Hondo Golf Course recently turned heads, claiming victory over some of the region's best amateur players.

For Nesthee Padilla, 42 of Long Beach, entry into the sport of golf and subsequent success could be considered quite random. Padilla was taught at the age of 10 by his father, who himself was only a casual weekend golfer.

It wasn't until his sophomore year at Downey High School that he found an opportunity - and more importantly, a desire - to play at a competitive level.

"I played football for Downey. I was a football player, I grew up playing football, but I heard about the golf tryouts through the intercom," said Padilla. "So, I grabbed my dad's golf clubs and I tried out for the team, and I made the varsity team my sophomore year."

Padilla admitted that the team itself "wasn't very good," however it didn't stop him from finding early success.

"The pretty much highlight of my sophomore year was after the first two rounds of the San Gabriel Valley League Finals, I was the only golfer [on the team] to make it to the third round."

"That was a highlight for me, to kind of get the ball rolling to know that 'Okay, I can actually play golf.'"

This only fueled Padilla, who said he was "already extremely competitive."

"There was something there," he added.

Success would follow Padilla into his junior year, where he would again make the third round of the SGVL Finals.

Padilla says that he started putting in "extra time" during those two years.

"As I was a football player,

most of my heart and soul was in football," said Padilla. "But I just knew there was not going to be anything after high school for football. I started taking golf a little more seriously, just putting in the extra time and practicing, and listening to my coach and everything he had to say."

In fact, during his senior year, Padilla said that his coach Bob Whitney would get him a job at Rio Hondo as a cart boy.

"He said, 'It will be a good fit for you,'" said Padilla.

When it came time for league finals again, Padilla would once again find himself amongst the final cut, and more.

"I made the top-six All League Team in high school, which was like a major accomplishment," said Padilla. "I was the first team All-League golfer."

Padilla would continue his play after high school, moving on to play as part of the Cerritos College team.

At Cerritos, he would make First Team All-Conference. However, after two years he would be offered a job as a caddy. Padilla would accept the position, ultimately carrying him away, abroad, and through the next 20 years of his life.

Padilla has caddied at several notable clubs, including Big Horn, The Quarry, and the Madison Club. He caddied in Ireland. He caddied at Bandon Dunes in Oregon for 10 years.

As a caddy, Padilla was responsible for everything from cleaning clubs, to providing course knowledge, to suggesting advice to improve his client's game. However, Padilla says that he oftentimes was not taken seriously - especially by older golfers - initially.

"When I first started I was in my early 20's, so a lot of guys that I'm working for, I'm working at an exclusive private golf course, so they're CEO's, they're big time guys, they're not going to really ask for advice from a 20 year old guy."

Of course, with his most recent achievements, most naysayers have no grounds to talk anymore.

In October last year Padilla returned to his roots and participated in the Club Championship at Rio Hondo.



He would win the tournament, securing his status as Club Champion and qualifying him to participate in the Southern California Golf Association's Tournament of Champions, held in December at Coto de Caza's North course.

Padilla would compete with around 90 other club champions like himself. By the tournament's end, he would find himself in a three-way tie for first place; the winner to be decided in a playoff hole.

His final two obstacles were no slouches, either.

"I was extremely happy that I got to that position, but I knew second place didn't have any validation," said Padilla. "I was going up against the defending champ that won it last year, so there was way more pressure, knowing that he had already won that tournament the year before. He's got a grin, a smile from ear to ear, and then the other guy, he's a pretty self-accomplished guy through the SCGA."

"I knew I had my hands full."

Ultimately finding himself with a birdie and with the defending champion effectively out of contention, it

came down to one roughly four foot shot from the hole.

"If he makes the four-footer, we go on to an extra hole for playoff," said Padilla. "Sure enough, he missed it, and as soon as he missed it it sank in, like, 'Man, I can't believe I'm a winner, and I won the whole thing.' It was pretty exciting."

Padilla says that he still plans on competing, however you shouldn't expect any green jackets; he has no plans to go pro.

"My goal is, from the get-go my goal was always to compete on the SCGA," said Padilla. "They have tournaments, they have the SCGA Amateur, and they have the SCGA Mid-Am and the SCGA Match Play, so basically [my goal is to] play those big three tournaments for the SCGA and then get more experience competing against more competitive golfers here in Southern California, and then try to qualify for some bigger stuff like the USGA."

He says he hopes more people get into golfing.

"Try it out, it's different," said Padilla.

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday 75°

Saturday 72°

Sunday 75°

### THINGS TO DO



**Robert Glasper Reimagines Ellington**  
Saturday, 8 pm  
Walt Disney Concert Hall

The pianist Robert Glasper partners with an orchestra and some very special guests in a 21st-century tribute to Duke Ellington.

### ON THIS DAY JANUARY 13

**1794**

President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union.

**1964**

Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, was appointed archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.

**1968**

Country musician Johnny Cash recorded a live concert at Folsom Prison in California.



**1982**

An Air Florida 737 crashed into the 14th Street Bridge in Washington, D.C., after takeoff and fell into the Potomac River, killing 78 people.

**1989**

New York City subway gunman Bernhard H. Goetz was sentenced to one year in prison for possessing an unlicensed gun that he used to shoot four youths he said were about to rob him.

**1990**

Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

**2000**

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive.

**2002**

The off-Broadway musical "The Fantasticks" ended a run of nearly 42 years and 17,162 performances.

**2012**

The passenger cruise ship Costa Concordia sank off the coast of Italy, killing 32 people. The ship's captain, Francesco Schettino, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for causing the shipwreck and then abandoning ship.

### Birthdays

"Seinfeld" star **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** (61), country singer **Trace Adkins** (60), "Grey's Anatomy" star **Patrick Dempsey** (56), "Baywatch" actress **Nicole Eggert** (50), "Lord of the Rings" actor **Orlando Bloom** (45), "Hunger Games" actor **Liam Hemsworth** (32), and "Stranger Things" actress **Natalia Dyer** (27).



## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Taking a daily aspirin may lower the risk of heart attack and stroke, but is it appropriate for everyone? There are days when you just don't want to read this entire column, so here is the answer: NO.

What does an old-fashioned aspirin do for us? Taking an occasional aspirin or two is safe for most adults, and can be useful for treating pain, fever, and headaches. Aspirin affects our body in another very important way.

When we bleed, clotting cells (platelets) collect at the site. Platelets help form a plug that seals the opening in the blood vessel, which stops the bleeding. Clotting can even occur within our heart or brain vessels, and this sometimes leads to a heart attack or stroke. Aspirin reduces this clotting action.

As we age, the risk of heart attack and stroke tends to increase. However, the risk of gastrointestinal bleeding from aspirin rises even more. Those at higher risk for heart attack or stroke will receive more benefit than harm from a daily aspirin, but taking a daily aspirin does not benefit those who already have a low risk of heart attack or stroke. Here are guidelines to follow:

People who should NOT take a daily aspirin include those:

- without known heart or vascular disease
- without significant risk factors for heart disease or stroke
- with bleeding or clotting disorders
- with an aspirin allergy
- with a history of bleeding ulcers or other gastrointestinal bleeding

- already taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- already on some blood thinning medication, including NSAIDs, or other blood thinning medications specifically given for atrial fibrillation, deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism.

People who might benefit from a daily aspirin include those:

- who have heart disease, including those who have had coronary bypass surgery or a stent placed in an artery
- between 40 and 60 who are at high risk of heart disease due to underlying diseases (such as diabetes), along with another risk factor: high cholesterol, smoking, hypertension, or a family history of heart disease.

If you have been taking a daily aspirin, is it safe to stop? If you have a heart attack or a stent placed in one or more heart arteries, then it's important to continue taking daily aspirin exactly as directed by your doctor. Stopping daily aspirin therapy can have a rebound effect that could trigger a blood clot and lead to a heart attack.

Coated aspirin was designed to be gentler on the stomach by passing through the stomach and not dissolving until it reaches the small intestine. However, there is no evidence that it actually decreases the chance of developing gastrointestinal bleeding, and due to absorption issues, it may not work as well as plain aspirin.

If you are considering taking a daily aspirin or have started taking it on your own, I urge you to speak with your doctor. Together you can evaluate your own particular set of health issues, and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of aspirin.

**Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.**

# Health director warns against unessential activities to slow COVID

Residents are being urged to avoid non-essential activities as the coronavirus continues its spread across L.A. County.

By City News Service

**DOWNEY** – Amid a dramatic surge in COVID-19 infections, Los Angeles County's public health director this week urged residents to avoid non-essential activities in the coming weeks, particularly those that are indoors and involve mingling with unvaccinated or higher-risk people.

Fueled by the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the county is experiencing pandemic-high levels of daily infection reports and the highest rate of virus transmission to date. Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said nearly 35,000 new infections will be reported Tuesday when official numbers are released, along with 15 more deaths.

"While we're in the surge, we do ask that you exercise more caution, even if you're vaccinated and boosted," Ferrer said during Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting. "One way to reduce transmission is to wear a high-quality mask whenever you're around non-household members. ... We're also asking that over the next few weeks, we all try to avoid non-essential activities where people are unmasked and in close contact with others."

"We know how important getting together with friends is to our well-being," she said. "We need to be sure we're able to keep each other safe. The reality is that parties and events -- especially those indoors with unvaccinated individuals or those at high risk for severe illness -- make it very easy for this virus to spread. Limiting our time with others to those more essential work-related or school-related activities is a prudent action for everyone to take whenever possible."

"I know this is not the



Jordan Kreltz hands a patient her nose swab to test for COVID-19 at the Norwalk/ Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station testing site. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

start to the new year we had all envisioned. With the additional tools we have, particularly easy access to free vaccine, we ought to be able to use different strategies to get us through these challenging times. As always though, it takes the cooperation of all of us to move forward with grace and get through this surge."

Her comments came as state figures showed the number of COVID-positive patients in county hospitals rising to 3,766, up from 3,472 on Monday. The number of those patients in intensive care rose to 513, up from 482 a day earlier.

Dr. Christina Ghaly, the county's health services director, said that despite rising patient numbers, the Omicron-fueled surge is playing out differently in hospitals than earlier surges. She said last fall, about one-third of COVID patients wound up in ICU care, but that number is only about 10-15% this time around, at least in the four county-operated hospitals, which likely reflect conditions in other medical centers.

She also said that about 40% of COVID-positive patients at the county hospitals were admitted specifically because of the virus, while the rest only learned they were infected upon admission for something else. During the last surge, 80-90% of the COVID patients were admitted due to virus-related illness.

Ghaly said that despite the changes and numbers that still dwarf last winter's surge -- when more than 8,000 COVID patients were hospitalized -- current staffing shortages are creating more critical conditions at hospitals. She pointed to a large number of health care workers who have retired or moved into non-front-line positions.

She also noted that the surge in COVID infections has also impacted health care workers, leaving many unavailable to work due to illness or exposure.

The situation has also led to longer ambulance response times, in part due to large numbers of workers at private ambulance companies who have failed to meet COVID vaccination requirements, leaving them unable to work, combined with a high amount of people calling in sick.

The time it takes for ambulance crews to off-load patients at hospitals has also risen, she said, thanks to staffing and space issues.

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# DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

**Stars 2022**, 2 pm. The Dance Company presents its winter production, showcasing its new contemporary lyrical, musical theatre, ballet, a sneak peek of its competitive dances, as well as a Nutcracker encore. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

**Ribbon Cutting**, 4 pm. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for new Downey Chamber of Commerce member Paramount Residential Mortgage Group, with raffles, drinks and music. PRMG, 8207 3rd St.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**Downey Coordinating Council**, 11:30 am. Eric Pierce speaks about the Downey Patriot and the importance of community journalism. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**Kiwanis Meeting**, 6 pm. Larry Cunningham (Downey High School class of 2003) speaks about his career as a professional basketball player and being inducted into the UC Riverside Hall of Fame. Cost is \$22. Hosted by Downey Kiwanis at Frantone's Pizza, 9148 Telegraph Rd.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**Father-Con**, 10 am. Hear from guest speakers on topics such as human trafficking, cyber safety, foster care, masculinity, the importance of father figures, the dangers of pornography, dealing with sexual hurt, dating, divorce, and more. Register at father-con.org. Warren High School, 8141 De Palma St.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**Pechanga Casino**, 9 am to 7:30 pm. Join other Downey residents in a trip to Pechanga Casino. On the way home, the bus will stop at Tom's Farm for shopping. \$15. Ages 21 and up, pre-registration required at the Barbara J. Riley and Community Center.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**Book Club**, 12 pm. Bring your lunch and join a lively discussion of "In Five Years" by Rebecca Serle. Free. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**A Cappella Competition**, 7 pm. The western quarterfinals of the Varsity Vocals International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. Featuring collegiate a cappella groups from California, this event's top two champions will move on to perform at the ICCA West Semifinal in Salem, Oregon against 8 other regional qualifying groups. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**Keep Downey Beautiful**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags are provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothes. Bob's Big Boy, 7400 Firestone Blvd.

**Recruitment Expo**, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Interested in a summer job with Downey's Parks & Recreation Department? Attend this expo to learn more. 7810 Quill Dr.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

**Book Club**, 12 pm. Bring your lunch and join a lively discussion of "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. Free. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**Back to Football Night**, 7 pm. A celebration of the upcoming Downey Razorbacks football season. Discounts for returning players on this date only. Parley Johnson House, 7749 Florence Ave.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

**Arc Walk for Independence**, 8 am. After a one-year hiatus, the Arc Walk returns to raise money for The Arc Los Angeles & Orange Counties. Register at www.thearcooc.org or call Yolanda Chavez at (626) 862-3915.

**Keep Downey Beautiful**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags are provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothes. 9901 Paramount Blvd. (near See's Candy)

**Kiwanis Car Show**, 9 am to 2 pm. Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis' second annual car show, featuring vintage automobiles, food trucks, live music, raffles, and more. \$20 to enter a car, free to the public. Downey High School, 11040 Brookshire Ave.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 20

**Beauty & the Beast Sing-Along**, 2 pm. This interactive presentation of Disney's favorite classic has been customized with on-screen lyrics for all the songs so that audiences can sing along. Your hosts will introduce each performance and in addition, goody bags are available for purchase and audience members are encouraged to participate. Add to the fun by dressing up as a favorite character from the film. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 1

**Willy Chirino**, 8 pm. Combining the musical traditions of Cuba with American rock and jazz, Cuba-born and South Florida-based vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped to create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. The composer of more than 100 songs, Chirino's material has been covered by a lengthy list of artists. First of two concerts. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2

**City of STEM Kick-Off Festival**. City of STEM returns in-person, starting with this kick-off festival featuring booths, activities, performances, and panels provided by STEM organizations throughout the Los Angeles area, including colleges and universities, museums, learning centers, libraries, science clubs, and many more. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

**Willy Chirino**, 8 pm. Combining the musical traditions of Cuba with American rock and jazz, Cuba-born and South Florida-based vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped to create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. The composer of more than 100 songs, Chirino's material has been covered by a lengthy list of artists. Second of two concerts. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8

**Fiesta Casino**, 6-10 pm. Save the date for Downey Kiwanis' annual casino night fundraiser, taking place this year at the Azar Event Center, 12215 Slauson Ave., in Santa Fe Springs.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 9

**Keep Downey Beautiful**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags are provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothes. Grocery Outlet, 8320 Firestone

Blvd.

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. The Downey Symphony Orchestra performs Bernstein's Overture to Candide, Pinar Toprak's "Open World" from Captain Marvel, Ives' Variations on "America," and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story. Plus a percussion concerto with Wesley Sumpter. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 10

**Grease Sing-Along**, 7 pm. Hand jive in the aisles, enjoy specialty treats and drinks and get ready to fall in love with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John all over again as you sing along to "You're the One That I Want," "Beauty School Dropout," "Summer Nights" and all of the film's big hits. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

**Book Club**, 12 pm. Bring your lunch and join a lively discussion of "Bewilderment" by Richard Powers. Free. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 16

**Brunch with the Bunny**, 9:30 am to 1 pm. Pancake breakfast, games, vendors, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Golden Park, 8840 Golden Ave.

## SATURDAY, MAY 7

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. The Downey Symphony Orchestra performs Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni, George Walker's Lyric for Strings, and Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, plus a special performance of Beethoven's Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C Major with Carolyn Osborn on violin, Dane Little on cello, and Kevin Fitzgerald on piano. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, MAY 8

**Mariachi Los Camperos**, 4 pm. Two-Time Grammy award winner Mariachi Los Camperos originated in 1961 and played a fundamental role in the development of Mariachi music in the United States and was the first to take the Mariachi performances out of customary locations such as cantinas and into concert halls. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, MAY 14

**Keep Downey Beautiful**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags are provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothes. Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd.

## SATURDAY, MAY 21

**Carpenters Legacy Concert**, 8 pm. A recreation of The Carpenters' 1976 UK tour, starring Sally Olson and Ned Mills. Plus a special tribute to Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 18

**Keep Downey Beautiful**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags are provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothes. Big Lots, 9020 Firestone Blvd.

# LIVE WIRE

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EPISODE 1



Claudia Frometa

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Jr. High | High School: 562-803-4076

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www.cccsdowney.org



# Newsom visits Covid testing site in Paramount

■ The governor used the visit to highlight \$2.7 billion California has allocated to fight the pandemic.

By City News Service

**PARAMOUNT** – Gov. Gavin Newsom Wednesday visited a coronavirus testing site in Paramount to discuss his request for \$2.7 billion in new COVID-19 spending as part of his next state budget proposal.

The budgetary recommendation is designed to protect frontline workers, battle misinformation online and ensure the state's health care system is prepared to handle future variants, Newsom said.

Funds would help ramp up vaccines, boosters and statewide testing, and increase medical personnel to meet potential surges, he said.

"We want to build up some permanent infrastructure" to prepare for a phase where variants are treated like changes in the flu virus, the governor said.

"We're gonna get through this," he added.

Newsom's office is also battling a seemingly never-ending fountain of misinformation about the virus spread online.

"This nonsense they're spewing," Newsom told reporters. "We just have to keep pushing back."

The governor said there were currently 50 mobile testing sites -- on top of an existing 6,288 permanent sites -- operating throughout the state, many in rural areas, with 30 more coming online shortly. More than 10.9 million tests have been distributed to schools statewide since early December, he said.

Currently, 90% of Californians

live within a 30-minute drive of a site, Newsom said, but that is not good enough.

The governor said he had deployed about 200 members of the National Guard to help at testing sites around the state, adding capacity for walk-ins and back-filling for staff absences. An additional 80 Cal Guard members would be deployed in the coming days, he said.

"We don't want to see folks lining up," Newsom said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn -- whose district includes Paramount -- thanked Newsom for his "decisive leadership" in getting California residents vaccinated and boosted.

Hahn said the Omicron variant of COVID-19 "has presented new challenges. We're conducting 200,000 tests per day, but that is not enough. People want to be tested. It's time we stepped up and meet the moment on testing."

Newsom arrived in Paramount after visiting a homeless encampment in downtown San Diego to highlight his California Blueprint, a plan to tackle "existential threats," including the housing crisis, through the proposed \$286.4 billion budget.

# Super Bowl expected to draw human traffickers, sheriff says

■ Runaway and homeless girls are particularly vulnerable to human traffickers, law enforcement officials said.

By City News Service

**PARAMOUNT** – As Los Angeles prepares to host the Super Bowl, Sheriff Alex Villanueva Wednesday reminded residents that the event is a magnet for human trafficking.

Villanueva also highlighted January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

"This is ... always a lead-up to the Super Bowl, which ends up being one of the major events that draws human traffickers to the region," the sheriff said. "Sadly, millions of people worldwide are forced to endure this form of modern-day slavery. And they prey on the most vulnerable -- those looking for opportunities in the U.S., those that have come without families and unsuspecting people that may be lured online."

"Anyone can become a victim

of human trafficking," Villanueva said.

He urged residents, "if you see something, say something," asking them to report human trafficking to their local law enforcement agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security tip line at 866-347-2423 or Crime Stoppers, 800-222-TIPS (8477).

Southern California is already a hot spot for human trafficking, including sex trafficking, in part because of large runaway and homeless youth populations and proximity to international borders.

In recent years, local law enforcement agencies' approach to sex trafficking has shifted to prosecuting those soliciting sex and trying to provide support for victims.

Human trafficking can take several other forms, including forced labor, debt bondage and involuntary domestic servitude.

"And if you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking and is looking for support or services, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline ... at 888-373-7888," the sheriff said.

Multiple law enforcement agencies will be out in force in Los Angeles to ensure overall security at the NFL championship game,

and those efforts will include a focus on human trafficking.

The sheriff said the LASD will have 300 personnel working the event in support of Inglewood Police Department officers.


The Department of Homeland Security has not yet released its plans for enforcement around the NFL's biggest game of the year. Last year, when the Super Bowl was held in Tampa, Florida, more than 500 DHS personnel were assigned to secure the site.

"Not only is the Super Bowl an attractive target for terrorists and domestic violent extremists, but it also presents opportunities for human trafficking, the sale of counterfeit goods, and other criminal activities," the department said in a statement in February 2021.

DHS efforts in 2021 to raise awareness around human trafficking included training Tampa airport staff and promoting resources through a local restaurant and lodging association.

More than 70 people were arrested during an investigation into sexual exploitation during Super Bowl week in Tampa in 2021, according to a local Tampa ABC news affiliate. Six people believed to be victims of human trafficking were "recovered."

**In Memory of**  
**Shane Nicholas Drisner**  
 November 8, 1994 - December 28, 2021



Shane Nicholas Drisner was born on Nov. 8th, 1994 in Los Alamitos, CA to John Nicholas Drisner and Jill Jessiika Gutierrez (now Savoy). He entered into rest on Dec. 28th, 2021 at the age of 27.


Shane Drisner was a musical genius known for his artistic work as Spol. His music can be found on iTunes, SoundCloud and Spotify.

He was also writing his first short story with original musical composition accompaniment and had just traveled to 5 different countries in Europe.

Shane is survived by his loving father and mother and his siblings, who he adored, John Michael Drisner and Brooke Kayla Fallows. Family also includes Brenda Gutierrez and Sue Drisner, his grandmothers and Ron Drisner his grandfather. He has two aunts Heather McCarty and Erin Ogas and their husbands Mike and Shaun respectively. First cousins are Tallen, Tegan, Natalie and Ryan. He was dearly loved and the world will not be the same without him.

Please join us in celebrating his life at St. Raymond's Church in Downey for his memorial service. This will be held on Monday, Jan. 17th, 2022 at 10:00am. A reception is to follow at La Barca on Paramount Blvd. in Downey, CA.

**In Memory of**  
**James Buchanan**



Outdoorsman, sportsman, beloved husband, father and grandfather, Captain James Buchanan of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, died on Dec 20, 2021. Jim was 87.

Jim and his wife Lois moved to Downey in 1963, and they were married for "a wonderful 61 years, 7 months and 6 days." Jim grew up in Huntington Park where he excelled in pole vaulting and won an athletic scholarship to USC. In 1984 he ran the Olympic Torch thru Downey. Jim served two years in the Army in the Korean War and then with the Huntington Park Fire Department until 1971 when L. A. County assumed fire protection. He completed 30 years as a Captain with the L. A. County Fire Department, retiring in 1989.

Jim was active in the Boy Scouts in Downey and a member of the Downey Fly Fisher's club for many years. He and Lois had a second home in Wyoming, a three story log building that had been his dream since boyhood. He loved snowmobiling, fishing and varmint hunting. The house held many family memories, as well as fishing and hunting trophies, and his gun collection. He also collected Native American pottery, clocks, and Civil War memorabilia.

Jim was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and always supported Lois in her many community activities. He leaves his wife Lois, three children, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grand-children. Although Jim had been in ill health recently, he was able to tell Lois exactly how he wanted his services to be conducted, with his grandsons and friends leading the prayers, remarks and eulogy. That service was held Dec. 28, at the LDS church, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department sent a fire truck to honor him. Jim was interred in Riverside National Cemetery.

The Fire Department's Flag Raising Ceremony in his honor has been postponed till it is safer to do so. Donations may be made to Alisa Ann Buch Burn Foundation, 500 N. Hill Ave, Unit 305, Pasadena CA 91106.



# Pacheco picks up 34 endorsements

**DOWNEY** – Mayor Blanca Pacheco picked up a slew of endorsements after announcing her candidacy for state Assembly last week.

Pacheco, currently in her second term as Downey mayor, is seeking California's 64th Assembly District seat, which includes Downey and other cities as far east as La Habra.

She had already been endorsed by L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn when Pacheco made her campaign public.

Since then, she has also picked up endorsements from state Sen. Bob Archuleta, L.A. County assessor Jeffrey Prang, and local officials including Downey council members Claudia Frometa and Mario Trujillo.

Also endorsing Pacheco are former mayors Alex Saab and Fernando Vasquez, along with school board members Nancy Swenson, Martha Sodemani, Linda Saldana and Giovanna Perez-Saab.

Pacheco has acquired 34 endorsements in total.

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## Not getting vaccinated can be child abuse

By **Froma Harrop**

She was only in her 30s when COVID-19 put her in the hospital for three nights. The woman, whom I know well, eventually tested negative, but then “long COVID” took over. Formerly healthy, she now suffers a disabling inflammatory disease. She may need a year to completely recover — and some don’t recover.

Need I add that she was unvaccinated? This acquaintance doesn’t fit the usual profile of people who refuse to get their shots. She’s highly educated and politically on the left, albeit, the far left.

The story doesn’t end there, however. Her 10-month-old baby came down with COVID-19, most likely passed from her. The baby experienced just a short fever, fortunately, but her mother is now unable to nurse him. The father can’t go to work because he’s caring both for the mother and the baby. Their home life is a mess.

“For her not to get vaccinated is child abuse,” a leading science writer told me. She almost took that harsh statement back but didn’t. And I had to agree.

French President Emmanuel Macron recently let loose, announcing that he wanted to “piss off” his citizens who won’t get vaccinated by banning them from public spaces. Macron apparently feels it’s politically safe to join rising public anger at the minority that keeps the pandemic

going.

There’s the story of Canadians on a recent chartered flight to Mexico who misbehaved badly. They passed around booze, didn’t wear masks and, in one case, even vaped onboard. The partygoers included TV personalities, social media influencers and other cultural leaders.

The airlines are leaving most of them in Mexico.

Back in the U.S., rage at the unvaccinated now hogging intensive care unit beds has come out in the open. You can tell from the reporting.

In Iowa, retired school superintendent Dale Weeks waited 15 days to get a bed in a major hospital that could treat his sepsis, a condition demanding immediate treatment. He died.

The media also picked up on Alabama businessman Ray DeMonia, who suffered a cardiac emergency and needed specialized care. DeMonia died after being turned away from 43 hospitals in three states.

Hospitals, meanwhile, are seeing an alarming rise in abuse of their workers by COVID-19 patients and their visitors. Early on, these caregivers were hailed as heroes risking their lives to save others. Many attribute the new violence to the public’s frustration at the ongoing health crisis.

It also undoubtedly reflects a change in the demographics of the seriously ill COVID-19 population. Early on, before vaccines were readily

available, all kinds of infected people fell gravely ill. Now the great majority needing hospitalization are unvaccinated.

This group is highly weighted with self-righteous “conservatives,” trained by the former president and his impersonators to ignore the medical experts, stew with resentment and act out their anger. Some of their visitors throw tantrums when told to wear a mask. Hospital workers have been sustaining broken bones, punches to the chest and racial insults.

The new mother I reference above is very left but shares some of the right wingers’ high dudgeon. She likes to flout authority. (She mocked social distancing.) She probably figured she’d survive COVID-19 without getting seriously ill.

As for the possibility that she would be OK but pass the virus onto the more vulnerable ... well, not her problem. Right? That lack of concern, it would appear, extended to her newborn.

The vaccinated majority is rapidly losing interest in the fate of the unvaccinated — and that’s putting it diplomatically. The latter may be irresponsible, ignorant, selfish, mentally unbalanced or any combination of the above. We just feel sorry for the innocents around them.

*Froma Harrop is a nationally syndicated columnist who writes about politics, culture and the economy.*

## A showdown on voting rights

By **Jamie Stiehm**

The Capitol candlelight vigil for the mob attack on Congress gave way to a Senate showdown on voting rights — a scene straight from the heart of darkness.

Timed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, it’s a showdown Senate Democrats don’t know they can win. But they have to try, for a fair field in the upcoming midterms. Plus, it’s a great chance for Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who plays Hamlet to the hilt, to choose “to be” with his own party.

President Joe Biden gave a speech in Georgia Tuesday, urging the Senate to change its filibuster rules, if necessary, to restore voting rights. That prospect has Senate Republicans breathing fire.

But the heart of darkness is across the street from the Capitol: the Supreme Court. While the Capitol endured a physical brutal assault, the Court often tears down the walls of democracy from inside.

In 2013, the Court struck down a shiny pearl from the civil rights era: the Voting Rights Act. That’s the reason why the Senate is in the crosshairs now. The activist Supreme Court acts in all the wrong ways — with more to come.

Chief Justice John Roberts and other Republicans waged war on a widely praised voting rights law, applied to the South where patterns of racial discrimination persist. The infamous case was brought by Shelby

County, Alabama, and brought the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s strongest dissent.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer declared, “Everyone in this chamber will have a chance to go on record ... on defending democracy.” Since the Jan. 6 siege, he says, voter suppression laws are on the rise.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, canny and shrewd, says a rule change on the 60-vote filibuster would “break the Senate.” Why, heavens above, Democrats want to “federalize elections.”

Yes, Mitch. Federal offices should be subject to federal oversight laws, as they were for nearly 50 years. Presidential and congressional elections by right need federal backbone and should not be left to uneven states.

In the darkness of the “big lie” loser former President Donald Trump has spread (that the 2020 election was stolen), the urgency of passing a new Voting Rights Act is here and now. The Supreme Court left democracy with no umbrella in the rain, no winter coat on an arctic day.

Roberts is not even the worst Republican on the high court. Among the three Trump appointees, Brett Kavanaugh himself egged on a “preppie riot” as Florida votes were counted in the deadlocked Bush v. Gore election.

America got by for a cycle or two. The 2020 election was free and fair, by all accounts, with high turnout that looked like nonviolent resistance to me, multitudes standing in long lines. Biden won decisively.

But 19 states have just changed their voting laws and made it harder to register and to vote. Several Republican Trump loyalists are running for secretary of state, the office responsible for vote-counting. This means state electors may be more partisan instead of neutral. In Georgia, it will now be illegal to give water to voters waiting in line.

This is happening in plain view since the attempted murder of a peaceful democracy on Jan. 6, 2021.

The senator with the most at stake is the Rev. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached. He’s on the ballot again, after an upset win in 2020. In fiery floor speeches, he states nothing matters more in American democracy than protecting the rights of minority voters.

The Supreme Court gave us campaigns with unlimited “dark money,” in Citizens United. It restricted a constitutional right to reproductive freedom in Texas. Employer mask mandates are at risk.

Just you wait for the crux: whether the Court will allow the release of Trump’s records from during the Jan. 6 siege.

See what I mean? I rest my case.

*Jamie Stiehm is a Washington journalist and public speaker who writes a syndicated column on national politics and history*

## Amazon’s corporate arrogance

By **Jim Hightower**

In its ranking of business values, corporate America proudly provides a special place for elevated moral behavior. That place is the trash can.

Indeed, several years ago, free-market extremist Milton Friedman actually decreed that the only ethical obligation a corporation has to society is to deliver as much profit as possible to its big investors — everybody else be damned. Any awfulness caused by their self-indulgent policy of profit maximization is excused by claiming that their iniquities “broke no laws.” But — hello — they write the laws, intentionally defining corporate immorality as always technically legal.

America experienced the result of this mentality just before Christmas, when a line of supercell tornadoes ripped through Midwestern states, demolishing homes, businesses and even whole towns, killing more than 90 people. “A tragedy,” wailed CEOs, the media and public officials! But wait: Those deaths were not destiny. No question that a twisting 190-mph vortex comes at us with cataclysmic power, but we’re not helpless in the face of its fury. For years, an effective, comparatively cheap defense against killer tornadoes has been readily available: Safe rooms.

Basically, these are simple, concrete rooms built inside homes, schools, factories, shopping centers and elsewhere. People can shelter safely in them during big blows, surviving even if the building around them is shredded. Emergency management officials report that they provide “near absolute protection” from tornadoes. A decade ago, safety officials, insurance providers, consumer advocates and others

had proposed amending our building codes to require these inexpensive, lifesaving structures in new commercial and public buildings. Such a provision would’ve saved many workers who were crushed in an Amazon warehouse, a candle-making factory and other buildings destroyed in December’s storms.

But they died, because in 2012, members of a little-known industry-controlled group, the International Code Council, had quietly vetoed the proposal, calling it “overly restrictive,” even declaring it “way too soon to do a knee jerk reaction” to tornado deaths.

All those buildings smashed by December’s tornadoes were corporate death sites because their shoddy construction “broke no laws.” Let’s ask corporate America if it’s still too soon for Congress to mandate tornado-safe rooms.

The morning after the horrific tornado smashed a huge Amazon warehouse in Illinois, killing six workers on the night shift, corporate CEO Jeff Bezos issued a personal video message.

But instead of expressing distress and sorrow, Boss Bezos was perversely giddy. That’s because the narcissistic gazillionaire had not made the video to mourn the deaths. Rather, ignoring Amazon’s Illinois disaster, he had chosen this hour of tragedy to gloat to the world that his private space tourism business had just rocketed a small group of extremely rich thrill seekers on a 10-minute joyride some 66 miles up to the edge of space. As reported by the “Popular Information” newsletter, Bezos even dressed up in a pretend astronaut costume for this PR video,

grinning proudly as he exclaimed that everyone involved was really “happy.”

Back on Planet Earth, though, the families and co-workers of the employees crushed when Amazon’s cheaply built structure collapsed on them were not happy with him. It took Bezos some 12 hours after his self-congratulatory media event before he finally issued a perfunctory tweet professing to be “heartbroken over the loss of our teammates.”

But they weren’t “lost” to a storm — they were killed by a deliberate corporate culture that routinely cuts corners on worker safety to put more profit in corporate pockets. First, the building itself was thrown up quickly with cheap, preassembled, 40-foot-high concrete walls that collapse inward in a tornado; second, Amazon’s employees were expected to stay on the job that night even though there was a high risk of tornadoes; third, Amazon never bothered to hold tornado drills; and fourth, nearly all of the workers were classified as “contractors,” letting Amazon dodge liability for on-the-job harm.

Oh, and Jeff might also want to reconsider one more bit of the corporate arrogance he revealed in this ugly incident: Those dead workers were not his “teammates,” as he so cynically called them — even a high-flying captain doesn’t treat teammates as throwaway units, carelessly sacrificing their lives for a few more dollars in corporate profit.

*Jim Hightower is a syndicated columnist and talk radio host.*

## A republic of spies

By **Judge Andrew Napolitano**

Late last Friday, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center warned the American public against the dangers of spyware manufactured by one Israeli corporation. Spyware is unwanted software that can expose the entire contents of one’s mobile or laptop device to prying eyes.

This warning from the feds, issued with a straight face, is about as credible as American television executives warning about the dangers of watching too many British period dramas.

Here is the backstory.

Though America has used the services of spies since the Revolutionary

War, until the modern era, spying was largely limited to wartime. That changed when America became a surveillance state in 1947 with the public establishment of the Central Intelligence Agency and the secret creation of its counterparts.

The CIA’s stated public task at its inception was to spy on the Soviet Union and its satellite countries so that American officials could prepare for any adverse actions by them. This was the time of the Red Scare, in which both Republicans and Democrats fostered the Orwellian belief that America needed a foreign adversary.

We had just defeated Germany in World War II, and an ally of ours in that war — an ally that suffered horrendous losses — suddenly became so strong it needed to be kept in check. The opening salvo in this absurd argument was fired by President Harry Truman in August 1945 when he used nuclear bombs intentionally to target civilians of an already defeated Japan. One of his targets was a Roman Catholic cathedral.

But his real target — so to speak — was his new friend, Joe Stalin.

When Truman signed the National Security Act into law in 1947, he also had Stalin in mind. That statute, which established the CIA, expressly stated that it shall have no internal intelligence or law enforcement functions and its collections of intelligence shall come from outside the United States.

These limiting clauses were integral to the statute creating the CIA, as members of Congress who crafted it feared the U.S. was creating the type of internal surveillance monster that we had just defeated in Germany.

Of course, no senior official in presidential administrations from Truman to Joseph R. Biden has taken these limitations seriously. Last week, this column reminded readers that as recently as the Obama administration, the CIA boasted that it had the capability of receiving data from all computer chips in the homes of Americans.

The same column reminded state lawmakers that, contrary to the law that created it, the CIA is physically present in all 50 state houses in America. What is it doing there?

Fast-forward to today and we know that the CIA has rivals in the government for the acquisition of intelligence data. Today, the feds admit to funding and empowering 16 domestic intelligence agencies — spies next door. The most notorious of these is the National Security Agency, which, when it last reported, employs 60,000+ persons, mostly civilians, with military leadership.

What do they do? They spy on Americans. We know this thanks to the personal courage of Edward Snowden and others who chose to honor their oaths to uphold the Constitution. NSA spying has produced so much data that the NSA recently built in Utah the second largest building in the

U.S. — after the Pentagon — for use as a storage facility of the data it has collected; and it is running out of room.

What has it collected? Quite simply, everything it can get its hands on. These domestic spies — the CIA, the NSA, even the FBI — all have access to every keystroke and all data on every digital device everywhere in the United States, without a warrant. This is computer hacking, a federal crime, but the feds don’t prosecute the spies they have hired to spy on us.

It also represents an egregious violation of the Fourth Amendment, which guarantees the right to privacy of all persons. The operative language is “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.”

The law defines all searches and seizures conducted without a warrant as presumptively unreasonable and thus violative of not only this amendment but also the uniquely American value it was enacted to protect — the right to be left alone. Surely the computer chip in every desktop, mobile device, dishwasher and microwave is an “effect” protected by the Constitution.

The spies and, sadly, the presidents for whom they have worked don’t see it that way. They have claimed in federal courts and elsewhere that the Fourth Amendment does not pertain to spies because they are not law enforcement and because they work directly for the president, who, when he is operating as the commander in chief, is free to employ government assets as he wishes.

This argument has been used to justify the CIA’s violent killings of Americans and others in foreign lands using its drones and its agents dressed as military. It has justified the brutal torture of foreign nationals, even those whom the CIA deemed were being truthful during their interrogations. And, of course, it has justified ignoring the Constitution and the rights it protects and the values that underlie it.

It also belies the very purpose of the Constitution — to keep the government off the people’s backs. Of course, when the late Justice William O. Douglas coined that phrase, there were no computer chips, the CIA was thought to be law-abiding, and the NSA didn’t exist.

So, we can see how tongue in cheek the Biden administration was last Friday afternoon when it announced the need to be careful of commercial spyware. We can avoid commercial spyware, but how can we avoid a totalitarian government that spies on everyone?

According to the Declaration of Independence, we can do so by peacefully altering or abolishing it.

*Judge Andrew Napolitano is a distinguished visiting professor of law at Brooklyn Law School.*

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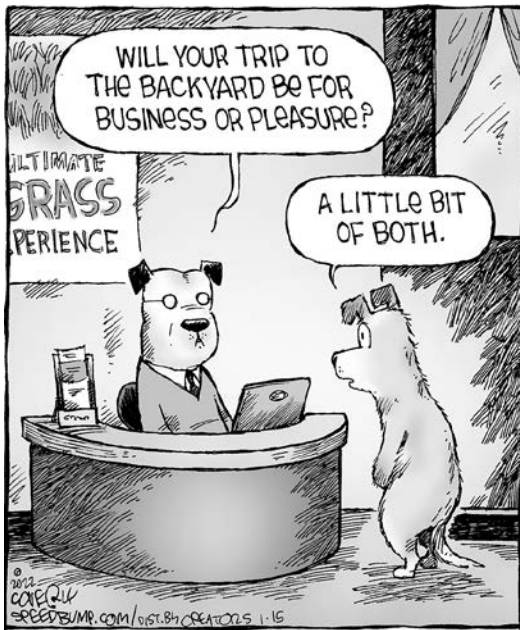
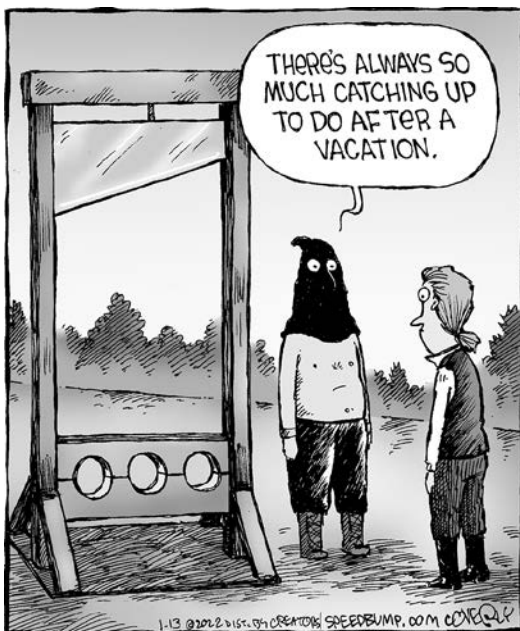
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## SPEED BUMP



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## 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.  
 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: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park, email scoutmaster@downeyboyscouts.com.  
 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., 12 pm: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.  
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

#### WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.  
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.  
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.  
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.  
 2nd Wed., 7 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 484-8415.  
 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., 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.  
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 pm: Bingo, at Woman's Club of Downey - Proceeds benefit Rancho.  
 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: Boy Scout Troop 351, at Furman Park, contact 562-500-5093 for more information.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #202, call 803-3557.  
 2nd Thurs., 12 Noon: Creative Purposes, call Bill Wallace 923-2311.  
 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.

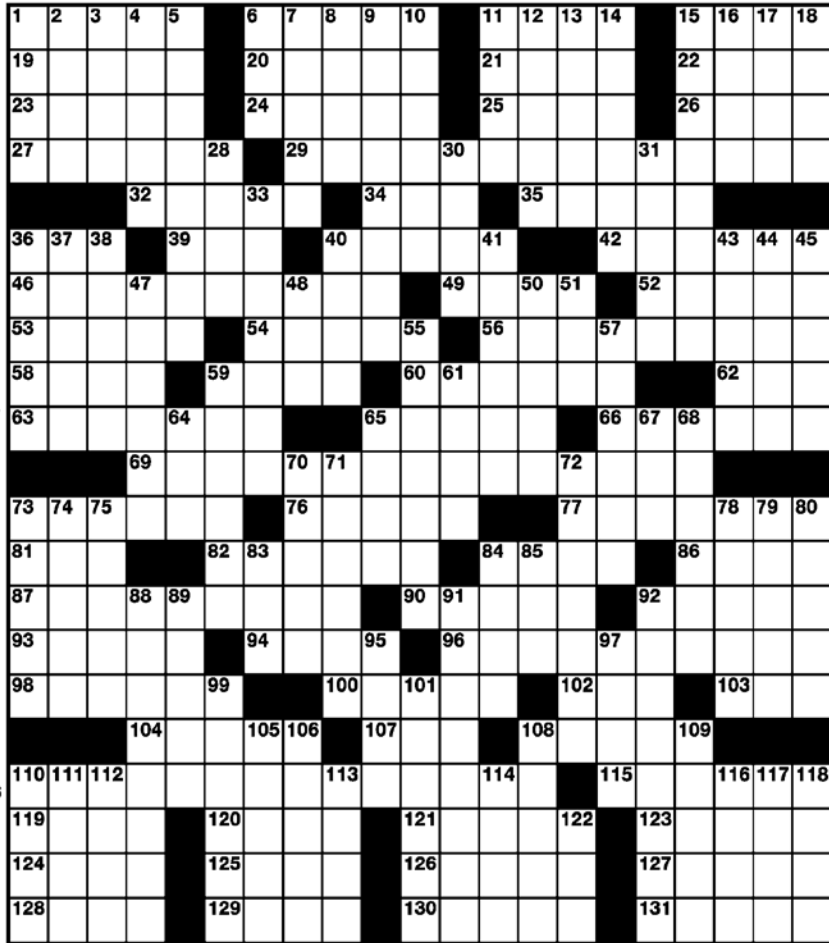
#### SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**STATES OF THE UNION: Time to get it together**  
 by Billie Truitt

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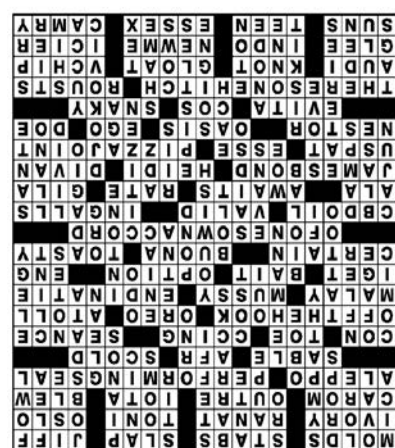
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and Achilles to reconcile.  
 region of Pyllos advises Agamemnon  
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 an occult one. In the *Iliad*, King  
 means "session," not necessarily  
 language, SEANCE (42 Across)  
 1987 novel *Beloved*. In the French  
 TONI MORRISON (21 Across) re-





# Garcetti's nomination clears hurdle

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti cleared a major hurdle Wednesday in his attempt to become ambassador to India under President Joe Biden.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES - The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday confirmed the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to be U.S. ambassador to India, but the nomination next needs to be confirmed by a majority of the U.S. Senate.

The mayor was nominated to be ambassador by President Joe Biden, who announced the nomination on July 9. It was not immediately clear when the U.S. Senate would take up the nomination.

The White House's announcement cited Garcetti's responsibilities overseeing the Western Hemisphere's busiest container port, the Port of Los Angeles; the largest municipal utility in the country, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; one of the busiest airports, Los Angeles International Airport; and his time as chair of the second-busiest transit agency, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The White House also credited Garcetti with leading the city's successful bid to host the 2028 Olympics and co-founding Climate Mayors, a coalition of 400 U.S. mayors that adopted the Paris Climate agreement.

Garcetti also served as a national co-chair of Biden's presidential campaign.

During his appearance before the committee on Dec. 14, the

mayor defended himself again against allegations he knew about sexual harassment allegedly committed against employees in his office by a senior adviser.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-New Hampshire, asked Garcetti about the alleged sexual harassment committed by Garcetti's former adviser Rick Jacobs, which Garcetti says he had never witnessed. Jacobs has been accused in a lawsuit filed by a Los Angeles Police Department officer.

The officer claims Garcetti witnessed the misconduct but turned a blind eye to it. Garcetti has denied the allegations in the past -- and did so again on Dec. 14, telling the Senate panel he has a "zero tolerance" policy for sexual harassment.

"I want to say unequivocally that I never witnessed, nor was it brought to my attention, that behavior that has been alleged," Garcetti said. "And I also want to assure you that if it had been, I would have immediately taken action to stop that."

Naomi Seligman, a former director of communications for Garcetti who says she was forcibly kissed by Jacobs and that Garcetti knew about Jacobs' alleged pattern of harassment, tweeted at Shaheen after the hearing:

"What about the victims and our sworn testimony on the abuse we endured and that (Garcetti) witnessed and enabled? We are greatly disappointed. Human rights matter, here and around the world. #metoo."

According to New York magazine, Seligman's attorney sent the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a letter accusing Garcetti of a cover-up related to Jacobs' behavior.

"Few nations are more vital

to the future of American security and prosperity than India," Garcetti told the committee during his opening statements.

Garcetti added that he first traveled to India with his parents as a teenager, then again in 1990 as a guest of Ambassador William Clark Jr., whose son was Garcetti's college roommate. He said the trip inspired him to study Hindi and Urdu in college, as well as Indian and Cultural Religious History.

"Today the fundamental nature of that strategic partnership is firmly ingrained here in Washington and in New Delhi," the mayor said. "If confirmed, I will endeavor to advance our ambitious bilateral partnership united by a free and open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region."

"Even with a pandemic, our bilateral trade this year is expected to break a record, and if confirmed, I intend to champion an ambitious economic partnership with India to reduce market barriers, to bolster free trade and to generate good, middle-class American jobs," Garcetti added.

Highlighting his experience combating climate change in Los Angeles, which includes putting the city on a track to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035, Garcetti said he would work with India on a "similarly bold approach to promoting green energy."

Garcetti is in his final year as mayor, because he is unable to run again due to term limits. He is scheduled to leave office in December, unless he leaves earlier for the ambassador post.

Several senators asked Garcetti how he would work to advance human rights in India,

noting a recent citizenship amendment that shortens the citizenship process for non-Muslim people from three neighboring countries.

Garcetti highlighted his masters degree in human rights and international law and said

human rights would be a "core piece" of his engagement with India.

If Garcetti is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Council President Nury Martinez would become acting mayor until an interim mayor is appointed by the council

or one is chosen by special election.

The council is unlikely to schedule a special election, since the mayoral primary is already set for June.

# SoCal gas prices hold steady

DOWNEY - The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline in Los Angeles County dropped one-tenth of a cent Wednesday to \$4.674, one day after decreasing three-tenths of a cent.

The average price is seven-tenths of a cent less than one week ago and nine-tenths of a cent lower than one month ago but \$1.376 higher than one year ago, according to figures from the AAA and Oil Price Information Service.

It has dropped 4.2 cents since hitting the record high of \$4.716 on Nov. 27.

The Orange County average price rose one-tenth of a cent to \$4.647 after dropping by two-tenths of a cent for three consecutive days. It is six-tenths of a cent less than one week ago and a half-cent lower than one month ago but \$1.375 higher than one year ago.

The Orange County average price has dropped 4.2 cents since rising to \$4.689 on Nov. 26, one-tenth of a cent less than the record set on Oct. 8, 2012.

"Markets, in general, don't like uncertainty and volatility,

and the oil market is no exception," said Andrew Gross, an AAA national public relations manager. "The oil production cuts by Kazakhstan demonstrate that in times of tight supply, it doesn't take much to put upward pressure on the overall price of oil."

The price of a barrel of West Texas intermediate crude on the

New York Mercantile Exchange has increased for 12 of the past 15 sessions to \$81.22, its highest settlement value since Nov. 11.

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For check-in on April 1, 2022 in deluxe tropical view room accommodations at Dreams Punta Cana Resort & Spa by AMR® Collection (Unlimited-Luxury) in Punta Cana. Kids stay free at Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel in same room as adults using existing bedding. Occupancy limits apply. Guaranteed upgrade from Partial Ocean View to Ocean View at the Aston Waikiki Beach Resort. Valid on new bookings for travel through January 3, 2023. Offer requires inclusion of round trip transpacific air and accommodations in select room categories noted above. Certain restrictions and blackout dates may apply. Not combinable with any other offer. All offers and programs apply to a limited number of rooms, and are subject to availability, change or cancellation without notice. Resort Coupons for the Krystal Grand Los Cabos All-Inclusive, restrictions apply as follows: Includes USD \$200 in resort coupons per room, per stay. \$100 can be used for romantic dining, and \$40 can be used for wine purchases. Spa treatment coupons are broken down into one coupon worth \$20 and two coupons worth \$40. Spa treatment coupons are not combinable or valid for spa products at the Spa Boutique or 25-minute massages/treatments. Only one coupon can be redeemed per spa treatment. Romantic dining coupons are broken down into one coupon worth \$20 and one coupon worth \$40. Coupons for romantic dining are combinable up to \$60 per romantic dining, but not valid for bottles of wine. Coupons for wine purchases are broken down into four \$10 coupons. \$10 coupons for wine can be used at any restaurant on property. Only one \$10 coupon can be applied toward one bottle of wine, they are not combinable. Resort coupons cannot be applied toward beauty salon services, spa product purchases, telephone charges, dolphin experiences, gift shop purchases, boutique purchases, internet service (if applicable), marina services, dive shop, medical services, car rental, travel agency services, taxes, private functions and/or special events (i.e. Christmas & New Year's Gala dinners). Coupons must be redeemed at time of reservation or service, hold no cash or commercial value, are not refundable or transferable. Resort coupon offer is based on availability & subject to change at any time. AAA Travel Alert: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information. For all offers, unless otherwise indicated: Rates quoted are accurate at time of publication & are per person, based on double occupancy. Gratuities, transfers, excursions and, for non-air-inclusive offers, airfare, taxes, fees & surcharges, are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out; such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, taxes, fees, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity-controlled. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Rates may be subject to increase after full payment for increases in government-imposed taxes or fees and, except for air-inclusive offers, for supplier-imposed fees. Blackout dates & other restrictions may apply. As to Air-Inclusive Offers Only: Other restrictions may apply, including, but not limited to, baggage limitations & charges for first & second checked bag, standby policies & fees, non-refundable airfare/airline tickets, advance purchase requirements & supplier & airline-imposed change/cancellation fees up to & including the price of the fare plus any applicable fare differential (which may involve pre-notification deadlines). Air component of packaged offers may be non-refundable; refunds are subject to supplier & airline terms & conditions. Supplier & airline fees & policies may vary. Contact your supplier & ticketing airline for more information; for baggage fees & other details, see www.flybags.com. Rates involving round trip air transportation for travel dates or from gateways other than those advertised may differ. Not responsible for errors or omissions. The Automobile Club of Southern California acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CST 1016202-80. 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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 11, 2022.  
MICHAEL P. VICENCIA  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**LAURA ELENA LOPEZ LOPEZ**  
3595 SANTA FE AVE #172  
LONG BEACH, CA, 90810  
(310) 894-3707  
Moraction33@yahoo.com

**The Downey Patriot**  
1/13/22, 1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NUMBER: 21CHCP00457**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JENNIFER MI CHUNG filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) JENNIFER MI CHUNG to Proposed name (1) MIA CHUNG 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: FEBRUARY 23, 2022, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: F47, Room: N/A  
The address of the court is NORTH VALLEY DISTRICT, CHATSWORTH COURTHOUSE, 9425 PENFIELD AVENUE, ROOM 1200, CHATSWORTH, CA 91311  
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, 2021  
DAVID B. GELFOUND  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JENNIFER MI CHUNG**  
26654 BEECHER LANE  
STEVENSON RANCH, CA, 91381  
(213) 507-0189  
mccpa@gmail.com

**The Downey Patriot**  
12/30/21, 1/6/22, 1/13/22, 1/20/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00436**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JOHN PAUL CHWEYA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) JOHN PAUL CHWEYA to Proposed name (1) JOHN PAUL CHWEYA NYANDUSI NYACHAE 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: FEBRUARY 4, 2022, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD., 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 8, 2021  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JOHN PAUL CHWEYA**

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BELLFLOWER, CA 90706  
(760) 905-1325

**The Downey Patriot**  
12/23/21, 12/30/21, 1/6/22, 1/13/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NUMBER: 21CMCP00161**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MICHELLE DE LOS ANGELES FERNANDEZ BY AND THROUGH HER PARENTS ERICK CONTRERAS & MARINA FERNANDEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) MICHELLE DE LOS ANGELES FERNANDEZ to Proposed name (1) MICHELLE DE LOS ANGELES CONTRERAS FERNANDEZ 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 24, 2022, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: A, Room: 904  
The address of the court is 200 WEST COMPTON BLVD., COMPTON CA 90620  
SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
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 30, 2021  
Judge THOMAS D. LONG  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**SILVIA BOMBALIER, ESQ, SBN 128787**  
LAW OFFICES OF SILVIA BOMBALIER  
8625 CALIFORNIA AVENUE

SOUTH GATE, CA 90280  
323-564-5152 PHONE  
323-564-5125 FAX  
**BOMBALIER@AOL.COM**  
ATTORNEY FOR ERICK CONTRERAS AND MARINA FERNANDEZ

**The Downey Patriot**  
1/13/22, 1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00435**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner LAURA NEVAREZ TRUJILLO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) LAURA NEVAREZ TRUJILLO to Proposed name (1) LAURA NEVAREZ 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: FEBRUARY 4, 2022, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD., 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 07, 2021  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**LAURA NEVAREZ TRUJILLO**  
8513 STEWART AND GRAY RD  
DOWNEY, CA 90241  
323-907-3806

LAURANEVAREZ721@GMAIL.COM

**The Downey Patriot**  
12/30/21, 1/6/22, 1/13/22, 1/20/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NUMBER: 21LBGP00359**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JESSICA ORIEE ON BEHALF OF ALORAH SIMONE BARBEE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) ALORAH SIMONE BARBEE to Proposed name (1) ALORAH SIMONE BARBEE-ORIEE 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: FEBRUARY 8, 2022, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: 26, Room: N/A  
The address of the court is 275 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, LONG BEACH CA 90802  
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, **DOWNEY PATRIOT** NOVEMBER 9, 2021  
Judge MICHAEL P VICENCIA  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JESSICA ORIEE ON BEHALF OF ALORAH SIMONE BARBEE**  
1716 LEMON AVE. APT B  
LONG BEACH, CA 90813  
310-483-1616

**The Downey Patriot**  
1/6/22, 1/13/22, 1/20/22, 1/27/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00445**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MATEO ENRIQUE VERDUZCO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) MATEO ENRIQUE VERDUZCO to Proposed name (1) MATEO ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ 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: FEBRUARY 14, 2022, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD., ROOM 101, 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, **DOWNEY PATRIOT** DECEMBER 16, 2021  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**MATEO ENRIQUE VERDUZCO**  
8810 DALEWOOD AVENUE  
PICO RIVERA, CA, 90660  
(562) 373-8810  
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## The Downey Patriot

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Vol. 16 No. 7

**HEALTH**  
Taking tetanus serious  
SEE PAGE 7

**FEATURES**  
Perfect attendance  
SEE PAGE 2

**NEWS**  
Commencement speaker  
SEE PAGE 3

**NEWS**  
Gang member sentenced  
SEE PAGE 4

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

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**  
Downey Mayor Fernando Vasquez and City Council members gathered at Downey Cemetery, 22 am, to honor fallen heroes at Downey Cemetery, 22 am, at the Green Line station.

**Weekend at a Glance**  
Friday 70°  
Saturday 71°  
Sunday 76°

**THINGS TO DO**  
Memorial Day Ceremony

**Warren High graduation**  
DATE: Thursday, June 1  
TIME: 7 pm  
LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Stadium at LBCC

**JUNE 2**  
Downey High graduation  
DATE: Friday, June 2  
TIME: 7 pm  
LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Stadium at LBCC

**JUNE 2-4**  
Downey Greek Festival  
DATE: June 2-4  
TIME: 10 am  
LOCATION: St. George Greek Orthodox Church

**JUNE 3**  
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast  
DATE: Saturday, June 3  
TIME: 1:30 am  
LOCATION: Rio Honda Event Center

**JUNE 8**  
Book Club meeting  
DATE: Thursday, June 8  
TIME: 12 pm  
LOCATION: Downey City Library

**JUNE 10**  
Relay for Life  
DATE: Saturday, June 10  
TIME: 9 am  
LOCATION: Downey Adult School

**JUNE 21**  
Relay for Life Installation

**AWARDS** Downey Patriot picks up journalism awards

**City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support**  
By Eric Pierce Editor  
The city's agreement with Stay Gallery - was mildly controversial in that it's the city's third such contract with Stay Gallery board member.  
In 2012, the council agreed to subsidize the gallery's monthly rent (then \$2,000) for two years to help the facility get off the ground. The subsidies were extended an additional three years in 2014, and were scheduled to expire June 1.  
On Tuesday, about a dozen supporters spoke in favor of Stay Gallery and its importance to the community.  
"I know we're asking for a lot, but the overall cost is minimal for what we do for the community," said Luz Blanco, a Downey Art Vibe board member. "We stand here to ask for your support one more time."  
Valentin Flores, the former executive director of Stay Gallery and a current Downey Art Vibe board member, said the increasing popularity of downtown Downey has led to a nearly 50% rise in the facility's monthly rent.  
"We're a victim of our own success," Flores said.  
Downey school board member D. Mark Morris also spoke favorably of the gallery.  
"What are we talking about here?" he said. "We're talking about the heart and soul of Downey."  
Others, however, questioned the wisdom in giving financial support to a gallery that after five years is still not self-sustaining.  
"There's a market for art, but it's not a market for art as a nightclub, but can be used for family functions such as long as you're willing to walk a little bit, according to an independent parking study."  
Council members ultimately voted 3-0 to continue funding the gallery. Mayor Fernando Vasquez and Councilmember Blanca Pacheco abstained. - Vasquez is part-owner of a downtown business, and Pacheco is a former Stay Gallery board member.  
The agreement with Downey Art Vibe calls for the city to cover the gallery's rent through May 31, 2020, plus an additional \$48,000 for program expenses. Subsidies will be paid out of the city's Art in Public Places fund, a purse financed by developers who forego installing public art and instead pay 1% of the new building's valuation.  
As of Monday, the fund contained \$319,757.76, said Aldo Schindler, Downey's director of community development.  
The contract names the Downey Arts Coalition "strategic partner in the success of the facility," and stipulates that the facility be made available to civic and community organizations.  
The gallery cannot be rented out as a nightclub, but can be used for family functions such as long as you're willing to walk a little bit, according to an independent parking study.  
The City Council on Tuesday voted to continue funding the Stay Gallery board member. The City Council on Tuesday voted to continue funding the Stay Gallery board member. The City Council on Tuesday voted to continue funding the Stay Gallery board member.  
The City of Downey retained Diem Resources Unlimited to review the downtown parking area's recent growth of retail and residential projects.  
The firm concluded that "a parking shortage in Downtown was not identified" but still offered recommendations to ease congestion, including replacing signage that limits signs with new signage that includes exceptions for weekends and holidays.  
They also recommended short-term parking throughout downtown, and a shared enforcement officer, and a shared parking agreement between Diem Resources Unlimited and PTAL. Stay Gallery is extremely supportive of Downey's art work to promote their art school for children, and the children of the city are opportunity to showcase it. It's fortunate that it's about the resources for this. It's about the opportunity in the arts.  
Desiree Schneider: The Stay Gallery actually provides many benefits for Downey. The Stay Gallery is extremely supportive of Downey's art work to promote their art school for children, and the children of the city are opportunity to showcase it. It's fortunate that it's about the resources for this. It's about the opportunity in the arts.  
Melody Horton: And just the frequency of the downtown area save \$40,000. I have spoken to many residents who depend on the bus system. They have created a great hardship, especially if you are trying to reach the hospital or medical centers.



# How life insurance policies work as investments

■ Permanent life insurance can provide tools for wealth-building and income in retirement.

Nearly as many Americans don't own life insurance as do, research shows, but the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened awareness about the value of having a policy.

Still, determining which type of life insurance policy is best for individuals and their families can be complicated. Mark S. Gardner (www.RetireWellDallas.com), president of Retire Well Dallas, says consumers need to understand the differences - including how policies act as investment vehicles.

"What would happen to your dependents if you pass away without any life insurance in which you have independently invested?" Gardner says. "Are you leaving enough other assets to provide for them? I advise that everyone investigate having life insurance coverage on your own, as a supplement to whatever insurance is offered to you at work."

Gardner explains how different types of insurance policies work as an investment:

**Whole life.** "You generally make fixed premium payments for life," Gardner says. "The death benefit and cash value are predetermined and guaranteed, subject to the company's ratings and balance sheet. The cash value may be accessible via policy loans or withdrawals. This can affect the cash value, death benefit, and even policy guarantees the insurance company gives."

**Premium finance life.** This is when someone arranges for a bank to pay their premiums and they pay only the interest on the bank loan.

"Over time, the investor's cash buildup grows and they can pay off the loan to the bank,

as well as use the available cash for tax-free distributions," Gardner says. "This strategy acts as another paycheck for you to live off for your retirement, coupled with Social Security, retirement funds, and outside investments like real estate and stocks."

Additionally, Gardner says, should one not have long-term care coverage, this policy could have a well-being component that should you not perform two out of the six daily functions, then funds can be withdrawn to assist in one's health matters.

"This is a great alternative to maxing out your 401(k) plan, because when you withdraw funds from it, Uncle Sam taxes you," Gardner says. "I feel it is like a Roth IRA on steroids due to the leverage and tax-free income when one borrows out of their policy."

**Universal life.** With this type of insurance, the policyholder may pay premiums at any time, in any amount (subject to certain limits), if the policy expenses and the cost of insurance

coverage are met.

"The cash value will grow at a declared interest rate, which may vary over time," Gardner says. "The cash value may be accessed via policy loans or withdrawals, but those can affect the cash value, death benefit, and policy guarantees."

**Indexed universal life.** Indexed universal life insurance is similar to universal life insurance. Gardner says it gives the policyholder a choice of allocating cash value amounts to a fixed account or a fixed-index account. "The amount of insurance coverage can be changed," he says.

"The cash value will grow at an interest rate declared annually and based on the performance of a stock index, which may vary over time. If there are any negative index changes, your cash value is protected. In these ways, it is similar to how a fixed index annuity functions: growth potential linked to rising index values and protected in the case of falling index values."

**Variable life.** As with whole

life insurance, you pay a level premium for life. However, neither the death benefit nor cash value is predetermined or guaranteed.

"They fluctuate depending on the performance of investments, in what are known as 'subaccounts,'" Gardner says. "A subaccount is a pool of investor funds professionally managed to pursue a stated investment objective. You select the subaccounts in which the cash value should be allocated. This type of coverage has its rewards when you invest in a bull market; however, you pay anywhere between 3-5% alone for management fees for the mutual fund investments for each subaccount. And should the market drop like it did in 2000 and 2008, your coverage could be hurt dramatically."

"Permanent life insurance is attractive for reasons other than lifelong coverage," Gardner says. "The cash-value and savings components may be tools for tax-advantaged wealth building and tax-reduced retirement income."

## POET'S CORNER

### Devouring the Light, 1968

After Martin Luther King Jr.  
The day they killed Martin  
we could not return to New York City  
our visiting senior class stuck in Huntsville  
streets blazed with suffering in that small  
Alabama town  
in the dull shroud of morning  
the whole world went crazy  
devouring whatever light  
that lit our half-cracked windows.

Cheryl Boyce-Taylor, Poetry June 2017

*Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery in 1955, initiating the famous bus boycott. Thirteen years later, on the day the speaker's high school class visited Montgomery, Martin Luther King was assassinated. Streets blazed, the world went crazy, and light seemed dulled to a shroud. Today the surge of the Covid virus has cancelled MLK and Kingdom Day parades, but commemorations and the pursuit of social justice go on. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.*



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DRE #01234589



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JimSpathos@aol.com  
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Mario@Mariopersico.com

**Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scout Pack 805** is currently recruiting boys from Kindergarten to 4th Grade. Pack 805 meets every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at **Trinity Baptist Church, 8219 Florence Avenue, Downey** we will have a recruitment meeting **Tuesday August 31st 6:30 pm**. Cub Scouts enjoy fun activities such as **Pinewood Derby, Camping and earning fun Adventures along the way.**

**Do Your Best.** Let's start here: Cub Scouts are awesome. A program with an amazing history and tradition, Cub Scouting is a sure-fire way to get more involved with your son that puts the fun first. Have Fun Doing It.

**Cub Scouting** uses six specific methods to achieve Scouting's aims of helping boys and young adults build character, train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

- 1. The ideals:** The Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto, and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging.
- 2. The den:** As part of a small group of six to eight boys, they are able to learn sportsmanship and good citizenship. They learn how to get along with others. They learn how to do their best, not just for themselves but also for the den.
- 3. Advancement:** The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding. Cub Scout leaders and adult family members work with boys on advancement projects.
- 4. Family involvement:** Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting.
- 5. Activities:** In Cub Scouting, boys participate in a wide variety of den and pack activities, such as games, projects, skits, stunts, songs, outdoor activities, and trips.
- 6. The uniform:** The Cub Scout uniform helps build pride, loyalty, and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all den and pack meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior.



**E-Mail Cubmaster Aaron Storey cubmaster@downeyboyscouts.com for more information.**