



NEWS
Church damaged by fire

SEE PAGE 2



EDUCATION
Students pitch in for TLC

SEE PAGE 3



LAW ENFORCEMENT
Norwalk clashes with sheriff

SEE PAGE 4



SPORTS
Razorbaks win championship

SEE PAGE 7

Mayor heads to D.C.

Downey Mayor Blanca Pacheco was in Washington this week for a national conference of mayors.

By Eric Pierce and City News Service

DOWNEY – Downey Mayor Blanca Pacheco is in Washington, D.C. this week for the 2022 U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, where mayors from U.S. cities with more than 30,000 residents will hear from congressional leaders, Biden administration officials, foreign ambassadors and other experts.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who chairs the group's Infrastructure Task Force, spoke Wednesday morning at the opening news conference hosted by USCM President and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez.

"What a joy it is to be with my fellow brother and sister mayors, where we do come to show that the 30,000 local communities of America not only still do work, but that America can work. Because we look at a society that is increasingly finding what separates us, but when we go home, we find what unites us," Garcetti said.

Other Southland mayors who registered for the Washington meeting are Melissa Ramoso of Artesia, Daniel Lee of Culver City, Farrah Khan of Irvine, Robert Garcia of Long Beach, Heber Marquez of Maywood, Brenda Olmos of Paramount, Monica Sanchez of Pico Rivera, Sue Himmelrich of Santa Monica, and Patrick Furey of Torrance.

The goal of the meeting is to discuss how to achieve the cities' 2022 goals, and Wednesday's sessions focus on metropolitan economies and immigration issues, as well as implementing the spending of American Rescue Plan Act funds and reducing gun violence and homelessness.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge, and U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo are scheduled to participate in the conference, which runs through Friday.

Garcetti on Wednesday spoke about the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was passed in 2021, but called on Congress to pass another significant piece of President Joe Biden's agenda, the Build Back Better Plan.

"It's been great to finally see the physical infrastructure -- to finally have funds that are going to help to rebuild bridges and railways, ports and airports, waterways, etc. -- but we need the human infrastructure passed, we need Build Back Better," Garcetti said.

"We need Build Back Better to be passed, we need the environmental and climate assistance, which right now really is not flowing at the level that meets this crisis," he added.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors began in 1932 during the Great Depression, when cities across the country were facing bankruptcy and millions of people were unemployed.

This meeting, which 179 mayors are scheduled to attend, is the conference's 90th Winter Meeting.

The 90th Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 3-6 in Reno, Nevada. During the annual meeting, committees recommend policy positions to be adopted by the conference, and each member is given the opportunity to speak about an issue and vote on each resolution. The adopted policy positions are meant to represent the views of the nation's mayors and are given to Congress and the president.

Downey expects to save millions with solar panels

The city is embarking on an ambitious effort to install solar panels on city-owned facilities, with a projected cost savings of \$10 million.

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Looking to save money and reduce its carbon footprint, the City of Downey will soon see the installation of several solar panels and canopies at six of its city facilities.

The city approved a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Onyx Development Group in August last year. It calls for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage systems at City Hall, the Downey Police Department building, Downey City Library, Downey Theatre, the Columbia Memorial Space Center and the Barbara J. Riley Senior Center.

The project is estimated to cost \$10 million, however will be funded through its implementation and \$1 million federal Community Development Block Grant for the senior center, with no out-of-pocket expense for the City.

In fact, the project is anticipated to provide significant relief to the city's general fund, with an estimated net savings of \$150,000 in the first year, \$1 million over five years, and \$10 million over the 25-year term of the PPA.

In addition to its financial benefits, the project will also



Mayor Blanca Pacheco, Police Chief Leslie Murray and Councilwoman Claudia Frometa at a groundbreaking ceremony for Downey's new solar panel program. (Photo courtesy City of Downey)

generate 1.61 megawatts of solar energy at all six sites combined with a total projected annual generation of 2,794,600 kilowatt-hours. Battery energy storage systems will also be installed at four sites with a total capacity of 750 kilowatts or 2,500 kWh.

Overall, the city will see a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 5 million vehicle miles travelled annually, and a reduction in carbon emissions

equivalent to carbon sequestered by 2,426 acres of trees in one year.

Councilmember Claudia M. Frometa, who was mayor at the time of the project's approval and groundbreaking, called it "historic."

"In an age where 'the environment' and 'environmental sustainability' are not just buzz words, we

want to be proactive as a city," said Frometa. "Being the 11th largest city in LA County, it is important to continue to be the leaders and innovators in setting the standard for environmental sustainability."

According to Frometa, installation is expected to start in February and is anticipated to be completed in August.

Cristina Garcia eyes Congressional seat

The Democratic Assembly member hopes to make the jump to Congress.

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Assemblymember Cristina Garcia is seeking election into the newly created 42nd Congressional District.

Garcia, 44, currently represents the 58th Assembly District. She says that she never intended to run for Congress, nor did she expect to see current Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard retire while she was still in office.

She announced her candidacy just a few days after Roybal-Allard announced that she would not seek reelection.

"When I looked at the map and both Allen Lowenthal and Lucille Roybal-Allard announced their retirement, and this district is composed of pieces of both of their districts, I decided two things. I decided to listen to my own advice... 'When there's an opportunity, be fearless, take advantage of it.'"

"Secondly, when I thought about the opportunity, I had the same feelings that I had 10 years ago when I ran for Assembly, that I could be a strong voice for the region, a voice that we deserve. I thought about the work I've been doing at the state level, and the ability to be that voice for the issues in the community whether it's on things like environmental justice, on menstrual equity, on consent, but also on things like ensuring that our communities get their fair share of the pie."

Garcia said that local communities are often "overlooked" and do not receive "the dollars they deserve."

"I want to make sure that I'm advocating for all these cities along the 710 and being fair and equitable across the board to those cities," said Garcia.

In fact, Garcia's campaign platform is very similar to the



work she's already been focused on in the legislature.

"The needs are the same," said Garcia. "It's just now I have a different platform to bring in additional resources to these communities, and additional attention to these communities."

Garcia faces Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, who is also a Democrat.

While she says that they both may be similar backgrounds and values, she pointed to prop 187 as a stark difference between them.

The 1994 proposition established a state-run citizenship screening and barred undocumented immigrants from using non-emergency healthcare, public education, and other services in the state.

"A lot of who I am today, a lot of what drives me politically started back in the 90's when there was an attack on immigrants, starting with Prop 187, and there was a slew of propositions at that point," said

Garcia. "It was very personal. I'm the daughter of immigrants; my dad was undocumented until the late 80's... It was very personal. So, I have been a very strong advocate on immigration rights from an early age through my career now in the legislature, which I think is something different that Robert brings to the table and the positions he took early on..."

She added that they differ on the subject of environmental justice.

"When we've had incinerators burning trash and polluting vulnerable black and brown communities, I have constantly said that these facilities should not be in overburdened communities, and I've passed legislation on that."

"When I was Chair of Natural Resources, I had the city of Long Beach and the Mayor of Long Beach Robert Garcia advocating for those incinerators to be in a low-income community in the

city of Long Beach and for us to give them additional incentives, which I think go against our values and our climate change goals, but also our values to prioritize vulnerable communities. I think when you look at the work I've done in environmental justice, I think that's something that's unique that separates myself from my opponent out there."

Garcia says that she is most proud of her office's work to engage, educate, and empower the community "so that our agendas are agendas that reflect not just my interests, but the interests that the community wants me to push forward."

"Empowering the community and meeting them where they're at and sharing with them the 'inside baseball' so that they're more successful in their advocacy and in their partnerships is good for society, good for democracy, for our community, and that is something that I'm very proud of."

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 71°

Saturday 73°

Sunday 72°

THINGS TO DO



Mooneyes Car Show & Drag Race
Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm
Irwindale Speedway

Six live bands, pinup contest, vendors, classic car show and drag races featuring cars 1972 and older. \$20 admission per person (kids 12 and younger free).

ON THIS DAY JANUARY 20

1801

John Marshall was appointed chief justice of the United States.

1896

Comedian George Burns was born Nathan Birnbaum in New York City.

1942

Nazi officials arrived at a "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews, during a conference at Lake Wannsee in Berlin.

1961

John F. Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th president of the United States.



1981

Iran released 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

1986

The United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

2001

Hundreds of thousands of protesting Filipinos forced President Joseph Estrada to step down; Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was sworn in as the new president.

2009

Barack Obama became the first African-American president in this country's history.

2021

Joe Biden, at age 78, became the oldest person inaugurated as president of the United States. Kamala Harris became the country's first female vice president.

Birthdays

Astronaut **Buzz Aldrin** (92), Kiss guitarist **Paul Stanley** (70), comedian and political commentator **Bill Maher** (66), retired basketball player **Ron Harper** (58), "The Office" star **Rainn Wilson** (56), "Clueless" actress **Stacey Dash** (55) and NFL quarterback **Nick Foles** (33).

Cudahy man fatally shot

CUDAHY - The coroner's office Monday released the name of a 27-year-old man shot to death in Cudahy.

Raul Contreras was a Cudahy resident, the coroner's office said.

Deputies were called at 2:37 a.m. Saturday to the 4500 block of Clara Street regarding a shots fired call, said Deputy Miguel Meza of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Information Bureau.

The victim, identified as Contreras, was found lying in the street with a gunshot wound to the upper body and pronounced dead at the scene.

No further information was immediately available.

Anyone with information about the shooting was asked to contact the sheriff's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500.

Homeless man run over by garbage truck

LONG BEACH - A 57-year-old homeless man who was lying in an alley in Long Beach was run over by a garbage truck and died at the scene, authorities said Wednesday.

The 62-year-old driver from Norwalk remained at the scene and cooperated with police. He was later released from the scene.

The death took place at around 1 p.m. Tuesday near the intersection of Del Rey Court and Anaheim Street, according to the Long Beach Police Department.

Police said the driver of a privately owned garbage truck was backing up on Del Rey Court when he ran over the man.

The name of the deceased was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Church damaged by fire

DOWNEY - Downey Fire Department responded to an internal fire at Christ Lutheran Church in the early afternoon last Friday.

At 2:34 pm on Jan. 14, several Downey fire units arrived at the church, located at 7707 Florence Ave., where Downey Police were already on scene.

According to Battalion Chief Dan Rasmussen, upon arrival firefighters saw "nothing showing at first," however later discovered heavy black smoke in the sanctuary room of the building.

Firefighters extinguished several "contents on fire." The blaze was contained to the room of origin, which suffered "moderate" damage from fire and smoke.

There were no injuries. The event is still under investigation.

1 killed in freeway crash

PARAMOUNT - One person was killed Monday morning in a fiery multiple-vehicle crash that shut down part of the Glenn Anderson (105) Freeway in Paramount.

The crash was reported at 3:20 a.m. on the eastbound Glenn Anderson Freeway east of Garfield Avenue, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Witnesses reported a Toyota Prius in the HOV lane was fully engulfed in flames and that the driver was still inside.

One person was confirmed dead at the scene at 3:35 a.m., said CHP Officer Patrick Kimball.

The incident was first reported as a three-vehicle collision but more vehicles were reported on the right shoulder.

A SigAlert was issued at 3:50 a.m. shutting down all eastbound lanes of the Glenn Anderson Freeway west of the Long Beach (710) Freeway.



Huntington Park police officers shot and killed a man Tuesday who allegedly ignored demands to drop a knife.

Huntington Park police fatally shoot man armed with knife

Police claim the man advanced on an officer while brandishing a knife, prompting police to open fire.

By City News Service

"Several commands were given and ignored, to drop the knife. Less lethal was deployed with little to no effect on the man."

The suspect then ran northbound to Gage Avenue, with officers demanding he drop the knife along the way, Schrader said. He eventually wound up in the 6400 block of Santa Fe Avenue just after midnight.

"Again commands and less lethal were given/deployed to no avail. The suspect advanced toward an officer and an officer involved shooting occurred," she said.

The suspect, described as a man possibly in his 30s, was pronounced dead at the scene and a knife was recovered, Schrader said.

County firefighters did not find a fire at the location to which they were dispatched, she said.

Anyone with information was asked to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau at 323-890-5500 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.

Pico Rivera shooting victim ID'd

PICO RIVERA - A man fatally shot in Pico Rivera was publicly identified Monday.

Juan Guerrero, 43, was a Santa Fe Springs resident, according to the coroner's office.

Deputies were called at 12:44 a.m. Jan. 4 to the 9500 block of Telegraph Road, where they found Guerrero lying in front of a business at a strip mall, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone with information about the shooting was asked to contact the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips can be called in to Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477 or submitted online at lacrimestoppers.org.

HUNTINGTON PARK - A man who allegedly refused repeated commands to put down a knife then advanced toward a Huntington Park police officer was fatally shot by police Tuesday.

Los Angeles County firefighters initially responded to a report of a fire at 11:45 p.m. Monday in the 6500 block of Marbisa Avenue, according to Deputy Trina Schrader of the Sheriff's Information Bureau.

Responding firefighters were confronted by a man who claimed to have a weapon, possibly a handgun, Schrader said. Firefighters called Huntington Park police.

"They arrived and the same man brandished a knife at them, continually paced back and forth at/near the driveway of the location," according to Schrader.

Malhotra & Malhotra Attorneys

Serving the community for 37 years

DIVORCE | CHILD CUSTODY/SUPPORT | BANKRUPTCY | TRUSTS/WILLS | CONSERVATORSHIPS | PROBATE



Call us for a FREE initial appointment
Eva Juarez Malhotra
Krishna Malhotra

Se Habla Espanol

(562) 806-9400 • (800) 811-8881

7847 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 111, Downey, CA 90240



January 23rd - 2:00 PM

**The Dance Co. presents:
"Stars 2022"**

January 29th - 12:30 & 6:30 PM

**Te Varua 'Ori presents:
"Terehē"**

February 5th - February 6th

**Spotlight Dance
Cup**

February 12th - 7:00 PM

**Varsity Vocals Presents:
"The ICCA West Quarterfinal"**

February 18th - February 20th

**Countdown Dance
Competition**



8435 Firestone Blvd.,
Downey CA 90241
Box Office: 562-861-8211

www.downeytheatre.com

CCCS OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS 1.12.22 FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



Calvary Chapel Christian School offers:

- On-site Pre-school
- Grizzly Academy - Homeschool Program
- Bible Integrated Curriculum
- Weekly Chapels
- ACTS & WASC Accredited K-12th Grade

Elementary

- Bob Jones Curriculum
- Meet and exceeds state standards
- Music/PE/Library/S.T.E.A.M. Programs Available
- After School Homework Help

Junior High

- Washington DC & Mission Trips
- Athletics
- After School Tutoring

High School

- S.T.E.M. Club
- Early College Program/Duel Credit Courses
- CIF Athletics
- After School Tutoring
- Mission Trips/Senior Israel Trip

**For more information or to schedule a School Tour call our
Pre-school: 562-299-9100
Elementary: 562-803-6556
Jr. High | High School: 562-803-4076**



12808 Woodruff Ave. Downey, CA 90242

www.cccsdowney.org



COVID positivity rate at schools slowly dropping in LA County

■ Fewer students and campus staff are testing positive for the coronavirus, spurring guarded optimism.

By City News Service

DOWNEY - With the Omicron variant fueling COVID-19 spread across the county, the number of school campuses reporting positive cases rose sharply as classes resumed this month, but the rate of students and staff testing positive for the virus has begun declining, health officials said Wednesday.

According to the county Department of Public Health, 1,032 K-12 schools reported positive cases last week, a 55% increase from the first week of December, when 665 campuses confirmed infections.

Health officials noted that while roughly 65,000 students and staff tested positive last week, only three new school outbreaks -- defined as three or more linked cases -- were identified.

The low number of campus outbreaks indicates that the high number of infections are due to general virus spread in the community, rather than a targeted cluster of cases at schools, according to the county.

County health officials said the rate of students and staff testing positive for the virus was 11% last week, down from 15% the previous week.

"Keeping our schools available for in-person learning during this Omicron fueled surge is not easy and I commend our school communities for all the work they are doing to keep children and staff safe," county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement. "This is particularly challenging in our elementary schools where, on average, three-quarters of students are not fully vaccinated, making it critically important to use infection control practices to

limit spread of a highly infectious variant.

"Prioritizing and ensuring safety at schools during a surge is only possible if all those at the school commit to complying fully with public health measures," she said. "This cannot be accomplished by administrators or staff alone. Wearing a high-grade face mask both indoors and outdoors when around others is absolutely essential, as all evidence points to the effectiveness of well-fitting high-quality masks in limiting spread of virus particles."

She urged parents to ensure their children are participating in school COVID-testing programs, and to follow quarantine and isolation rules.

Meanwhile, the number of COVID-positive patients in county hospitals continued rising Wednesday, with state figures putting the total at 4,799, up from 4,701 on Tuesday. The number of those patients being treated in intensive care rose to 700, up from 680 a day earlier.

With increased hospitalizations, higher death totals always follow, and the county reported 59 new virus-related fatalities Wednesday. That brought the county's overall virus death toll to 28,181.

Another 31,018 infections were also confirmed, giving the county a cumulative pandemic total of 2,343,821.

While the overall COVID hospitalization number remains below last winter's peak of more

than 8,000, health officials stressed that the rising patient population is creating strain at hospitals that were already coping with staffing shortages. Those shortages have been exacerbated by COVID cases among health-care workers, which have also been rising.

The average daily rate of people testing positive for the virus rose slightly Wednesday, to 16.9%, up from 16.3% on Tuesday. The rate had fallen each day since last week, when it topped 20%.

A month ago, the testing-positivity rate was just 2%.

Rio San Gabriel students collect hundreds of toiletry items for TLC

DOWNEY - Student ambassadors from Rio San Gabriel Elementary School's Character Council launched their first school-wide service project for the 2021-22 school year, collecting and donating personal hygiene products for TLC Family Resource Center.

Operated by the Downey Unified School District, TLC provides needed support to students and their families, including counseling and grief support, health services, homeless support, parental education, and more.

Each grade level at Rio San Gabriel was assigned to donate the following items:

- TK/Kindergarten: Shampoo
- Grade 1: Conditioner
- Grade 2: Toothpaste
- Grade 3: Toothbrushes
- Grade 4: Bath Soap
- Grade 5: Deodorant

Character Council Ambassadors advertised their service project through technology supported commercials via iMovie and digital fliers were created and sent out to teachers to display in class and posted on the Schoolwide Dojo application.

Rio San Gabriel families jumped at the opportunity to help those in need, collecting 568 bars of soap and body wash, 173 bottles of shampoo, 101 bottles of conditioner, 170 tubes of toothpaste, 339 sticks of deodorant, and so many toothbrushes students lost count.

Mikel's
INSURANCE SERVICES

www.Mikels-Ins.com

Proudly Serving Downey for over 35 years!

NO Broker Fees

National "A" Rated Companies

(562) 449-4321

7847 Florence Ave. Ste. 120
Downey, CA 90240

Open: Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm

CA LICENSE: 0E11818

CENTRAL Ford

To Schedule Service Please Call (562) 927-7888

A \$25.00 Convenience Fee will be added for each Mobile Service Trip

Multiple vehicles will only be charged \$25.00 Total

Mobile Service Menu

OIL CHANGE GAS ENGINE

- The Works \$79.95
- Oil & Filter
- Tire Rotation
- Lubricated Chassis
- Inspected & Top off Fluids
- Multi-Point Inspection

OIL CHANGE DIESEL ENGINE

- Diesel Oil Change \$199.95
- Engine Air Filter \$70.00
- Engine Fuel Filter \$199.00
- Battery Service \$32.99x2
- Def Fluid \$50.00

• Engine Air Filter \$32.95 • Cabin Air Filter \$69.95

Battery service Inspection

Airbag recalls performed on some models

19B37 recalls performed on all applicable vehicle

Note: Tire Rotation not performed on dually, after market tires & wheels, and oversized tires & wheels

The concert has been postponed due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19.

It has been rescheduled for MAY 7th

The Downey Symphonic Society Presents

Third Time's the Charm

Saturday, January 22, 2022 - 8PM

Downey Symphony Orchestra
Sharon Lavery, Conductor

6:30pm - "Jukebox" Art Exhibit
Produced by the Downey Arts Coalition

7:15pm - Pre-Concert Talk

Overture to Don Giovanni - Mozart
Lyric for Strings - George Walker
Ancient Airs and Dances - Respighi
Triple Concerto - Beethoven

Carolyn Osborn, Violin
Dane Little, Cello
Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Piano

Downey Theatre
8435 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241
www.downeytheatre.com
Box Office: 562.861.8211

Sharon Lavery
Music Director

\$10 Discount Coupon Code: DSPC

www.downeytheatre.com

www.facebook.com/DowneySymphony

Downey Theatre is wheelchair accessible. For visual or hearing accommodations, call Box Office two weeks before concert.

Downey Symphony Orchestra
Sharon Lavery, Music Director

Norwalk opposes sheriff's moratorium on law enforcement

■ Councilmembers voiced their disdain for Sheriff Villanueva's moratorium of law enforcement, and received updates on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in Norwalk.

By Vincent Medina
Contributor

NORWALK - The Norwalk City Council expressed their frustration over LA Sheriff Alex Villanueva's moratorium on the hire of LA County Sheriff deputies during Tuesday's city hall meeting.

Councilwoman Jennifer Perez explained that Villanueva's action prevents the hire of Sheriff deputies in the city. She

explained that the move goes against Norwalk residents' vote to increase the sales tax to fund public safety.

"I do not like being told what we can or cannot do here in our city," said the councilwoman. "I'd like to ask our mayor and city manager to prepare a very strongly worded letter, and get involved with our city attorney, that we oppose this moratorium."

"I would like for that to happen sooner rather than later."

Councilmember Margarita Rios echoed Perez's message, citing her experience as a law enforcement professional.

"I would like to take it a step further and let our county supervisors know that this is unacceptable," said Rios. "I

want everyone to understand the impact this has on our community and us."

Mayor Rick Ramirez and the council later took the time to recognize LA County Sheriff Department Homicide Detective Grant Oberle, Sergeant Daniel Rodriguez, and Sergeant Julio Saldana for their work to keep the community safe.

After thanking city employees and volunteers for their hard work during the winter holiday events such as Angel Tree and Stuff A Bus, the council expressed their condolences to the family of Shannon and Ashley Alvarez. The mother and young daughter were killed in a violent car accident on Jan. 3.

The council stated they will work harder to ensure that Norwalk intersections are safe and analyze the Foster and Studebaker Road intersection issue.

Public Safety Lieutenant Eric Wosick addressed the council and explained the proposed adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Wosick detailed that the plan would help assess the risks and minimize property damage and public health risks during a natural or man-made disaster.

"As we update hazards, per the pandemic, we will be able to adapt to address any new issues," said the public safety lieutenant. "We will also update the plan every five years."

The council voted to pass the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Wosick continued to update the council on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the city.

According to the LA County Department of Public Health, 429 people in Norwalk have died from COVID and 26,822 people in the city have tested positive



Public Safety Officer Eric Wosick outlines the Norwalk Hazard Mitigation Plan that would minimize property damage and public health risks in an emergency. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

for COVID since the start of the pandemic.

On Jan. 16, LA County found 43,883 new cases of COVID and 53 people died from the virus.

"We've seen a significant increase since my last update. Cases are 20 times higher than in December when there were 20,000 new cases a day," said Wosick. "Hospitalizations and deaths are the main concern. We are averaging 600 hospitalizations per day from COVID, and 27% of people in the ICU from the virus are on ventilators."

He says 25% of all ICU patients are COVID positive, and 80% of all ICU beds in the county are occupied.

Due to the limited space, Kaiser Hospital in Downey started to divert emergency room patients earlier this month.

Wosick and Ramirez continued to encourage vaccinations and emphasized the free vaccine site at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

The mayor also updated the community on the mega COVID-19 testing site at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station.

The site will reduce its days of operation to six days a week, Mon. - Sat., from 7am - 7pm.

City facilities, such as the Norwalk Senior Center, will operate by appointment only and remain closed until Feb. 1.

"The Omicron variant is more contagious than previous strains of the virus," said Wosick. "What we can do is preach to the masses to get vaccinated, follow the guidelines, wear a mask indoors, do all the correct steps to protect yourself and the community."

Students develop tools for moon mission

■ The team of Cerritos College students advanced in NASA's national competition.

NORWALK - Cerritos College's student team was selected to advance to phase II of NASA's 2022 Micro-g NExT challenge for the second consecutive year. Team Falcons is the only community college team in the nation advancing to the final stage of the highly competitive event for 2022.

NASA's Micro-g Neutral Buoyancy Experiment Design Teams (Micro-g NExT) is part of its Artemis Student Challenges. Undergraduate students design, build and test a tool or device that addresses an authentic, current space exploration challenge.

This challenge enables students to develop a tool or device needed by NASA and test their tool during a simulated mission in NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where astronauts train for spacewalks.

Team Falcons chose to design a lunar extravehicular activity (EVA) sample size location calibration marker. Nine students on the team developed the CLEVER (Cerritos Lunar Expandable Viewing Equipment for Rocks) design concept for a marker that is different from the one used by Apollo astronauts.

The team developed a design proposal along with an outreach plan to engage students of all ages in engineering design and other STEM fields. In the coming months, Team Falcons will work with a NASA mentor to refine its design and prototype it for testing at Johnson Space Center. The team's design could be used in future space missions.

Cerritos College has also participated in NASA's NCAS on Campus program since its pilot phase in 2019. The program will open for application on February 9, 2022.

"Participating in Micro-g NExT allows students to apply knowledge learned in the classroom to contribute to real NASA missions," said Janet McLarty-Schroeder, chair of physics, astronomy, and engineering, that has coordinated all NASA opportunities on campus.

"Our students continue to demonstrate they are capable of achieving great work among their peers at four-year schools despite many university teams having greater resources than community colleges."

Fox Chiropractic

 (562) 862-0744
 Don't just reach for the pill bottle or box, call Dr. Fox.

In Memory of
Juanita Mae Walker
 Juanita Mae Walker (Higgs) 92 died 11/10/2021. Survived by: Virginia L. Walker and Thomas E. Walker both of Downey, CA

In Memory of
Jeanne Dee (Westphal) Jacobson
 July 23, 1953 - January 10, 2022

JEANNE DEE (WESTPHAL) JACOBSON was born on July 23rd, 1953, the daughter of Paul and Hazel Westphal of Downey, California. Our beloved JEANNE passed away from COVID on January 10, 2022, and went to our Lord in Heaven. Jeanne graduated from Warren High School and also went to Cerritos College.

JEANNE was twice married, with no children, and lived all of her adult life in Downey. JEANNE was a collector of many different things, such as antiques, jewelry, purpled glass, you name it! She is survived by her sister, Jan Richards, of Riverside; her nephews Brandon Richards, of Riverside, Jody Richards of Texas, and also relatives in the Midwest. JEANNE will be greatly missed by her many friends and family, and her two dogs, Opie and Leela. A celebration of JEANNE's life is planned for Wednesday, January 26th from 5pm to 8pm at Elks Lodge 11213 Woodruff Ave., Downey. If you should have any questions, etc., you can call Jan at (760) 963-6189.

got trees?

the original **George's Tree Trimming Service**
EVERYTHING IN TREES
 Trimming • Topping
 Removing • Stump Grinding

\$5000 OFF
 Any Tree Service
 Min. \$200.00
 Present coupon after quote
 Call for a FREE Estimate

Serving the Community Since 1960
 State Licensed and Fully Insured

(800) 695-5237
(562) 923-8911

Residential • Commercial
 Apartments • Condominiums

St. Lic. #731172 (562) 861-1234

Downey Plumbing
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

11829 Downey Ave. • Downey, CA 90241
\$10 OFF ALL REPAIRS
 e-mail: joe@downeyplumbing.com

ATTORNEY

ALEXIS SAAB • HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

10810 Paramount Blvd Suite 201
(562) 904-2622

BLANCA PACHECO
 Attorney At Law
Living Trusts
 CALL TODAY!
562-861-6001
 Hablo Español • Bar # 225243

Downey-Montebello

SELPA
 Child Find

Educating California One Child at a Time

The first step in helping children with special needs is to find them!

The Downey-Montebello SELPA provides educational services for children with disabilities residing in Downey and Montebello School Districts.

If you suspect an infant, child, or young adult of having a developmental delay or disability, they may be eligible for services, at no cost, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Services are provided on an individual basis in accordance with his or her needs. If you are aware of a child or student who may need services, please reach out to us using the contact information below.

Infants ages 0-3 years old: Downey-Montebello SELPA at (562) 469-6793 or <https://web.dusd.net/selpa/>

Children and students ages 3-21: Downey Unified School District at (562) 469-6500
 Montebello Unified School District at (323) 887-7900

BULLETIN BOARD

FREE ESTIMATES "Your Local Plumber At Your Service"

A-1 Performance
 ROOFER & PLUMBING
 Lic. #896712
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PLUMBING
 • FREE ESTIMATES • RAPID RESPONSE • SENIOR DISCOUNTS

• Plumbing • Sewer • Water Heaters
 • Hydro Jet Specialists • Drain Cleaning **(562) 420-6458**

Family Owned And Operated. Serving Long Beach And Surrounding Areas For Over 25 Years.

GOT TERMITES?

• Free Termite Inspections
 • Termite Damage Repairs
 • Fumigations and Local Treatments
 • Low Prices
 • Hablamos Español
 • Real Estate Services Bonded / Insured

562-401-5000
 10% off with this ad
 Serving Your Community

DOWNEY PARTY RENTALS

Hours: 10900 Paramount Blvd.
 M - F 9am - 4pm Downey CA 90241
 Sat 9am - 2pm (562) 861-1616
 Sun CLOSED www.DowneyPartyRental.net

NOW A UPS ACCESS POINT
 We are clean, sanitized and OPEN for your events.

PIN ROOFING
 Richard "Mr. Pin" Semones

New Roofs • Repairs • Tear-Offs
 General Roof Maintenance
 Bonded / Insured • Lic# 758000
Call for a FREE Estimate
562.923.9242

Opinion

Amid a national blood shortage, let gay men donate

By Steve Chapman

In 2016, a mass shooter at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killed 49 people and wounded another 53. The need for blood was urgent, and thousands of people lined up to donate. But some of those most eager to give were turned away for one reason: They were sexually active gay men.

The Food and Drug Administration’s rule barred blood donations from men who had engaged in carnal relations with other men in the previous year. In 2020, the agency reduced the time to three months. Today, the Red Cross reports the worst shortage of blood in more than 10 years due to the latest surge in COVID-19. But it is still obligated to reject many gay men who might donate. And the rationale for that ban grows less convincing all the time.

It dates back to the early years of the AIDS epidemic, when the disease was taking a terrible toll. Some people contracted HIV from transfusions, and it took time to develop tests to detect it in blood. So the FDA implored gay men not to donate, and in 1986, it barred them outright. Because tests couldn’t pick up all the infections, extreme caution was in order.

When AIDS emerged, it had the regrettable effect of aggravating homophobic views held by many Americans. Conservative polemicist Pat Buchanan wrote: “The poor homosexuals — they have declared war on nature, and now nature is exacting an awful retribution.” So the FDA wasn’t battling a tide of skepticism about a policy that singled out gay men.

But a lot has changed in the past 36 years. Medicines exist to make

HIV a manageable condition rather than the death sentence it used to be. Those whose HIV has been suppressed by treatment can’t pass it on to others. Improved tests mean the virus can be detected except when it was contracted within the previous 10 to 16 days.

Broader shifts have also occurred. In 1986, the Supreme Court upheld a Georgia law making gay sex a crime, as nearly half the states had done. Discrimination against gays was far more common.

In 2003, however, the court struck down all sodomy laws. In 2015, it held that same-sex couples are constitutionally entitled to marry. In 2020, it ruled that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gays from employment discrimination.

After all this time, though, the FDA retains the ban — not from any apparent animus against gays, but from an excess of caution. At times like these, though, it becomes clear that the policy imposes real costs by reducing donations of blood and does little to prevent disease.

A study in 2020 found that when the agency reduced the 12-month restriction to three months, the number of blood donations contaminated with HIV did not increase. Tests, fortunately, serve to screen out the vast majority of the infected blood.

The grounds for rejecting any gay man who hasn’t been celibate for the past three months are shaky at best. The Human Rights Campaign, a LGBTQ advocacy group, argues that the FDA should focus on risky behaviors, not sexual orientation.

As things stand, it notes, “a man who has had protected oral sex with another man once in the 3 months currently barred from donating

blood. Yet a woman who has had unprotected sex with multiple partners over the same time frame with no knowledge of their personal histories remains in the donor pool.”

Many countries no longer put any special restrictions on gay men. Among them are Britain, Italy, Israel and Spain — and, starting in March, France. “We are putting an end to an inequality that was no longer justified,” tweeted the French health minister. Other nations, notably Germany and the Netherlands, allow donations from those in monogamous relationships.

When the FDA cut the waiting period from 12 months to three, the American Medical Association gave one cheer. It urged the agency “to remove the categorical restrictions for blood donations by (men who have sex with men) so they are instead based on a person’s individual risk, consistent with the latest scientific evidence, to ensure blood donation criteria is equitably applied across all people.”

The American Red Cross agrees. Lifting the ban on sexually active gay men would undoubtedly attract more donors.

The lives of patients are at risk when the supply fails to keep up with the demand, which is why we should remove obstacles that keep people from giving blood. There’s never a downside in having too many donors. There’s always a downside in having too few.

Steve Chapman blogs for the Chicago Tribune.

Bringing star athletes back to earth

By Froma Harrop

It was with dry eyes that Australians waved goodbye to Novak Djokovic, the tennis superstar their country sent packing because he wasn’t vaccinated against COVID-19. Their laws require that foreigners entering the country be vaccinated. The Serbian, there to defend his Australian Open title, apparently assumed he’d fly past the rules governing mere mortals.

Djokovic has endorsement deals worth an estimated \$30 million a year. His arrogant refusal to follow the public health mandates imposed on ordinary Australians may cut into his commercial worth, as it should.

One sponsor, the French clothing brand Lacoste, has already said it would review the controversy. In not a good sign for Djokovic, it also thanked the Open’s organizers “for all their efforts to ensure that the tournament is held in good conditions for players, staff and spectators.”

As a very casual consumer of professional sports, it is has long mystified me how doing masterful things with a ball justified dumpsters of gold in compensation. As a taxpayer, I resent being asked to subsidize professional sports arenas. As a subscriber to cable TV, I resent the “sports fee” tacked onto my bill. This source of enrichment for professional teams and their players — sneakingly made to look like a tax — is especially aggravating to we who don’t care who is playing, where they are playing or what they are playing.

This much-shared irritation with entitled sports celebrities precedes the row over COVID-19 vaccinations. But when you add other bad behaviors to contempt for public health measures, you wonder how long before a hole is blown in their inflated value.

Another prominent example is Kyrie Irving, the Brooklyn Nets’ guard. New York City mandates that professional athletes be vaccinated if they want to play at home.

Irving was to be paid more than \$35 million this season but is not on the court because he refuses to get his shots. Irving says he doesn’t object to the vaccine. He just doesn’t want to be told to get it — this in a city where delivery guys can’t enter a diner without proof of vaccination.

In November, Mayor-elect Eric Adams said that New York would not make an exemption for Irving. And although the Nets could let Irving play Brooklyn home games if they pay a (paltry) fine of \$5,000 per violation, the NBA refused to give a green light. The NBA holds that teams must follow local laws, probably for the sport’s own good.

The assumption that sports heroes are unconditionally venerated reached a ridiculous height when Djokovic’s lawyers argued that by cancelling his visa, Australia could be stoking hostility toward vaccinations. Really, if his refusal to get his shots influences low-information fans, all the more reason to send him packing.

Look. I’ve seen the emotional powers of sports heroes. My home used to be a house of worship for Tom Brady. Those days are gone.

ESPN writer Howard Bryant worries what this outlandish sense of entitlement will ultimately do to professional sports. Djokovic “has cemented his membership within the pandemic’s most infamous group — the anti-vax multimillionaire athlete who behaves as if his fame, wealth and enormous platform to disseminate misinformation place him above the rest of us.”

Bryant noted that the usually admirable Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James has posted memes likening COVID-19 to the flu. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers lied about being vaccinated and then trolled his critics with the claim that he was some sort of Ayn Rand superman.

Some insist that the Australian government was making an example of Djokovic. Actually, the government was simply not making an exception for him. The pedestal on which sport celebrities stand is getting a lot lower.

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

Being sick changed my healthcare views

By Ross Douthat

Often around the turn of the year I perform an act of pundit accountability, looking back on the previous year’s columns to assess the things that I got wrong. For this January’s edition, though, I’m going to take a different kind of backward glance, and try to answer one of the frequent questions I received when I wrote, last fall, about my experience with chronic illness: Namely, has being sick altered any of my views on health care policy?

It’s a good question; the answer, like health policy itself, is complicated.

For an example of my pre-illness views, consider a column I wrote in 2013, in the midst of the endless Obamacare debates. Titled “What Health Insurance Doesn’t Do,” it looked at evidence from an Oregon study tracing the effects of a Medicaid expansion that happened via lottery, creating a genuine randomization in the population that had the chance to enroll.

The results, after a couple of years, showed that access to Medicaid helped people avoid “catastrophic expenditures” and reduced their depression rates. The program did not, however, seem to have much impact on recipients’ physical health. This was a counterintuitive finding but not necessarily a surprising one: From a famous RAND experiment in the 1970s and early 1980s down to a recent National Bureau of Economic Research paper looking at the effects of insurance in India, it’s common to get results suggesting that the relationship between health insurance spending and physical health is relatively weak.

With these findings in mind, my 2013 self warned against health insurance profligacy, on the grounds that if we try to provision everyone with comprehensive coverage, we’ll probably end up encouraging overspending on unnecessary care. Instead, the ideal insurance system would cover genuinely catastrophic expenses, helping people avoid bankruptcy and the worst kind of mental stress — but avoiding the

overtreatment and cost inflation that you get when you earmark too many public dollars for health and health alone.

I was healthy then; two years later I began my strange descent. And one part of the experience took those pre-illness views — I’d call them center-right with a libertarian flavor — and pushed them to the left.

This was the part of the experience where I was sick and had absolutely no idea what was wrong with me — which meant that I went from doctor to doctor, specialist to specialist, submitting to tests that succeeded only in ruling out various plausible diagnoses, without actually pinning down the source of all my blazing pain.

In these months I was given an object lesson in the ambiguities contained in terms like “overtreatment” and “unnecessary care.” Because considering my ultimate diagnosis, all of these visits were a form of overtreatment. What I really had, though I didn’t know it, was a tick-borne illness. Yet here I was undergoing tilt-table tests and going in for a CT scan and an endoscopy, running up a huge tab on my New York Times Company insurance policy for tests and procedures that did nothing direct or immediate for my health.

Yet from my perspective as a patient it was all reasonable and necessary, because my illness was severe and needed treatment, and there was no way at the time to know which specialist would be the one who helped, which test or scan would be the one that revealed what was really going on. Nor was I in any position to act as a discerning consumer or a good capitalist, to do price comparisons between different neurologists or cardiologists while my legs burned and my chest blazed. Instead, as a patient I was simply too vulnerable and desperate to do anything save throw myself on the medical system’s mercy.

So my desperate self gained a new appreciation for the things that make health care unique among the burdens that the welfare state is intended to alleviate, and the limits of a libertarian vision of the patient as a cost-sensitive consumer. And I also gained a greater appreciation for the thing that, in the Oregon study, Medicaid spending clearly did seem to achieve — the importance of insurance coverage for stable mental health, greater peace of mind, in situations where you’re worried that not only your body might be ravaged but also your finances as well.

But then comes the complicating factor, the part of my experience that turned me more right-wing. Because in the second phase of my illness, once I knew roughly what was wrong with me and the problem was how to treat it, I very quickly entered a world where the official medical consensus had little to offer me. It was only outside that consensus, among Lyme disease doctors whose approach to treatment lacked any C.D.C. or F.D.A. imprimatur, that I found real help and real hope.

And this experience made me more libertarian in various ways, more skeptical not just of our own medical bureaucracy, but of any centralized approach to health care policy and medical treatment.

This was true even though the help I found was often expensive and it generally wasn’t covered by insurance; like many patients with chronic Lyme, I had to pay in cash. But if I couldn’t trust the C.D.C. to recognize the effectiveness of these treatments, why would I trust a more socialized system to cover them? After all, in socialized systems cost control often depends on some centralized authority — like Britain’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence or the controversial, stillborn Independent Payment Advisory Board envisioned by Obamacare — setting rules or guidelines for the system as a whole. And if you’re seeking a treatment that official expertise does not endorse, I wouldn’t expect such an authority to be particularly flexible and open-minded about paying for it.

Quite the reverse, in fact, given the trade-off that often shows up in health policy, where more free-market systems yield more inequalities but also more experiments, while more socialist systems tend to achieve their egalitarian advantages at some cost to innovation. Thus many European countries have cheaper prescription drugs than we do, but at a meaningful cost to drug development. Americans spend obscene, unnecessary-seeming amounts of money on our system; America also

produces an outsize share of medical innovations.

And if being mysteriously sick made me more appreciative of the value of an equalizing floor of health-insurance coverage, it also made me aware of the incredible value of those breakthroughs and discoveries, the importance of having incentives that lead researchers down unexpected paths, even the value of the unusual personality types that become doctors in the first place. (Are American doctors overpaid relative to their developed-world peers? Maybe. Am I glad that American medicine is remunerative enough to attract weird Type A egomaniacs who like to buck consensus? Definitely.)

Whatever everyday health insurance coverage is worth to the sick person, a cure for a heretofore-incurable disease is worth more. The cancer patient has more to gain from a single drug that sends their disease into remission than a single-payer plan that covers a hundred drugs that don’t. Or to take an example from the realm of chronic illness, just last week researchers reported strong evidence that multiple sclerosis, a disease once commonly dismissed as a species of “hysteria,” is caused by the Epstein-Barr virus. If that discovery someday yields an actual cure for MS, it will be worth more to people suffering from the disease than any insurance coverage a government might currently offer them.

So if the weakness of the libertarian perspective on health insurance is its tendency minimize the strange distinctiveness of illness, to treat patients too much like consumers and medical coverage too much like any other benefit, the weakness of the liberal focus on equalizing cost and coverage is the implicit sense that medical care is a fixed pie in need of careful divvying, rather than a zone where vast benefits await outside the realm of what’s already available.

Alas, I don’t have some perfect policy regime that synthesizes these insights — the value of solid coverage that doesn’t require too much of individual patients, the value of decentralization and innovation and experiments. It’s precisely the challenge of synthesizing them that makes health policy so difficult.

But if I was an Obamacare skeptic before I got sick, today I’m relatively comfortable with the uneasy, unfinished place where the 2010 health care reform has ended up.

A decade ago, if you’d told me that the law’s clearest legacy was its Medicaid expansion, and that the attempts to build a thriving individual-insurance market and rein in unnecessary spending had met with less success, I might have looked at its architects’ grand ambitions and called that outcome a failure.

Today, though, I have more appreciation for the reassuring simplicity of the basic Medicaid guarantee, and more skepticism about the patient-as-consumer hopes that undergird Obamacare’s exchanges. And as for all the American-style bloat and unnecessary spending that the Obama technocrats hoped to purge from the system and mostly didn’t — well, I have a little more appreciation for that as well.

Don’t get me wrong: If I had a simple way to take a scalpel to hospital monopolies and their profits I’d still do it. If you presented me with a blueprint to expand means-testing in Medicare and use the savings to fund new research programs, I’d embrace it. If you offered me a plan to reduce prescription-drug costs by reducing regulatory burdens on new treatments, I’d celebrate it.

But once you’ve become part of the American pattern of trying anything, absolutely anything in order to feel better — and found that spirit essential to your own recovery — the idea of medical cost control as a primary policy goal inevitably loses some of its allure, and the American way of medical spending looks a little more defensible. To just try things without counting the cost can absolutely run to excess. But sometimes what seems like waste on the technocrat’s ledger is the lifeline that a desperate patient needs.

Ross Douthat is the author of several books, most recently, “The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery.”

The Downey Patriot STAFF

JENNIFER DEKAY
Publisher

JULIE LEDESMA
Display Advertising

LINDA LARSON
Classified Advertising

JONATHAN FOX
Production/Graphics

ERIC PIERCE
Editor

ALEX DOMINGUEZ
Staff Writer

LORINE PARKS
Poetry & Society

CAROL KEARNS
Contributor

TEL (562) 904-3668 | FAX (562) 904-3124 | MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 3PM
8301 FLORENCE AVE., SUITE 100, DOWNEY, CA 90240 | FRIDAY 9AM - 12PM
THE DOWNEY PATRIOT.COM | ADJUDICATION #BS124251

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

Downey 6U football team wins title

DOWNEY – The Downey Razorbacks 6U team ended their 2021 season by winning the Southern California Youth Football Conference (SCEYFL-AAU) Championship over a previously undefeated team from Glendora.

The 6U team is composed of 5 and 6 year olds and the championship game was held in Woodland Hills.

The 6U team is coached by Rudy Juarez, Head Coach; Ramon Herrera, Assistant Coach; Sione Moa, Assistant Coach; and Ashley Olvera, Team Athletic Director.

Players include Rey Arriaga, Giovanni Barajas, Jordan Cabrera, Sebastian Duran, Alejandro Garcia, Ian Garcia, Julius Garcia, Victor Garcia, Maxwell Juarez, Matthias Mendez, Isaiah Moa, Matthew Mott, Robert Olvera, Aaron Partida, Tristan Rios, Nicholas Serrano, and Zavier Taylor.

The Razorbacks are part of the SCEYFL-AAU conference, which is composed of 30 member associations located throughout Southern California. AAU is a national organization and the largest youth sporting organization in the United States offering multi sports and activities.

Registration for the 2022 season will kick off on Wednesday, March 9, at the Parley Johnson House located at 7749 Florence Avenue.

For more information, or if you are interested in coaching, please call Louis Morales, President at (310) 350-0220 or go online at www.downeyrazorbacks.com



First Latina to go to space announces bilingual STEAM books

DOWNEY – Lil' Libros Publishing has acquired world rights to a bilingual five-board book STEAM series, Dr. Ochoa's Stellar World, researched and written by Dr. Ellen Ochoa, American engineer who became the first Latina woman to go to space.

Inspired by her experiences as a NASA astronaut, Dr. Ochoa's books will celebrate the joy of scientific curiosity, the fundamentals of STEAM topics, and the American Latino experience for the youngest of readers.

"I wish I had known when I was little that science [or STEAM] is all about curiosity and creativity," said Dr. Ochoa.



"Those skills come naturally to young kids, and I hope this series engages kids and parents alike, in both English and Spanish, about STEAM concepts and excites them about exploring the world they inhabit."

"We are excited to work alongside Dr. Ochoa to help create an environment where our littlest readers

are introduced to STEAM concepts confidently and in two languages," said Patty Rodriguez, publisher at Lil' Libros. "Becoming a scientist is no longer just a dream for our children, it is a possibility and Dr. Ellen Ochoa is an example of that."

"It is an honor to welcome Dr. Ellen Ochoa to the Lil' Libros family. Bringing bilingual STEAM topics to children will open a world of possibilities," added Ariana Stein, Lil' Libros co-founder. "We are confident that Dr. Ochoa's Stellar World will inspire curiosity and leave a lasting impact on children."

Publication for the first book, Dr. Ochoa's Stellar World: We Are All Scientists, is set for August 30, 2022.

Lil' Libros is a bilingual children's book publisher based out of Los Angeles.

In a world lacking bilingual books for children, two best friends-turned-mothers – Patty Rodriguez, of Downey, and Ariana Stein – began their mission to celebrate the duality of the American Latino experience through picture board books and now hardcovers.

BUNGO
THURSDAY AFTERNOON
 Games start at Noon
 ~ many special programs ~
Woman's Club of Downey
 9813 Paramount Blvd
 ~ Proceeds benefit Rancho ~

Yvette Mejia
 REALTOR®, DRE Lic. #01011985
 In Service Since 1988!
 "It's the Experience"
 Call: (562) 544-5110
 Email: yvette@yvettemejia.net
 Call me for a **FREE** property evaluation!
 Buyer demand is high & inventory of homes for sale is low. Now is the time to get top \$ for your property!

TUESDAY SPECIAL
\$2.40
VIPS for Button Shirts & Pants ea.
 DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY SERVICES
 9304 Firestone Blvd, Downey, CA 90241
 562-381-2050

Ham, Turkey & Roast Beef Sandwich \$6.99
 Hall Of Fame Market & Deli
 10846 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241

"WE SPEAK TAX"
 Tax Preparation Individual & Corporation | Bookkeeping | Payroll | Tax Planning | Tax Audit Representation
YEAR AROUND TAX SERVICE
Edwin R. Medina, EA
 Licensed to Practice before the IRS
 8402 East Florence Ave #A Downey, CA
OFFICE (562) 261-5744
www.TaxSolutionCenter.com

Elvis Show SoCal & Bobby Dee Presents brings you...
Saturday Feb 26, 2022
 Doors: 7pm | Show 7:30pm
 Quiet Cannon Events Center
 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640

Elvis vs Johnny Cash

Tickets:
 VIP - \$47.95 | General Admission - \$32.95
 Purchase: www.ElvisShowSoCal.com
 Information: (562) 818-7607 or ElvisShowSoCal@hotmail.com

Ultimate Elvis Champion - Justin Shandor | #1 Johnny Cash - David Allen

Dine Local

MAMBO
 Grill Restaurant & Bar
 The Most Authentic Mexican Food You'll Taste!
 Outdoor Dining, Delivery & Takeout Available
 TEL: 562.622.7373
 11018 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241 | www.mambogrillbar.com

Stox RESTAURANT / BAKERY / BAR
 Voted Best Breakfast in Town Served All Day
 Try Our New **CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH MENU**
 Saturday & Sunday 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Best Bloody Mary's West of New Orleans!
 9518 E. Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA (562) 803-4004

Toast the New Year!
 FINEST QUALITY STEAKS • SUCCULENT SEAFOOD • FAVORITE SIDES • HUGE PORTIONS
 • INDOOR DINING
 • RESERVATIONS
 • LIVE MUSIC
 • TAKEOUT
CLEARMAN'S STEAK 'N STEIN INN
 9545 E. WHITTIER BLVD., PICO RIVERA • 562.699.8823 • clearmans.com

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

ALL ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING WORK
Lic 965519 & Bonded
Jobs start at \$35, free estimate
Call Erik (323) 228-4500

SERVICES

FULL SERVICE 24/7 PLUMBING
Snr Discount, Bonded, Insured & Licensed C-36 #759646
BBB Grade A+
McKinnon & Sons
Plumbing of Downey
(562) 904-3616

SERVICES

NICE-N-KLEAN
Residential & Commercial Cleaning.
Call for a Free Estimate.
(562) 419-6577

HANDY CRAFTSMAN SERVICE
for all your home improvements & repairs. All labor and material guaranteed.
(562) 331-0976

SERVICES

APPLIANCE TECH HAS ARRIVED
House calls. Same day rapid service all major brands.
Washers, dryers, ovens, stoves, refrigerators, etc.
Senior citizen discount.
(562) 866-4291
(310) 251-3018

SERVICES

PLANS, PERMITS CONSTRUCTION
Project Design, New Construction, Remodeling & Additions
Lic. #936419
Call Jeff (562) 869-1421

SERVICES

FINE ROOFING, INC.
Roof Repair & Leaks
Free Estimate-Quality Service Senior Discount. Lic 976823
(562) 879-4987

(786) 510-2407
VALERYRUBYQ@ICLOUD.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: 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 STEWARD AND GRAY RD
DOWNEY, CA 90241
323-907-3806
LAURANEVAREZ2721@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: 21NWCP00442

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner TONYA LLOYD FOR ELIJAH JORDAN WARD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) ELIJAH JORDAN WARD to Proposed name (1) ELIJAH JORDAN LLOYD
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. 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 14, 2021
JUDGE MARGARET M. BERNAL

Judge of the Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
TONYA LLOYD FOR ELIJAH JORDAN WARD
8706 BUCKLES ST.
DOWNEY, CA 90241
(310) 561-5128

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: 21NWCP00456

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ARMANDO CARRILLO RAMOS JR. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) ARMANDO CARRILLO RAMOS JR. to Proposed name (1) ARMANDO CARRILLO
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 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, DOWNEY PATRIOT
DECEMBER 29, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge of the Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ARMANDO CARRILLO RAMOS JR.
6336 PALA AVE.
BELL, CA, 90201
(323) 803-5166
ARMANDCARRILLO1@GMAIL.COM

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

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT WILSON
Case No. 21STPB07962

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT WILSON
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Nancy Smisko in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Nancy Smisko be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. Copies of the lost will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have

waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 17, 2022 at 9:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
JESSICA G BABRICK ESQ
SBN 232732
ANDREW G SMITH ESQ
SBN 284762
WEINSTOCK MANION ALC
1875 CENTURY PARK EAST
STE 2000
LOS ANGELES CA 90067-2516
CN983653 WILSON Jan 20, 27, Feb 3, 2022

CN983653
The Downey Patriot
1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22

TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No. 093636-CA APN: 6189-026-027 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 9/19/2005, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER ON 2/15/2022 AT 10:30 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 9/29/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2351529 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: JUAN ARIZONA AND LOURDES ARIZONA, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766

and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11651 & 11653 VIRGINIA AVENUE, LYNWOOD, CA 90262. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$261,419.93. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844) 477-7869 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 093636-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are a "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you

exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 093636-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP 4375 Jutland Drive San Diego, California 92117

STOX 930298
The Downey Patriot
1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22

T.S. No. 076494-CA APN: 6362-006-014 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 1/25/2018, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER ON 2/23/2022 AT 10:30 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 2/1/2018 as Instrument No. 20180108833 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: HENRY L. MONDAY, JR., A SINGLE MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: LOT 5 OF TRACT NO. 16324, IN THE CITY OF DOWNEY, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 386 PAGES 6 AND 7 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 9354 STAMPS AVENUE, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90240. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$724,742.07. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and

STOX 930441
The Downey Patriot
1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22

the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844) 477-7869 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 076494-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are a "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 076494-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP 4375 Jutland Drive San Diego, California 92117

Need to Publish a Legal Notice?

The Downey Patriot is a newspaper of general circulation, and is adjudicated in Los Angeles County and the City of Downey. We are able to publish any and all legal notices.

Email us at legals@thedowneypatriot.com for a quote.
Phone 562 • 904 • 3668 | Fax 562 • 904 • 3124

Ex-LBUSD safety officer ordered to stand trial on murder charge

Video footage shows the officer shooting at an 18-year-old woman as she fled in her vehicle.

LONG BEACH -- A former Long Beach Unified School District safety officer was ordered Wednesday to stand trial on a murder charge stemming from an 18-year-old woman's fatal shooting last year.

Eddie Gonzalez -- who was fired by the LBUSD about a week after shooting Manuela "Mona" Rodriguez in the head Sept. 27 as she sat inside a moving car -- was charged a month later with her killing. He pleaded not guilty at a Dec. 8 court hearing.

He is due back in court Feb. 3 for a post-preliminary hearing arraignment.

Gonzalez remains in custody in lieu of \$2 million bail. He has been jailed since his arrest Oct. 27 by Long Beach police detectives in the city of Orange.

Rodriguez was shot near Spring Street and Palo Verde Avenue, near Millikan High School, and was on life support until Oct. 5. Her family's lawyer said her heart, lungs, liver and both kidneys were donated that day, saving the lives of five people.

The young woman, who was the mother of an infant son, was in the front passenger seat of a car that was being driven away from the scene of an altercation when the shooting occurred shortly after 3 p.m.

Long Beach police responding to the scene found the woman with at least one gunshot wound.

Then-Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna -- who has since retired -- said at the time that detectives determined the school safety officer was driving on patrol when he saw a physical altercation between Rodriguez and a 15-year-old girl occurring in the lanes of traffic.

Rodriguez was accompanied by a 20-year-old man and a 16-year-old boy "whose level of participation is still under investigation," according to the police chief.

When Rodriguez, the man and the boy attempted to flee in a four-door sedan, the school safety officer approached the car and discharged his weapon as the driver began driving away, Luna said.

"Mona was in the front passenger seat of the vehicle and was struck by the gunfire," Luna said.

Video of the shooting posted online appears to show the officer firing at least two shots at the car.

The county's top prosecutor lauded the Long Beach Police

Department for conducting a "very complex investigation in record time."

Along with reviewing video footage, investigators also canvassed the area and interviewed witnesses, according to Luna.

The former chief -- who was succeeded by his one-time assistant chief, Wally Hebeish -- said the highly publicized shooting "really impacted our community heavily," and called the ensuing investigation and criminal case "just a step in trying to bring some closure to this very unfortunate and impactful incident not only to our city, but the family, the Rodriguez family."

Shortly after the announcement that the former school safety officer had been charged, one of the woman's brothers, Oscar Rodriguez, told reporters that it was the "first step of justice and hopefully our healing process."

"I've waited a long time for something that is pretty obvious, but I guess this is how the justice system works," he said.

In a letter sent to District Attorney George Gascon earlier

urging charges against the officer, an attorney for the woman's family wrote that "various videos of the incident were captured by bystanders showing Officer Gonzalez taking reckless action when he shot into a moving vehicle and gravely injured" the woman.

"This officer had no justification to use deadly force against Ms. Rodriguez because Ms. Rodriguez did not pose an imminent threat to the officer when she was shot by the officer," attorney Luis Carrillo wrote in the letter to Gascon.

"The actions of this officer constitute a serious violation of state and federal constitutional rights. The unjustified use of deadly force by this officer also meet the threshold for criminal charges against the officer for murder or for manslaughter."

On Oct. 6, the school district announced that Gonzalez had violated district policies on use of force and had been fired.

"After our internal review, we clearly saw areas where the employee violated district policy and did not meet our standards and expectations," LBUSD Superintendent Jill Baker said.

"We believe the decision to terminate this officer's employment is warranted, justified and quite frankly, the right thing to do.

"The use-of-force policy used by our school safety office states officers shall not fire at a fleeing person, shall not fire at a moving vehicle and shall not fire through a vehicle window unless circumstances clearly warrant the use of a firearm as a final means of defense. Again, based on our review, we believe our internal policy was violated."

It is unclear whether Gonzalez is the first school safety officer to be charged with murder. Gascon said prosecutors were not able to find any other school safety officers who had faced a murder count, but added, "That's not to say that it hasn't occurred before."

POET'S CORNER

Nothing Stays Put

The strange and wonderful are too much with us. The protea of the antipodes--a great, globed, blazing honeybee of a bloom--for sale in the supermarket! We are in our decadence, we are not entitled. What have we done to deserve all the produce of the tropics--this fiery trove, the largesse of it heaped up like cannonballs, these pineapples, bossed and crested, standing like troops at attention, these tiers, these balconies of green, festoons grown sumptuous with stoop labor?

The exotic is everywhere, it comes to us before there is a yen or a need for it. The green-grocers, uptown and down, are from South Korea. Orchids, opulence by the pailful, just slightly fatigued by the plane trip from Hawaii, are disposed on the sidewalks...

Nothing stays put. The world is a wheel. All that we know, that we're made of, is motion.

Amy Clampitt, *The Collected Poems of Amy Clampitt*, Knopf, 1997.

Clampitt starts by looking small, then she moves from the specific to the general, and from the ordinary to the profound. Bright images for a winter's day. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

2022 REAL ESTATE MARKET OUTLOOK

Here's a look at what's happening in the market right now and what to keep an eye on over the coming months.

Housing Inventory Poised to Recover After the tight inventory of 2021, this year shows signs of meaningful recovery. New real estate listings rose by around 5% in 2021. If this trend continues, expect more properties to hit the market in 2022.

Expect Smaller Home Price Gains Home values are expected to rise slower in 2022, which might make the market a little better for buyers than the previous year. However, despite these smaller price gains, the market in most cities will still continue to favor sellers.

Growth in Starter Home Listings Housing inventory is shifting toward smaller homes as the share of homes having between 750 and 1,750 square feet has increased about 7% from 2020. This could be good news for millennials looking to purchase a starter home.

Historically Low Interest Rates With mortgage rates near all-time lows, buying now may mean locking in a very low interest rate. While home prices are high, the low interest rates make it a much more affordable time to buy a higher-priced home.

Cities Are Making a Comeback The 2021 rise in remote work led to many Americans moving to the suburbs, however, many homebuyers are looking to live in the city again. Housing industry data reveals online searches for urban properties has surged. Additional data shows that the urban exodus has slowed considerably, and cities are growing again.

SOURCES: 1. Brandon Corst, "Why the U.S. Housing Market Might Be Better for Buyers in 2022," HomeAdvisor.com; 2. Alina Wolfson, "Here's exactly how much economists think home prices will rise in 2022 -- and whether you should buy now," MarketWatch.com; 3. Brandon Corst, "Housing Forecasts for 2022: Predict Another Year of Steady Price Growth," HomeAdvisor.com; 4. Sanyu Dai, "Homebuyers find cities as COVID spread but many are heading downtown again," MarketWatch.com; 5. Sabrina Spivack, Danielle Hale, "August 2021 Monthly Housing Market Trends Report: Seller Activity Warms Up as 432,000 Newly-Listed Homes Hit the Market," Realtor.com; © 2022 Baller & Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. 01/19/2022

Are you considering buying or selling this year? Give me a call! I'll help you through every step of the process.

DALE JERVIS
GOING THROUGH BETTER

562-743-2121 www.DaleJervis.com

Peak Real Estate

(562) 927-2626

825 Florence Avenue • Downey, CA 90240

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

CENTURY 21 Peak would like to Welcome in 2022 by having a "New Year Special". Sign up for our Real Estate School in the month of January and bring in a copy of this ad and you will receive the "New Career Resolution" discount in the form of \$50 Off the regular price.

FEATURED PROPERTY

Turnkey Townhome!!
3-bedroom 3 baths tri-level townhouse, in private gated community of Ventura Walk. Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, quartz countertop & oversized island. 1st bedroom can be used as an office, exercise room, craft area, or more. Spacious master bedroom suite with walk in closet and master bathroom, and 3rd bedroom complete with full size bathroom and walk in closet, laundry room, and large linen closet. CALL TODAY!!

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING
Cristian Ripoll

TOP PRODUCTION
Patricia Loya

TOP SALES
Cristian Ripoll

Coming Soon!!
3-bedroom 2-bathroom home with a pool! Property located just minutes away from Sofi Stadium, Spacex, train station, entertainment, shopping and more. A must see! CALL TODAY!!

Great Opportunity!!
This unit features one spacious bedroom and one bathroom with plenty of closet and storage space. There is a large private patio area for relaxing and entertaining. The kitchen comes with a stainless-steel dishwasher, stove/oven, and built-in microwave. Secured parking. CALL TODAY!!

Two Units!!
Great starter units or investment. Two units - 1 bedroom, 1 bath each unit. Property in good condition. CALL TODAY!!

Double Wide Mobile Home!!
3-bedroom, 2-bathroom Mobile home in a family park. Small side yard. Parking for up to 3 cars. Community pool and clubhouse. CALL TODAY!!

Great Potential!!
Probate sale. Court confirmation is required. Property with potential. Needs work. Good for investor or fixer upper project. Property sold as is. CALL TODAY!!

North Downey condo!!
This spacious 1,525 square foot condo has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms plus bonus room that is currently being used as a bedroom. Condo has indoor laundry, patio, and is located in a gated community. Community features a pool, spa, tennis court, putting green, and BBQ area. CALL TODAY!!

My Real Estate School
DRE APPROVED
LIVE REAL ESTATE SCHOOL
\$150 Reimbursed
Call Bertha - 562.927.2626

Property Management Provides help with
Statewide Rent Control | Rent Collection
Working with Vendors | Tenant Relations
2 Free Months of Management
Call Edwin 562.927.2626



Mel & Rita Berdelis
BROKER/OWNERS
DRE#01220332



OFFICE: 562-861-7257
24hour-RealEstate.com



Carmela "Carrie" Uva
BROKER ASSOCIATE
562-382-1252
www.CarrieUva.com
DRE #01152047



Angelo & Marie
REALTOR®
562-618-0033
www.MariePicarelli.com
DRE #01933141 | DRE #00610605



Michael Berdelis
REALTOR®
562-818-6111
Michaelberdelis.com
DRE #01234589



Jimmy Spathos
REALTOR®
562-400-2148
JimSpathos@aol.com
DRE #01296968



Mario Persico
REALTOR®
562-533-7433
Mario@MarioPersico.com
DRE #01341121

FOR SALE



Eagle Rock Home

- 2 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- 852 sf of living space on a 4872 sf lot
- Detached garage

LIST PRICE: \$899,900

TRIPLEX



Reduced - Lakewood Units

- Upgraded 3 bedroom home with dining room in front
- Attached duplex has spacious 1 bedroom units built in 1991
- 3 one car garages plus ample parking

LIST PRICE: \$1,249,000

JUST LISTED IN DOWNEY



Terrific Townhome in Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- 1,506 sq. ft.
- 2 car garage
- New carpet and fresh paint

LIST PRICE: \$599,000

SOLD



Central Downey

- 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- 1,235 sq. ft | 6,939 sq. ft. lot
- Living room with fireplace
- Permitted enclosed patio

LIST PRICE: \$739,999

JUST LISTED



Downey Diamond in the Rough!

- 3 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- 1,888 sq. ft
- Nearly 10,000 sq. ft. lot

PRICED TO SELL! CALL MARIO FOR MORE INFO!

PENDING



Builder's Delight

- Total lot size 36,725 sq. ft.
- R-1 zoning

CALL CARRIE FOR MORE INFO!

SOLD



Cash Offer \$15,000 Over List Price!

- 2 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- large living room with fireplace
- 16000 sf lot
- Studio apartment over garage

LIST PRICE: \$799,999

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION



8016 Seville, Huntington Park

- Mixed use
- 2 store front spaces
- 1 bedroom apartment upstairs
- Great location

LIST PRICE: \$520,000

SOLD IN NEARLY 30 CITIES!

- ✓ ADELANTO
- ✓ ANAHEIM
- ✓ ANAHEIM HILLS
- ✓ ARTESIA
- ✓ BELL
- ✓ BELLFLOWER
- ✓ BREA
- ✓ CERRITOS
- ✓ CLAREMONT
- ✓ COMPTON
- ✓ EASTVALE
- ✓ FULLERTON
- ✓ HUNTINGTON BEACH
- ✓ LA HABRA
- ✓ LAKE FOREST

- ✓ DOWNEY
- ✓ LAKEWOOD
- ✓ LONG BEACH
- ✓ LOS ANGELES
- ✓ MAYWOOD
- ✓ MISSION VIEJO
- ✓ MONTEBELLO
- ✓ NORWALK
- ✓ PICO RIVERA
- ✓ SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
- ✓ SANTA MARIA
- ✓ SOUTH GATE
- ✓ WESTMINSTER
- ✓ WHITTIER
- ✓ YORBA LINDA

PREPARE YOUR LIVING TRUST!

- New clients only
- Expires 1-31-2022
- One coupon per family

\$50 DISCOUNT



Package includes: Will, Trust, Advance health directive, Financial power of Attorney and One grant deed

SOLD



Located in Santa Fe Springs

- 3 bedrooms | 1 bathroom
- Upgraded kitchen
- 1097 sf | 5491 sf lot
- 2 car detached garage

SOLD FOR: \$670,000

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET WAS ON FIRE IN 2021



Downey prices increased 15%
LA County prices rose 10%
Orange County prices skyrocketed 22%

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION!

562-818-6111
WWW.MICHAELBERDELIS.COM

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION



Charming North Downey Home

- 2 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Family room with fireplace
- 1,696 sq. ft. | 7,796 sq. ft. lot
- 2 car garage

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFO!

PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

108 REVIEWS



ANGELO & MARIE PICARELLI

CARMELA "CARRIE" UVA

Downey Born, Raised & Educated!
Selling Downey Homes for 27 Years!

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!

MARIO DID IT AGAIN!

MARIO PERSICO
BORN | EDUCATED | LIVES | WORSHIPS IN DOWNEY

562-533-7433

- REALTOR® SINCE 2002 -

@MARIO_PERSICO
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.