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Missing Downey woman found safe

■ Missing for two weeks, Reina Koeppé was found safe Christmas Eve.

By Eric Pierce Editor

DOWNEY – Reina Koeppé, the Downey woman missing since Dec. 6, was found safe and reunited with her family Saturday.

Family members announced the reunion in a Facebook post. Downey Police confirmed Koeppé was found safe.

No other details were released.

Koeppé, 25, was last seen Dec. 6. She has a developmental disability and requires medication.

A news conference was held last week outside the Downey Police Department in hopes of generating leads that would lead to finding her.

Koeppé's mother, Rochelle Koeppé, described her daughter as "resilient and full of joy...but also naïve."

"She is very easily exploitable. Anybody who knows her loves her... but she is the type that will walk up to a stranger and go off with them," she said. "She has no sense of danger."

Koeppé has no history of running away, family members said.

Downey man arrested after pursuit

■ Tim Hughes, of Downey, allegedly threw drugs out of his vehicle while being chased by police.

By City News Service

WESTMINSTER – In what police described as a "snowstorm," a suspect allegedly threw drugs out of a vehicle window during a short pursuit in Westminster, authorities said Saturday.

Officers were attempting a routine traffic stop at about 11 p.m. Friday in the area of Westminster and Beach boulevards, but the driver refused to pull over, according to Sgt. Alan Aoki of the Westminster Police Department.

"During the pursuit, the driver of the suspect vehicle began throwing suspected narcotics from the window of the vehicle," Aoki said. "The suspect eventually stopped and was taken into custody without further incident."

Officers located six ounces of methamphetamine, seven ounces of fentanyl, 300 fentanyl pills, an ounce of heroin as well as about \$6,000 cash both along the pursuit route and inside the vehicle, Aoki said.

The suspect, 60-year-old Tim Hughes of Downey, was arrested on suspicion of possession of narcotics for sale, felony evading and destruction of evidence, he said.

DUI checkpoint Friday night

DOWNEY – Downey Police will conduct a DUI checkpoint at an undisclosed location Friday, Dec. 30, from 8 pm to 2:30 am.

Drivers charged with a first-time DUI offense face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

City Council will interview candidates for vacancy

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

DOWNEY – For the second year in a row, the Downey City Council will begin the year interviewing applicants to fill a vacated seat.

In one of its first acts, the new city council unanimously voted earlier this month to seek an interim councilmember to fill the currently empty District 1 seat.

The person will fill the vacancy until a special election is held Nov. 7, 2023.

The application window opened two weeks ago and closes Jan. 9 at noon.

To be eligible, applicants must be at least 18 years old, reside in District 1 and be a registered voter.



Horacio Ortiz Jr.

Current Planning Commissioner Horacio Ortiz Jr. has emerged as one of the first applicants pursuing the currently vacant District 1 seat.

Ortiz, 31, already has some experience at the city dais, having sat on the city's Planning Commission, representing city-wide District 5 under Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo since 2020 and currently serving as its vice-chair. Notably, he was the only commissioner to vote no in the controversial 4-1 Ojos Locos vote.

He says that he was inspired to apply for the council seat because he feels the current council is "very divided."

"It's no surprise, and it's something at the cost of our community," said Ortiz. "Honestly, too often now-a-days I hear 'This is not the same Downey that I remember,' which is followed by 'That's why I'm moving.' I feel the heart and spirit of Downey is slowly being poisoned, and I'm getting determined to heal the divide and bring progress that's been lost."

Ortiz's family owns El Pescador restaurants, with Ortiz himself owning the Montebello location. He received his degree in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego.

Aside from his work as a commissioner, Ortiz has also been involved with Kiwanis and Gangs Out of Downey.

While Ortiz says he's lived "all over Downey" throughout his life, he moved into District 1 in January of this year.

He says the biggest issues facing the district are currently homelessness and rising crime.

"We have one of the biggest homeless issues in District 1, so that's one of the issues I really want to tackle as well as more crime in this area," said Ortiz. "We want to make sure that we keep our city safe, and at the same time help every person that's homeless right now."

Ortiz also hopes to bring more economic development into the city.

"I come from a business family... I often hear too much that Downey is not a business-friendly city, so I want to cut all that off and ensure that we bring good businesses to our city, and more so in District 1," said Ortiz. "I know we have the Promenade and the Downey Landing, but if I can be honest, I just feel those projects were half-finished, and I need to ensure that we have someone there that can bring a fresh perspective to those areas, and also our industrial corridor in District 1."

The City Council will interview applicants and potentially make their decision in late January next year. Should Ortiz not be chosen, he says he still intends to run during the special election in November.

"I think Downey is a great city. I love my community so much, and I want to ensure that Downey continues to be a great place to live and raise my family," said Ortiz. "I hope I am that person that can be the middle ground on that council right now, so I want to be part of the change and the future of Downey because right now, instead of looking back, I hope we can look at a greater future, what Downey has in store."

Ortiz has the endorsements of Trujillo and Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco, who sat in the seat prior.

The City Council is scheduled to interview all eligible applicants, take public input, and make their selection at a public hearing on Jan. 24. A swearing in will follow two days later.

The city's deadline to make an appointment is Feb. 2, or 60 days from when the seat officially became vacant (Dec. 2).

If the City Council is unable to agree on who should be appointed, the seat will remain vacant until the November election.

District 1 was previously represented by Blanca Pacheco, who resigned earlier this month after she was elected to the state Assembly. Her term runs through 2024.

Two residents have already expressed interest in the seat, Horacio Ortiz Jr. and Elvira Meraz.



Elvira Meraz

Real estate broker Elvira Meraz, 37, moved to Downey in 2006. Having grown up in Cudahy, Meraz says she always wanted to move to Downey.

"I always have loved this city. I saw it when I was a little girl," said Meraz.

Meraz is married with two step daughters, a daughter, and a son. She owns Master Key Real Estate in Downey alongside her husband.

A longtime resident of District 1, Meraz says "she always wanted to be in city council or something in general to help the city."

"I'm a PTA mom; I always have been. I used to be involved with my daughter's school when she was at Imperial Elementary. My son is now at Ward Elementary, and I've always been involved," said Meraz. "I'm involved now with my daughter, she's a part of the Downey dance team; I'm involved there."

Meraz has also begun coming around some of Downey's more known service clubs and organizations, recently applying to join Kiwanis. She is also a neighborhood watch captain and Ward Elementary PTA auditor. She is a member of the Downey Association of Realtors, where she sits on the scholarship committee, local government relations committee, and Realtor community relations committee.

Now entering the political arena, Meraz says that things have changed in her district since she first moved there.

"There's been a lot of changes in that area, and I don't feel as safe as I used to," said Meraz.

Her platform centers around safety and beautification.

"I feel that it doesn't matter where we are at, if we are on the south side, on the northside; Downey is a beautiful city and we should all look like Downey," said Meraz. "We should all be held to Downey standards, and a lot of areas there – especially in the pocket where I live – are just not being cared for."

Meraz added that while District 1 had "really nice things," such as the Downey Promenade and the Downey Landing, there are also "areas that have been forgotten."

"I just want to make sure that that side – the south side – feels like they are a part of Downey," Meraz said.

She says "I'm just here to help."

"I want to make a difference. I want to help. I want to be a part of the movement," said Meraz. "I want to serve my community."

Meraz already has the support of the Downey Former Mayors Coalition.

The city is currently accepting applications for an interim councilmember to serve until the special election in November. While Meraz already has her eyes set on her campaign, at the time of writing she has yet to decide if she will apply for the appointment. She will have until the application window closes on Jan. 9 at noon to make that decision, with a council decision expected to follow Jan. 24.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 63° ☁

Saturday 62° ☁

Sunday 66° ☁

THINGS TO DO



To Kill a Mockingbird

All Weekend
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork. The New York Times called To Kill a Mockingbird "the most successful American play in Broadway history."

ON THIS DAY

1607: According to John Smith, Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatan leader Wahunsenacawh, successfully pleaded for his life after tribal leaders attempted to execute him.

1845: The annexation of the Republic of Texas by the United States was approved by the U.S. Congress, sparking the Mexican War because land between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River was disputed territory.

1865: Abolitionist crusader William Lloyd Garrison published the last issue of The Liberator. A weekly newspaper, it was the most influential antislavery periodical in the pre-Civil War period of U.S. history.

1890: U.S. troops under Colonel James W. Forsyth massacred more than 200 Sioux Indians in the area of Wounded Knee Creek, southwestern South Dakota.

1937: With the enactment of a new constitution, the Irish Free State became known as Ireland.

1998: Leaders of the Khmer Rouge, the radical communist movement that controlled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, publicly apologized for the estimated 1.5 million people who were killed during their rule.

2015: Guinea was declared free of ebola by the World Health Organization, some two years after the deadly disease was reported in the country and sparked an outbreak in western Africa.

2020: French designer Pierre Cardin, a pioneer in the design of high fashion for men, died at age 98.

Birthdays

Oscar-winning actor **Jon Voight** (84), "Cheers" star **Ted Danson** (75), actor **Jude Law** (50), comedy actor **Danny McBride** (46), actor **Diego Luna** (43), U.S. soccer player **Christen Press** (34), singer and actor **Ross Lynch** (27), and actress and model **Paris Berelc** (24).



Danny McBride

CIF championships highlight big year for Downey High sports

Downey's boys water polo and football teams each won CIF titles.

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

DOWNEY – It's been a championship year for Downey High School sports.

Both the football and boys water polo teams accomplished the ultimate goal of winning titles.

The boys water polo team, under coach Uriel Villa, captured the school's third title on Nov. 12 and just two weeks later the football team, under coach Jack Williams, won its fourth CIF-Southern Section Championship with a 40-7 victory over Cypress Nov. 25.

The championship was the second for Williams, who is in his 14th year as coach. His first title came in 2012.

Big year for Downey football

It was a big year for the Vikings in 2022. After Oregon State commit Aidan Chiles went down in 2022 with an injury, big things were expected from the 6 ft. 4 in., 205 lb. quarterback this year. And he obliged.

Chiles just had one of those magical seasons and hopes to bring that to the Corvallis campus.

He only threw five interceptions in 269 attempts and had 38 touchdowns and threw for 3,350 yards.

He also ran for 940 yards on 67 carries and scored nine touchdowns.

Although the Vikings lost in the annual rival game against Warren and an opening game

loss to Corona del Mar, those two setbacks made the team even hungrier during the season.

"After the Warren loss it made us realize what we needed to do," Williams said. "Another observation by Williams was the 32 seniors on the team. He figured 24 of them had never beaten Warren in their four years. "That just made them hungrier the rest of the season and into the playoffs."

Williams also noted that after the Warren game at grading time, there always seemed to be some athletes that couldn't make the grade to continue with the football program.

Since the loss to Warren, the Vikings reeled off six consecutive wins for 245 points with an average of 40.8 points per game leading up to the state playoff game.

Going back to this past summer, Williams thought this year's team was a work in progress that would take time to develop, maybe into the next season.

That all changed when he saw something special during the 7-on-7 tournaments during the summer.

"I knew we had something special in the summer with the 7-on-7's," Williams added.

"I can't put it (championship) into words," said Williams. "Everything we have gone through in the last 12 weeks, it's just super exciting to be the head guy and just to see them fight for each other is special. I thought this year was going to be a rebuilding year."

For the first time in program history, the Vikings played in a CIF State playoff game. They lost in a come-from-behind effort by

Mater Dei Catholic of Chula Vista, 22-21.

The title-game win against Cypress was a defensive gem, as the Vikings allowed only one touchdown, intercepted two passes, had eight tackles for a loss, one sack and no points allowed in the second half.

Santa Fe senior linebacker and transfer, Peter Debora, led the charge and culminated the season with a school record in a season with 166 tackles.

In the game, senior running back Jaylen Crutchfield led all running backs with 174 yards on 9 carries. He scored on runs of 10 and 76 yards.

Chiles threw three touchdowns on 11 of 14 passes for 261 yards and his favorite target was senior wide receiver BJ Carey with a game-high 147 yards on four catches. Carey had scores of 29 and 76 yards.

As usual, the battle in week No. 8 was the big one in the regular season.

Downey-Warren is a gem of a rivalry. Warren got the best of Downey the last two years, led by Tennessee commit, Nic Jamaleava, but it has proven over the years it is "The" rivalry of California.

Water polo wins third title

The 10-5 final was a complete victory for the Vikings and Villa.

With the win, Villa has now been a part of three titles while playing at Montebello high school and one as an assistant coach. He now has a title as a head coach.

"I was excited, but it was nice that we accomplished our goal," he said. "It was so rewarding and



Downey High football won the CIF championship on Nov. 25, the second title under coach Jack Williams. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

an amazing feeling of reward. We realized after the quarterfinals (Crean Lutheran), we knew we had a chance."

The win was the first in 50 years, with the last one coming in 1972.

The Vikings initial title came in 1962, which was when the program was a powerhouse throughout the 50's and 60's. They were runner-up on five different occasions.

"Experiencing this level of success with this group of seniors is real special," Villa added. "They were an important part of last season's semifinalist team, and that experience helped us reach our boys programs first championship game since 1972. Competing for CIF championships

was this coaching staffs goal back in 2017."

Leading up to the title game were victories over Arcadia, 15-11 in the second round, a 7-5 win over Crean Lutheran in the quarterfinals and a close, 12-11 win over Schurr in the semifinals.

Leading the way for the Vikings was freshman Matthew Moran with four goals. Senior Johan Gayton and freshman Nathan Martinez had two each.

With a 7-2 lead at halftime, the Downey defense shined in the third period, denying three consecutive shorthanded opportunities on a man advantage by Yucaipa. The Vikings were led by senior goalie Diego Campos.

The Viking defense also had seven field blocks in the game,

while Campos had eight saves in the game, with the Vikings controlling most of the game.

"Our defense really stepped up," Campos added. "At halftime, it was a good indicator that we had a chance to win."

The Vikings reeled off 14 consecutive wins leading up to the final game of the season in the state playoffs.

The big one, however, was the title game against Yucaipa with the Vikings controlling most of the game.

"It feels like I finally accomplished something as a head coach," Villa said. "It's nice to accomplish a goal. We want to start our own dynasty and build something special here at Downey."

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Sprouts hiring for Norwalk store

NORWALK – Sprouts Farmers Market has announced the grand opening date for its new Norwalk store and hiring will begin next month.

Located at 11522 Alondra Blvd., the store will open Friday, March 3, at 7 am. Details about a grand opening celebration will be announced later.

The grocery store will employ about 100 people in full- and part-time positions.

In-person hiring events will take place on Jan. 18 from 8 am to 6 pm and Jan. 19 from 8 am to 5 pm, both at the DoubleTree Hotel in Norwalk.

Candidates may apply online in advance at www.about.sprouts.com/careers/. Walk-in applicants are also welcome.

Positions include:

- Department Managers
- Assistant Department Managers
- Clerks (Produce, Vitamins and Body Care, Meat and Seafood, Deli, Grocery, Bakery and more).
- Cashiers
- Courtesy Clerks
- Backup Receiver
- Administrative Coordinator and
- Scan Coordinator

To learn more about open positions and team member benefits, or to apply, visit sprouts.com/careers or call 1-866-925-2396 for non-managerial roles.

My Downey wish list for 2023



By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – It's no secret: I love my town.

The "big, little city." "The city that raised me." "Where everybody knows your name" (you know, like that show Cheers).

That's what has made the last several years so hard to watch, both as a journalist working in the city, and as a resident myself; things have felt more melodrama than plucky, wholesome sitcom.

The city has been through a lot in 2020, 2021 and 2022; so much so that it seemed almost daunting to consider what positives or improvements may lay ahead as each year rolled into the next.

Many of us, myself included, simply wanted to stop the bleeding.

Finally, this year feels different. While we are not entirely out of the fog of the pandemic and the other nonsense, there is a definite feel of positive progress; of getting ourselves off the ground, dusting ourselves off, and moving forward.

Speaking of forward, as has become tradition, here is my wish list for 2023.

Stability: Okay, let's get the obvious one out of the way first. The City Council's top priority right now should be the hiring of a new, quality city manager. Once they find whoever that is, then the city can start plugging the holes left by other department heads and staff who either retired or left during the

"great exodus of 2022."

The application window for City Managers just closed, so thankfully the city seems to be on the right path. I look forward to seeing who takes the helm in the coming year.

A bigger spotlight on Downey Historical Society: The Downey Historical Society has become a closet favorite of mine in the city, and I am not afraid to share it all, yet they sit in a small building at Apollo Park that is already crowded and almost filled to the brim. They could use a bigger space.

The members of the Historical Society possess a wealth of knowledge and information, and have an even greater desire to share it all, yet they sit in a small building at Apollo Park that is already crowded and almost filled to the brim. They could use a bigger space.

Moreover, they are a resource I'm not sure many people realize we have in the city. They have a handful of young individuals who they are hoping will be the core of their future, but their numbers are still relatively small.

Downey claims to value its history, but hasn't done the greatest job protecting and preserving it (just look at the Rives Mansion). It's time to fix that, and the Downey Historical Society is a great place to start; how wonderful would it be to see buses full of students on field trips, learning about the city they live in?

It is my hope that they grow their footprint in the city, be it

through their own means, through the city, or even perhaps an outside donor. If nothing else, go give them a visit on your own just to see it and say you did; I guarantee you'll learn something.

More small businesses established by young entrepreneurs: No offense to some of the older shop owners in town, but some of my favorite businesses are those established by individuals around my age and younger. Stores like Brick LA, OG Collectibles, and Gypsy Queen bring fresh, new personality to the city while offering a glimpse into the potential future of Downey's economic and business future.

Downey already has a knack for retaining many of its young people, often times bringing with them knowledge, expertise, business, or other contributions earned from outside education or world experience. In 2023, I'd like to see that trend continue.

Target: My previous entry aside, I enjoy a trip to Target just as much as the next person, and it absolutely blows my mind that Downey doesn't have one (neighboring Norwalk has two!).

I know Trader Joes is Downey's favorite store to scream about from its soap box, but this is mine. Let's see what it would take to bring those big, red circles into Downey!

Give Stonewood Mall some TLC: Maybe it's just because I was a kid, but I remember when a trip to Stonewood Mall was an excursion I looked forward to: Lunch in the food court, a trip to KB Toys, and a ride on the train in front of Macy's before stopping at Mrs. Fields for a bag of mini

semi-sweet chocolate chip cookies on the way out. When I got older, trips included stops at FYE and the video game store, before blowing a few bucks at the arcade.

Stonewood has changed a lot since those days, and not for the better. Now, it's just the mall I go to when I'm too lazy or in too much of a hurry to go to Lakewood or Cerritos.

Cerritos has a movie theater. Lakewood has a Round 1. Both are significantly more attractive looking inside and out.

In an age of online shopping, I realize it's likely a tall feat to ask for a total refresh of the mall, but Stonewood is in desperate need of something. It's gone too long feeling like a glorified swap meet.

More family-oriented entertainment options: As a teenager, I used to say that there was nothing to do in Downey (but we were 30 minutes away or less from something in any direction).

This has gotten somewhat better with Cinemark and Look Dine-in Cinema, but we're still lacking. Downey would benefit from more varied options for families and teenagers to choose from. Things that come to mind: a Dave and Busters / arcade, a roller-skating rink, laser tag, mini golf, go karts / bumper cars, a trampoline park, an escape room.

It is an honor and beyond a pleasure to be able to do what I do at the Downey Patriot, and I hope I can continue to do so in 2023.

Be safe, be healthy, and be happy. Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and happy new year.

Hahn allocates \$4M for Bell Gardens pool

BELL GARDENS – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion authored by Chair Janice Hahn last week to allocate \$4 million to help close a funding gap in a \$23 million plan by the City of Bell Gardens to revamp an existing pool into a regional aquatic center.

The existing pool, located at John Anson Ford Park, has been closed for five years due to health and safety concerns.

"Public pools are vital to healthy neighborhoods. They provide opportunities for exercise and learning and fun to residents of all ages, from children to seniors and everyone in between," said Hahn, whose district includes Bell Gardens. "We have soccer fields, we have basketball courts, but pools are too few and far between. With these funds we're breathing life back into this big asset for Bell Gardens and its neighbors in Southeast Los Angeles."

The \$4 million will come from Hahn's improvement funds for the Fourth District.

"The City of Bell Gardens appreciates the support of the Supervisor's office," said Bell Gardens mayor Alejandra Cortez. "The \$4 million contribution to the Bell Gardens aquatic center project goes a long way towards providing the residents with an aquatic center where they can learn life saving swimming skills, receive therapeutic benefits, enjoy recreational activities, and have the opportunity to compete in Olympic quality aquatics programs."

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- ✓ **OLDER ADULT SERVICES**, call California Aging & Adult Information Line at 1-800-510-2020.
- ✓ **INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICARE**, call 1-800-434-0222 for the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.
- ✓ **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**—You are not alone. Call Friendship Line CA at 1-888-670-1360 for someone to listen 24/7.
- ✓ **PROTECTION FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT:**
 - Call 1-800-231-4024, if you are living in a long-term care facility, to reach the Long-Term Care Ombudsman CRISISline.
 - Call 1-833-401-0832, if you are living at home, to talk to Adult Protective Services.

- ✓ **PROTECTION FROM FRAUD**, call 1-877-908-3360, for AARP's Fraud Watch Network Helpline.
- ✓ **SUPPORT WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR OTHER DEMENTIAS**, call 1-800-272-3900 for the Alzheimer's Association® 24/7 Helpline.
- ✓ **CAREGIVER RESOURCES & SUPPORT**, connect with your local CA Caregiver Resource Center at www.caregivercalifornia.org.
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For information for all older adult services, call the California Aging & Adult Information Line 1-800-510-2020

POET'S CORNER

Shoveling Snow

If day after day I was caught inside
this muffle and hush

I would notice how birches
move with a lovely hum of spirits,

how falling snow is a privacy
warm as the space for sleeping,

how radiant snow is a dream
like leaving behind the body

and rising into that luminous place
where sometimes you meet

the people you've lost. How
silver branches scrawl their names

in tangled script against the white.
How the curves and cheekbones

of all my loved ones appear
in the polished marble of drifts

Kirsten Dierking, Northern Oracle, Spout Press, 2007

The end of the old year is a time for remembering old friends. This poem gently leads the imagination to a healing snowscape and a way to find closure. Dierking received the Building Bridges Award in Education from the Islamic Resource Group of Minnesota. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

Federal budget includes millions for local projects

■ Congress allocated millions of dollars for local projects, although none are located in Downey.

**By Eric Pierce
Editor**

DOWNEY — The federal budget, approved by Congress last week and expected to go to President Joe Biden for his signature this week, includes tens of millions of dollars in funding for several regional projects.

The spending package includes emergency supplemental funding to “better respond to increasingly catastrophic natural disasters and extreme weather events,” as well as emergency resources to support the Ukrainian people.

The package includes several measures that Congresswoman Linda Sánchez sponsored, including \$28,428,707 for 15 different community projects in California’s 38th Congressional District; a bill to improve access to retirement savings for small business owners; and a bill co-authored by Sánchez and Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32) to rename the West Covina Post Office after the late Congressman Esteban E. Torres.

“I am deeply proud to vote for this bipartisan government funding package and send it to President Biden for his signature today,” said Sánchez. “This legislation will make life better for working families by creating good-paying jobs and investing directly in communities that need it most. It also addresses some of the biggest challenges we face today, from strengthening our national security to investing in emergency disaster relief—which is critical for wildfire victims in California and across the country.”

The projects, which are listed in alphabetical order, include:

■ \$3 million for the City of Artesia. The funding will be used to transform an unused parcel of land at the Artesia Botanical Gardens into usable park space for residents to enjoy. The City of Artesia will maintain the existing forest area and enhance it with educational features to teach children and families about caring for plants and trees, California’s climate, and the benefits of preserving forestry.

■ \$4 million for Foothill Transit. The funding will be used to procure double deck zero emissions buses in the San Gabriel Valley of LA County. With this capital project, Foothill Transit will continue to lead the way to cleaner, smarter transit in one of the most congested regions in the country. The buses will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve residents’ quality of life and access to vital resources such as medical services and groceries.

■ \$500,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles. The funding will support construction of 18 new-construction homes in Santa Fe Springs to be sold with an affordable mortgage to low-income families. This is Habitat LA’s contribution to the Lakeland Development project, a public-private partnership working to expand affordable housing in the area.

■ \$1.42 million for the City of Hawaiian Gardens. The funding will be used to upgrade athletic facilities, fields, and concession stands at parks and sports fields across the City of Hawaiian Gardens. The goal of these upgrades is to provide safe recreational facilities for the community to enjoy.

■ \$2.5 million for the LA County Department of Public Works’ South Whittier Communities Bikeways Access Project. The funding will be used for the installation of bike lanes and bike boulevards, wayfinding signage, roadway resurfacing, landscaping medians, streetlights, and more.

■ \$620,000 for the LA County Department of Public Works’ Sunshine Shuttle Route C Electric Buses and Charging Infrastructure Project. The funding will be used to acquire two electric buses for the Sunshine Shuttle service, replacing existing buses that are now beyond their service life. Sunshine Shuttle provides Los Nietos and South Whittier area residents access to shopping centers, community centers, medical facilities, parks and recreation areas, libraries, job training, and employment sites for Cal-WORKS recipients.

■ \$2.5 million for the City of La Mirada. The funding will be used to construct landscaped median improvements in the City of La Mirada, which will improve traffic safety, enhance the aesthetics of the streetscape, and provide ecological and environmental benefits.

■ \$2,211,745 for the City of Montebello. This funding will be used to upgrade radio systems used by the City of Montebello’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and public safety agencies. Better radio communications will help ensure first responders, fire, and law enforcement professionals can communicate effectively in situations that often mean the difference between life or death.

■ \$976,962 for the City of Norwalk. The City of Norwalk’s Senior Center and the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex function as emergency, temporary shelters for those in need during emergency events. However, these facilities do not currently have generators. This funding will be used to procure and install a dedicated emergency backup generator at each of these locations.

■ \$2.2 million for the Norwalk La-Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD). One of the cornerstones of NLMUSD is the Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways and Dual Enrollment access to college-based curriculum for college credit. This funding will help NLMUSD build a virtual learning environment so that students in CTE pathways, Dual Enrollment, and other programs can have remote access to educational materials on demand.

■ \$1.05 million for the City of Pico Rivera. The funding will be used to transform an underutilized and blighted bus depot into a colorful and vibrant neighborhood park that features 14 new canopy trees and drought resistant native landscaping, a grassy knoll and performance amphitheater, decorative fencing, creative solar panel shade structures, a butterfly garden, community-based artwork, children’s play areas, free Wi-Fi hotspot, and more. The PAD Park will also commit space dedicated to incubating small, home-grown businesses such as galleries, cafés, bakeries, and other vendors.

■ \$2 million for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The funding will be used to implement a Workforce Development Program for adults and at-risk youth from disadvantaged communities (DACs) who are experiencing homelessness. Funding will be prioritized for residents of the City of Montebello’s Operation Stay Safe. The Program will provide participants with paid work experiences and supportive services, placing them on a pathway to economic security.

■ \$2.2 million for the City of Santa Fe Springs. The funding will be used to bring Water Well No. 12 into operation and provide safe, affordable drinking water for residents and businesses. Water Well No. 12 was constructed in 2015 but has never been in operation due to its inability to pass state and federal drinking water standards.

■ \$750,000 for the City of Whittier. The funding will be used to convert 8 acres of underutilized property at Whittier Union High School’s Sierra Education Complex into shared community recreation space. When complete, the space can be used for youth sports programs that serve more than 2,000 young people annually.

■ \$2.5 million for Water Replenishment District of Southern California. The funding will be used to treat three PFAS-affected wells, helping to ensure residents of Whittier, Montebello, and La Habra have access to clean drinking water.

The package includes H.R. 7832, legislation co-authored by Reps. Sánchez and Napolitano to designate the U.S. Postal Service facility at 396 South California Avenue in West Covina the “Esteban

E. Torres Post Office.”

“Congressman Esteban Torres was a trailblazer for Latinos and a champion for the working class,” said Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez. “He was deeply proud of where he was from and who he represented. Renaming the post office in his honor is a fitting tribute to Congressman Torres’ decades of service. I look forward to President Biden signing this bill into law very soon and ensuring his legacy lives on in our community.”

Sánchez continued: “As the Ukrainian people continue to valiantly fight back against unprovoked Russian aggression, the United States and our allies must continue to stand with them. I am grateful that this funding package includes critical aid for the Ukrainian people, which will help put an end to this needless war and ensure a democratic future for Ukraine.”

“Small businesses fuel our economy and allow our communities to thrive. Unfortunately, the hard-working Americans who keep our small businesses running are often left with few options to save for retirement. I am glad that the spending package includes my bill, the Starter K Act, to help small business owners provide their employees with streamlined, cost-effective retirement plans.”

Meanwhile, Downey Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard secured nearly \$10.6 million for 15 local projects, although none are located in Downey.

Her allocations include:

■ \$300,000 for the Aquatic Center Outdoor Pool Improvements

■ \$1,500,000 for the Bell Gardens Regional Aquatic Center

■ \$1,000,000 for the Building Expansion for the Columbia Memorial Space Center

■ \$1,482,900 for the City of Commerce -- Public Safety Building / Sheriff’s Substation (EOC)

■ \$2,000,000 for the City of Paramount for the Spane Park Regional Stormwater Infiltration Facility

■ \$85,000 for the Designated Exceptional Services for Independence (DESI), Los Angeles, CA for expanding access to and delivery of food for seniors, including for the purchase of equipment

■ \$100,000 for the Eastmont Community Center, Los Angeles, CA for equipment and services for low-income families to reduce poverty

■ \$250,000 for the Maywood Community Resilience Center Energy Storage Project

■ \$650,000 for the Maywood Riverfront Park Renovation Project

■ \$1,500,000 for the Solar Energy Sustainability Project

■ \$707,414 for the South Central Family Health Center, Cudahy, CA for facilities and equipment

■ \$100,000 for the South Central LAMP, Los Angeles, CA for support services for children and families

■ \$158,000 for the University Muslim Medical Association Inc. (UMMA Community Clinic), Huntington Park, CA for equipment

■ \$389,000 for the Via Care Community Health Center, East Los Angeles, CA for facilities and equipment

■ \$375,000 for the YWCA Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA for expanding senior empowerment services

“This bill makes historic investments in America’s domestic, maritime, and border security while also protecting critical cyber and physical infrastructure and supporting disaster relief,” Roybal-Allard said.

“I am especially proud of the work my colleagues and I have done to provide robust funding to support asylum seekers, refugees, and other immigrants and to finally implement pay parity for our Transportation Security Officers, who ensure critical security for our nation’s transportation systems.”

In Memory of

Beverly Jean Baumann

April 2, 1940 - December 4, 2022



Beverly Jean Baumann, 82, was born on April 2, 1940 in San Francisco, California to Ernestine Smith and Frank Brown. Beverly entered into eternal rest on December 4, 2022 in Downey, California.

Beverly was a hardworking woman and dedicated more than 46 years of her life as a Realtor in the Real Estate industry.

With love and care, Beverly devoted much of her time to making her home a warm and welcoming place for her family and friends. Beverly’s hobbies throughout her life included playing tennis, painting, sewing, and gardening. She was a proud football wife, mom, and dummer. Beverly loved real estate and mentoring others, but her family and OLPH Church were the most important to Bev.

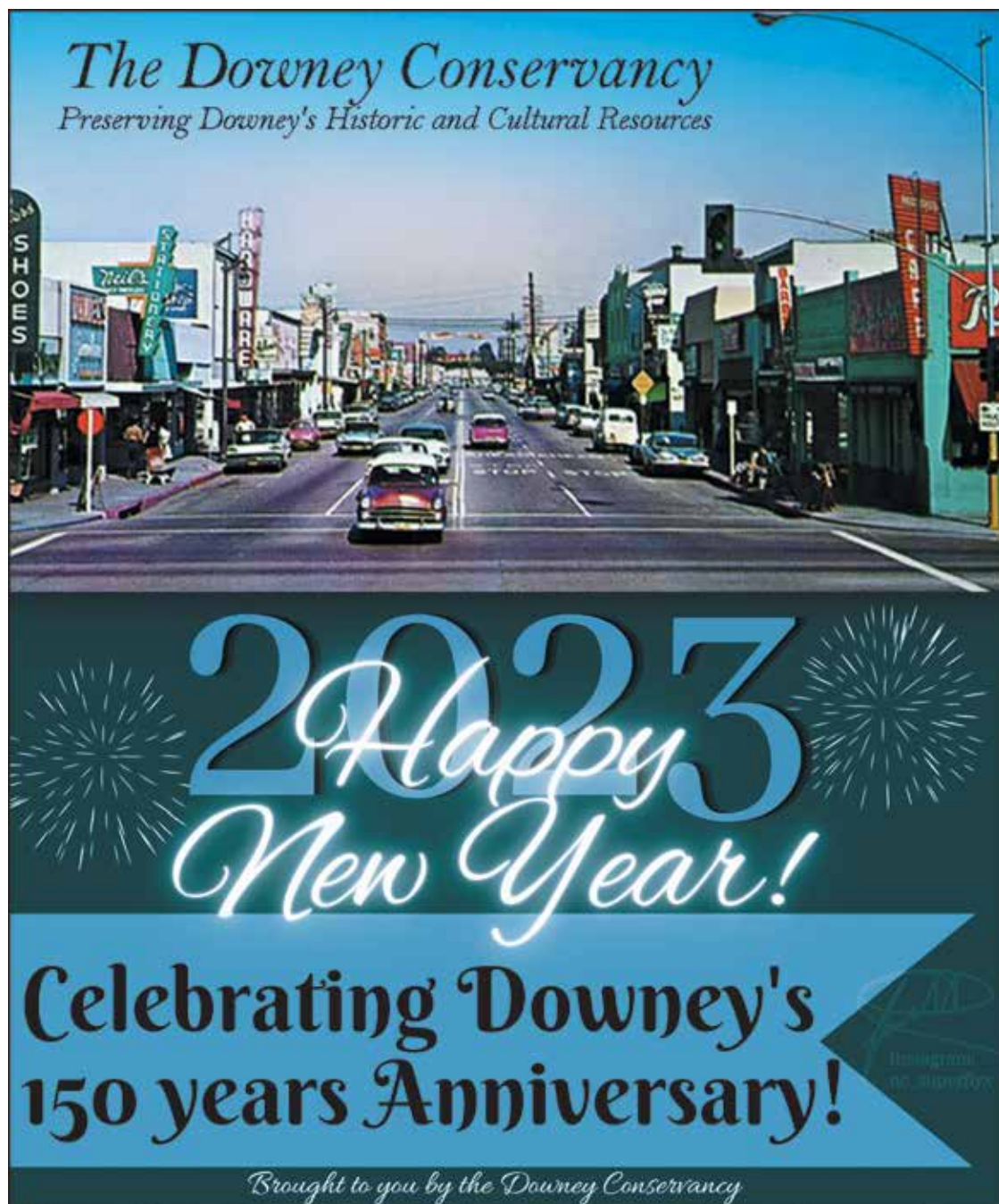
Beverly is survived by her family: Husband- Michael Baumann, Daughters- Julie Sartor and Jeanette Baumann, Son- Christopher Baumann, Daughter-in-Law- Durga Baumann, Son-in-Law- John Sartor, Granddaughters- Kayla Jean Baumann, Lauren Baumann, and Hayley Sartor, Grandsons- Shane Baumann and Wolfgang Baumann, Sister- Janice Burnside, Brother- Frank Brown, along with other family and friends who will miss her dearly.

A Catholic Vigil will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 9:30am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey, with the Funeral Mass to follow at 10:30am. A Graveside will be held following the Mass at All Souls Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey.

Condolences may be sent to the family through our website, www.rishermortuary.com. 562-699-0916.

Celebration of Life immediately following Cemetery 9067



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America needs newspapers

By Nancy Gibbs

Every couple of weeks you can read about another newspaper shutting its doors, or moving from daily to weekly, or hollowing out its newsroom until it's little more than a skeleton staff bulked up with j-school students. Study the maps made by Penny Abernathy, visiting professor at Northwestern University and an expert on dwindling sources of news, and you can see the dead zones — the 200 or so counties with no local paper. About 1,600 other counties have only one.

Local news is the oxygen of democracy, the most trusted source for the most essential information, and we've long known why dying newsrooms damage communities. But look at the maps again, and another alarming picture comes into focus: The very places where local news is disappearing are often the same places that wield disproportionate political power.

This phenomenon affects Americans living far away from the news deserts. Demographers predict that by 2040, one-third of Americans will pick 70 percent of the Senate.

Think of a typical voter in South Dakota, with its single congressional district and, of course, two senators for a population of about 895,000. Thanks to the Senate's structural bias toward less-populated states, that gives each of the nearly 600,000 registered voters in South Dakota about 28 times more power in that body than each of the 17 million voters in Texas. When it comes to electing presidents, that South Dakota voter carries twice the weight in the electoral college as their Texas counterpart.

But with all that added clout for shaping the composition of Congress and, less directly, the Supreme Court and the White House, the voters in about half of South Dakota's 66 counties have only a single weekly newspaper. Seven counties have no newspaper at all.

You could do the same math for residents of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont or Delaware, all states with similarly enhanced political clout. But finding reliable local news sources is much harder in the first three — geographically larger, rural states with dispersed populations, which are much more likely to lack high-speed internet as well. In contrast, Delaware's three small counties have 13 newspapers; Vermont's 14 counties have 39.

By now we know quite a bit about why this matters. The citizens whose votes count the most might have the hardest time learning about the issues and candidates running in their communities — because there's no longer anyone reporting on them. Since 2005, newspaper employment has fallen 70 percent, Abernathy calculates, and local TV, radio and new digital start-ups don't begin to make up for that decline. Fewer knowledgeable local reporters means less accountability, leading to higher public spending, lower social cohesion, fewer people voting or running for office, less ticket-splitting and more polarization as people rely on national news sources. In 1992, a third of the states with Senate races picked a senator from one party and the president from the other. In 2016, not a single state did so, and that hadn't happened in 100 years.

If you're a Democrat hoping to stand a chance of winning in a red state, or a Republican in a blue one, it helps if voters get to know you personally, see you at ribbon cuttings and town halls, hear where your views depart from party orthodoxy. That's a lot harder to do without local reporters providing reliable coverage, no matter how many targeted Facebook ads you buy. By the same logic, winning candidates are accountable to the voters who elevate them — unless no one knows what they ran on or what they are doing with their power, beyond whether they have an R or a D on their jersey. If you weaken the connection between voters and their representatives, you empower their donors, lobbyists and conflict entrepreneurs.

Partisan players are well aware of the opportunity presented when a local paper dies. Potemkin sites that mimic authentic newsrooms have popped up across the country, more than 1,300 in all; they have the look and feel of reliable information sources, but their content is often partisan noise, produced by dark-money-funded propaganda factories. A single purveyor, Metric Media, claims to post more than 5 million stories a month. All kinds of disinformation and conspiracy theories find the desiccated news deserts to be fertile ground.

We are dealing with a disruption of the entire ecology of information at the very moment when 78 percent of Americans say we can no longer agree even on basic facts. Local news is a crucial piece of a larger problem, and we can't truly understand the forces threatening democracy without reckoning with that larger environment — both the disappearance of critical sources of essential information and the swelling of information streams that contaminate our public space.

A rising alliance of entrepreneurs, innovators, philanthropists and legacy news organizations is working overtime to build robust alternative information sources. Digital start-ups and nonprofit newsrooms are proliferating, but they typically are based in cities, not the hollowed-out rural counties that have often suffered most from the economic upheavals of the past but will hold disproportionate power in picking the leaders of the future.

All Americans need and deserve access to the information that enables good political choices — but that is disappearing fastest in places that need it most.

Nancy Gibbs is the director of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University.

It's time to reevaluate FSAs

By Pamela Herd and Donald P. Moynihan

It's the end of the year, the season when families spend more time with loved ones ... and with their flexible savings accounts. For example, the two of us just spent a good part of a day online and on the phone submitting claims for our daughter's orthodontia bill and some mundane prescriptions.

With the new year deadline approaching, many people are trying to use up the money they diverted to their FSAs during 2022 by splurging on spare eyeglasses, electronic massagers, first aid kits and other vaguely medical knickknacks they don't really need. There's a whole mini-industry of online stores specializing in FSA-approved items. The perversity of such last-minute, ill-targeted health-care spending is only the tip of the iceberg: By one estimate, consumers lost \$4.2 billion in unspent FSA funds in 2020.

We're both professors of public policy who study the administrative burdens people encounter in government programs — yet we have struggled so much with our own family's FSA that we decided to look under the hood. What we've concluded is that it's time to reevaluate the value of FSAs.

Here is how they're supposed to work, whether for health- or child-care expenditures. You predict your expenses for the coming year, and your employer lets you set aside some money for those expenses from every paycheck. This reduces your taxable income, and if you Google "FSA," most hits will present it as a savvy way to save some money.

But if you don't spend all of the money you set aside by the year-end deadline, you lose it — and that leftover money reverts to the

employers. (They have a variety of options for what they do with it, including paying for the FSA's administrative costs, reducing future employee FSA costs or, in some cases, keeping the money.)

As Vox Media's Ian Millhiser put it: "Every year you have to guess how much money you'll spend on health care. Guess right, you get a modest tax break; guess wrong, you light your money on fire."

But in practical terms, the real issue is that FSAs waste a lot of user time and money.

How much money? Definitive estimates are hard to come by. The government doesn't track these expenditures at the individual level, and the private firms that administer the FSA don't have to report data. For what it's worth, one analysis by Money magazine estimated that almost half the 21.6 million Americans with FSAs forfeited money in 2020, with an average loss of \$408.

The administrative burdens involved are also a time tax on users. Workers typically set up an account through their employer with a private FSA vendor that assesses whether their expenses qualify. Submitting an expense request often involves a lot of photocopying, scanning and uploading receipts. You have to know what is allowed and what is not, and which form to submit. If your insurance company is involved, you can't claim reimbursement until it has paid its share. Claims can be rejected for seemingly mystifying reasons, with little avenue for redress. If your employer changes your FSA provider, you have to learn a new set of procedures. Few of us who are not professional health-service administrators have the skills, discipline, organization and time to do this effectively.

In public policy terms, the most obvious policy drawback to FSAs is that they are a regressive benefit. It's largely salaried employees with higher incomes who benefit from them, and the value of the tax deduction increases as you enter a higher tax bracket. This reflects a general problem with policymaking — we rely too much on tax deductions rather than direct benefits. The use of such deductions has to be monitored — generally, in this case, by the private FSA vendors, who are the reliable winners in this whole process.

It's all a lot more complicated than it has to be, and a lot less beneficial to the American families FSAs are supposed to help. Policymakers need to break the habit of favoring complexity over simplicity. Politically it might be easier to gain bipartisan support for tax deductions rather than direct spending, but such policy solutions systematically underestimate the hassles involved and undervalue the time we spend clawing our money back from private financial firms.

Meanwhile, back at our house, we discovered that our employers have extended the new year's deadline by 2½ months — so we're still hoping to get our last-minute expenses processed. Fingers crossed.

Pamela Herd and Donald P. Moynihan are professors at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Stop calling it 'crimes of passion'

By Julia Cooke

On a cold October morning, Colin Canham and his wife, Sara Emerick, were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide. Mr. Canham was found lying near a firearm outside the couple's home. Ms. Emerick was inside. A detective told me that it seemed that Mr. Canham had committed a crime of passion — a legal term that implies a lack of premeditation, an act supposedly born out of love or devotion.

I first met him when we were in our 20s. Though we were part of the same friend group, we weren't especially close. Still, I knew him to be a loyal friend, gregarious and generous. He moved couches for friends and helped roast pigs for celebrations, where he, like most of us, often drank to excess. He also liked woodworking. I once hosted a get-together where he suggested I add crown molding to my apartment and offered to help me buy, cut and attach each piece.

We all largely fell out of touch in our late 30s, but the news resuscitated old bonds. Those who had been closer to Mr. Canham wondered what the distance of time had done to him and wished

they had known about his recent struggles. Others shared photos of him at parties.

That he apparently killed Ms. Emerick — whom I never met — did not seem possible to me. But in the past few years, a detective told me, she called the police multiple times from the home they shared near Cape Cod Bay. No arrests were ever made.

In the aftermath, I noticed, my friends didn't call it what it was. One noted tensions and resentment toward Mr. Canham among Ms. Emerick's circle. There was a euphemistic reference to where he ended up. Largely absent from the conversation was language that accurately described the offense he evidently committed — "kill," "shoot," "domestic violence" or even "crime." The words that were used hinted at a cloudy culpability.

Mr. Canham's closer friends, some of whom are my good friends, too, might have wanted to keep warm memories of him unsullied. The horrific finality of what all signs point to his having done made it difficult to reconcile the man with his action.

Women killed by a single offender in the United States, according to a 2021 report by the Violence Policy Center, are far more likely to die at the hands of a current or former romantic partner than at the hands of a male stranger. A survey conducted by a domestic violence hotline found that 40 percent of intimate partner violence survivors who did not contact the police were not certain that what happened to them was a crime. Abusers often do the manipulative work of becoming essential, constructing vigorous good-guy facades through gallantry.

Word choice has a profound effect on what we think of ourselves

and one another. Terms like "crime of passion" can imply that violence is a consequence of love, and talking around violence can make you doubt that it will happen or that it will happen again. Silence reinforces the old-fashioned implication that a victim is, at least in some part, to blame for her own abuse, that a mother should have seen her daughter's murder coming.

"Why didn't you leave?" Gayle King asked the musician FKA twigs about her abuse lawsuit against her ex-boyfriend Shia LaBeouf. She answered politely, "The question should really be to the abuser, 'Why are you holding someone hostage?'"

"He just seemed like a nice guy," Gabby Petito's mother said of her daughter's fiancé and killer.

A neighbor told reporters that Mr. Canham seemed so proud of his house and family.

The person we knew all those years ago did not seem to be violent. Yet to talk around the violence that we now know of, and its consequences, wrests some final measure of control from Ms. Emerick and her family. A friend said that both deserved our grief. I wondered if the friend feared that looking straight at what transpired would complicate grief beyond recognition.

What happens inside a marriage is private, the implication goes. In truth, intimate partner violence is an epidemic that has far-reaching social consequences. It causes homelessness, is linked to higher suicide rates and hovers in the background of most mass shootings. It has substantial economic costs: A 2018 study estimated that intimate partner violence costs nearly \$3.6 trillion over the lifetimes of 43 million American adults with victimization history. Much of that burden — medical costs, criminal justice work and more — is borne by government sources. The Covid pandemic has only made things worse.

And then there are the bigger, public failures that contributed to Ms. Emerick's death — most notably a legal system that is ill equipped for the emotional complexities of domestic violence — and can't be addressed with language that treats the issue as unspeakably private. Many victims are afraid to call the police, concerned that they'll be doubted or blamed. Those who call often regret doing so.

In a tribute online, a friend of Ms. Emerick noted that in 2020 she expressed concern about her husband. Two days before she was killed, she called the police. He was drunk and trying to get into the house, she said. She didn't pursue a restraining order, the detective told me — she was filing for divorce. No decorous words disguise the fact that her life was taken before she had the chance to leave.

Julia Cooke is the author of "Come Fly the World: The Jet Age Story of the Women of Pan Am."

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Appreciation from Friends of the Downey Library

Dear Editor:

We would like to end the year by thanking all the supporters of the Friends of the Downey City Library.

You keep us going by attending our events, your annual membership, your life membership and special donations.

We had donations from company employee programs and restaurants. We received donations of books and magazines from the community.

We look forward to seeing you and working with you next year. Thank you and happy New Year to you all!

Toni Stewart
Downey

2022 Year in Review

JANUARY



Leslie Murray was sworn-in as police chief, becoming the first female police chief in City of Downey history. Murray graduated from Downey High School in 1986 and joined the department four years later.

Downey mayor Blanca Pacheco announced herself as a candidate for the newly-drawn 64th Assembly District. "In Sacramento, I'll stand up for working people, create more good-paying, middle class jobs, invest more in public schools to ensure our students receive a world class education, expand affordable housing, urgently address the climate crisis and ensure affordable and accessible healthcare for every Californian," she said.

An 18-year-old Whittier man was killed in a violent traffic collision at Florence and Woodruff avenues. Christian Lopez had graduated from Whittier High School six months prior as valedictorian.

Downey broke ground on an ambitious solar energy project, installing solar panels at all city-owned facilities. By transitioning to solar energy, officials estimated Downey would save \$10 million over the next 25 years.

With her time in office coming to an end due to term limits, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia announced she was running for Congress. Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia announced his own bid for the empty Congressional seat the following week.

A fire caused moderate damage to the sanctuary at Christ Lutheran Church.

Rio San Gabriel Elementary students collected hundreds of toiletry items for the TLC Family Resource Center, an agency that helps Downey Unified School District students and their families.

In an appearance on the "Downey LiveWire" podcast, Downey Councilwoman Claudia M. Frometa announced she would seek re-election for a second and final four-year term.

Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center was ranked one of the best hospitals in the nation for maternity care by U.S. News & World Report.

FEBRUARY

Downey civic leader Steve Roberson released his sixth and final country music album, "Truth to Tell."

Priscila Coronado, a 2015 Downey High School graduate, was elected president of Harvard Law Review. She became the first Latina to hold the position.

Due to staffing shortages, Metro said it would reduce bus service across Los Angeles County. Cuts included the 111 Line, which runs through Downey and transports passengers to LAX.

A plan by the Downey Unified School District to align high school graduation requirements with UC and California State University systems was put on hold as students struggled to recover academically from at-home learning.

With his future in Downey uncertain, city manager Gilbert Livas announced he would resign effective July 1. The City Council, which nearly fired Livas two months prior for unexplained reasons, agreed to pay \$452,000 in return for the resignation. The separation agreement was approved on a 4-1 vote with Councilwoman Claudia M. Frometa opposed. Livas' departure sparked an exodus of department heads at City Hall, including the assistant city manager, city attorney, economic development manager, and public information officer.

Warren High School's ASB announced it has collected more than 63,000 cans of food as part of its holiday food drive, a new record. The food was donated to the Downey Council PTA HELPS pantry.

Downey resident Roy Beard, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was awarded the prestigious Quilt of Valor by the Los Cerritos District.

A two-alarm fire heavily damaged several buildings at the abandoned south Rancho Los Amigos hospital campus. Firefighters from Downey, Montebello, Compton, La Habra Heights and L.A. County gained control of the fire after about three hours.

In a 4-1 vote, the Downey Planning Commission approved an operating permit for Ojos Locos, a sports bar notorious for its provocatively dressed staff. The restaurant received approval to open at the former Denny's on Firestone Boulevard.

Rio San Gabriel Park was chosen to receive a \$1 million L.A. County grant. The money would be used to renovate the park with new playgrounds, fitness equipment, a nature garden, new picnic shelters, bicycle racks, and improved lighting.

Soroptimist International of Downey hosted its annual Live Your Dream awards banquet at Geezer's restaurant, giving cash prizes to single mothers who have overcome adversity.



An effort to recall Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez failed. Recall supporters fell 35 signatures short of the 3,454 required to trigger a special election. Proponents of the recall said they would try again.

Councilman Mario Trujillo said he would like a statue honoring the Carpenters to be installed in Downey. "I think the statue is going to bring people from across maybe the world, but definitely the United States," Trujillo said. "I want it to be somewhere where it's accessible, market friendly, because it's going to be on social media and hopefully people will tag us."

An electrical fire at Downey Fire Station No. 4 left the newly-renovated facility uninhabitable. The station remained closed the entire year.

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MARCH

Councilman Sean Ashton resigned from the city council with nine months remaining on his term. Ashton cited a job promotion for his resignation. Ashton worked at FedEx after losing his teaching credential for unknown reasons.

The Arc Walk was held virtually on Zoom.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church hosted a college fair featuring HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities).

L.A. County ended its indoor mask mandate.

Southern California Gas Company announced it would open its first H2 hydrogen home in Downey. The nearly 2,000 sq. ft. home would be powered entirely by clean hydrogen energy. "Downey is called the 'Home of the Apollo' because this is where the Apollo command modules were built, as well as six of the space shuttles. The technological breakthroughs of



Jaylon Connish, a 17-year-old Warren High School student, was killed when the vehicle he was riding in crashed on the 5 Freeway transition to the 605. Counselors were sent to the school campus to support Jaylon's classmates.

those years continue to benefit our entire population," said Councilwoman Claudia Frometa. "Your project is the first in the United States of its type. It will benefit countless individuals for decades to come."

St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy (PMA) entered into a partnership with Cerritos College to make PMA the first private high school in California to offer a four-year dual enrollment pathway. Participating students can graduate high school with an associate degree and up to 46 units transferable to a UC or CSU.

Embattled councilwoman Catherine Alvarez was voted mayor pro tem by the city council. The vote was 3-1 with councilwoman Claudia Frometa dissenting. "What a disgrace for our great Downey," Frometa wrote on Facebook. "First time in our city's history someone with a criminal record including fraud serves as mayor pro tem."

Downey Unified School District announced it was dropping its indoor mask mandate, aligning itself with L.A. County health protocols. "I want to be sure that we are understanding that masks continue to be recommended, but they are not mandatory," Superintendent Dr. John Garcia said in a video message. "I want to remind all of us that regardless of whatever personal choice that a student or a family makes to continue to be respectful to one another at all times."

Downey Unified also announced that online learning would continue to be an option for students in the next school year.

Gangs Out of Downey president Hector Sosa announced his campaign for City Council (District 2).

Responding to backlash over Ojos Locos sports bar, the City Council began discussions on regulating uniforms at Downey restaurants. At Ojos Locos' others locations, waitresses wear suggestive clothing, including lingerie.

Downey City Council meetings reopened to the public.

An early morning fire heavily damaged the 20/20 Sports Bar, forcing it to close indefinitely.

Tattoo shops, once unheard of in conservative Downey, began opening as the city council approved operating regulations. "When I was running [for office], I met this lady who said, 'I want you to know that in Downey, we don't do the 'Three P's'...We don't do pot, porn, or pawn shops,'" said Councilman Mario Trujillo. "We used to not do tattoo shops, but now there's apparently a couple in the city."

The Downey community rallied to support three brothers who lost their parents within months of each other. Michael, Diego and Joel Navarro lost their father to a chronic illness in late 2021. Just three months later, their mother, Lorraine, was killed in a traffic collision involving an unlicensed teenage driver.

The city council approved plans for a roundabout at Quill Drive and Rives Avenue. The project was later abandoned after objections by neighborhood residents.

Hundreds of families received free backpacks and school supplies at a giveaway sponsored by Gangs Out of Downey at Golden Park.

The Downey Historical Society began a series of community discussions hoping to reclaim and record the history of



The city council pledged \$28,000 to Stay Gallery so the art center would remain open through the summer. The council also committed \$25,000 to a two-day Pride Festival in Downey.

Downey's lost barrio community. Although there is no known recorded information about the neighborhood, it stretched from the train tracks to Cleta Street, and from Brookshire Avenue to Patton Road. Most of the homes were lost when the properties were claimed under eminent domain prior to the construction of Downey Community Hospital in the mid to late 1960's.

Downey's Columbia Memorial Space Center expanded its Girls in STEM club to include chapters in Los Angeles and Orange counties. "We've had a waitlist of over 100 girls interested in joining our flagship Girls In STEM club for over two years," said Ben Dickow, executive director of the Columbia Memorial Space Center.

The Downey Police Department expanded its citizens academy to include teenagers. The 10-week program introduces students to the fundamentals of police work.

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia reintroduced legislation that would provide financial

incentives to local governments that redevelop their public golf courses into housing.

Downey Unified assistant superintendent Dr. Roger Brossmer was named Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators. Brossmer was heralded for being "tremendously adept in creating a positive, inclusive and educational environment that benefits and

represents all members of our Downey Unified family... He is guided by and exemplifies our district's mantra 'Our Kids Deserve the Best' in his decision making each day for the betterment of our students, staff and broader school communities."

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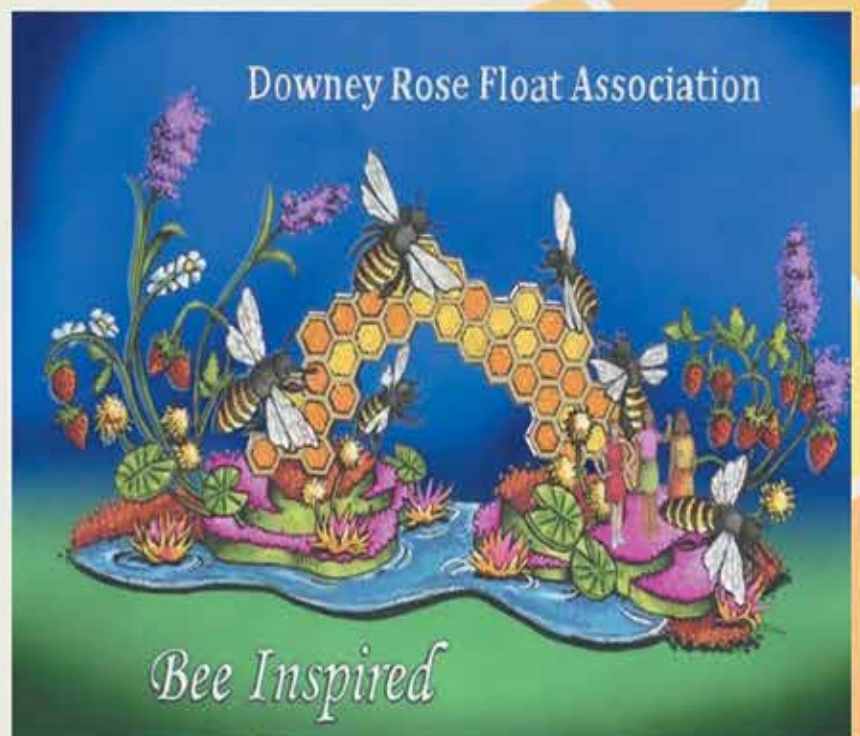
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Hey Downey Patriot, cheers to 20 years

By Eric Pierce
Editor

Did you know 2022 was the 20th anniversary of the Downey Patriot? Don't feel bad if this is brand new information to you. There was no party, no ribbon cutting, not even a cake. But I want to take a moment and reflect on the milestone.

John Adams founded the Downey Patriot in 2002, after Jerry Andrews ceased publication of the Downey Eagle. If you're wondering how John Adams came up with the name Downey Patriot, you have to remember what this country was like in early 2002, a few short months removed from the horrific terror attacks. Our country was united in grief and being called a patriot didn't have the political undertones it does today.

John didn't allow Parkinson's disease to keep him away from city council meetings, school board sessions, or any other official business. He knew the movers and shakers and they knew him. But more importantly, John connected with the people that gave Downey its soul – the Little League coaches, educators, volunteers, small business owners, and PTA parents. He knew police officers and firefighters on a first-name basis. John poured all his knowledge into weekly articles and essays, always available for free.

John's devotion to community journalism wasn't forgotten after his death. The Patriot has charged forward, publishing week after week after week, buoyed by residents that still have an appetite for local news and advertisers that recognize the Patriot's marketing value. There have been significant challenges over the years, notably skyrocketing printing costs and changes in how people consume journalism, but the Patriot has persevered.

The Patriot is far from perfect, I know. There are typos, blurry photos and hastily-written stories that would benefit from an



editor's red pen. But I like to think those imperfections are part of the Downey Patriot's charm. At a time when so many community newspapers have been acquired by corporate conglomerates, the Patriot's flaws are affirmation that it is still produced locally by real people that make human errors.

What's the future of the Downey Patriot? In the short term, the Patriot is moving to new digs in Downtown Downey. After several years at its current location, the timing feels right to join Downtown Downey, a once sleepy community that's in the midst of an exciting transformation. More details on the new office to come.

Long term, I predict continued success for the Downey Patriot if it can stay true to its original mission, which is to serve as a voice for the community. Downey is not the same city it was 15, 10 or even five years ago. Staying relevant and competitive could mean reducing print circulation or trimming the physical paper (think magazine size). It probably means investing in videos and podcasts, and expanding its digital footprint. It could also mean strengthening the brand through well-organized community events.

I don't claim to have all the answers. What I do know is that newspapers – and media organizations in general – need to have the self-awareness and desire to change with the community they're covering.

But the future is the future. Today we celebrate 20 years of community journalism and its role in our great city of Downey. My hope is that the Downey Patriot sticks around for many more milestones.

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Life can be difficult. Most of us experience, to some degree, anxiety, depression, loneliness, failure and isolation. We live in challenging times, and our happiness and sense of fulfillment often depends on how we respond to these challenges.

Positive Psychology has been gaining traction among psychotherapists. In this, my last article of 2022, I will share some of its basic principles, with the hope that next year will be more positive and joyous for all of us.

Positive psychology teaches that we can impact our happiness and well-being by resetting the bias we often have toward the negative, and moving it to the positive. It focuses on working towards positive emotions, becoming more engaged in life, finding meaning and purpose, building and managing relationships, and finding joy in accomplishments.



Let's remember to concentrate on what is working well in our lives, and to build on that. There is sadness, and there is joy. (This year, just three weeks after my mother passed on, my first grandchild was born.)

While it is critical that we learn from our challenging experiences, it's where we ultimately put the emphasis that truly matters. Author Mandy Hale writes: "Happiness doesn't have to be chased...it merely has to be chosen," and another (unknown) author writes: "Happiness is not having what you want. It is appreciating what you have."

In short, positive psychology teaches you to:

- **Focus on your strengths.**
 - **Journal your positive experiences.** At the end of the day, write down three positive things that happened to you that day, and explore why.
 - **Be grateful.** There is a growing body of evidence which ties gratitude practices to wellbeing, life satisfaction, mood, sleep, and relationships. Write about gratitude for others or for positive events every day, in order to lift mood and life satisfaction, and to create a greater connection to others.
 - **Show gratitude.** Express your gratitude to the benefactors in person.
 - **Work on skills to increase positivity.** We can all do this through many books on the subject, internet searches, or even by finding a positive psychology therapist.
- I wish you a year of health, happiness and personal fulfillment.

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APRIL



Retired TV journalist and Downey native Dave Lopez released his autobiography, "It's a Great Life if You Don't Weaken."

The Downey Symphony resumed its Music in the Schools program, exposing Downey Unified School District third-graders and fifth-graders to free classical music concerts at the Downey theatre.

L.A. County sheriff Alex Villanueva delivered the keynote address at Gangs Out of Downey's fundraising luncheon at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

After two postponements caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Cuban bandleader Willie Chirino performed a pair of sold out concerts at the Downey Theatre.

A national survey ranked Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center a leading

hospital in LGBTQ inclusion.

27% of Downey residents are obese, according to a survey released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, citing data by the Centers for Disease Control. The data also revealed that 26.8% of Downey adults have high cholesterol and 10.3% suffer from diabetes.

Handel's Ice Cream announced it would open a Downey location.

Downey High's Striking Vikings robotics team returned to in-person competition.

Stauffer Middle School landed a \$8,353 grant to purchase a new

sound system for the theater department. Stauffer was one of only 12 schools nationwide to receive a grant from the American Theater Wing.

The city council rejected an attempt by Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez to appoint a pornography executive to the planning commission. Sean Berrios, a product licensing manager at Hustler magazine, would have represented northwest Downey on the commission but his nomination was struck down on a 2-0-1 vote.

Shuffling at city hall continued as deputy city manager Aldo Schindler left for a new job in Moreno Valley. He later became city manager of Artesia.

Councilman Mario Trujillo traveled to Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico with the goal of re-establishing relations with Downey's first sister city.

"I was well received," Trujillo said. "They were very interested in working with us for cultural, educational and economic development relationships."



Assistant city manager John Oskoui was placed on administrative leave for unknown reasons. He retired several months later.

Lewis and Rio San Gabriel elementary schools tied at the Carnival of Champions track and field competition. It was the first tie in Carnival of Champions' 56-year history.

After a two-year hiatus, the Downey YMCA's Easter Caravan program returned, transporting 60 boys to Lake Mojave for a week-long camp.

Downey Police Cpl. Justin Prentice was named Police Officer of the Year and Downey Fire Department firefighter Ted Waldrup was named Firefighter of the Year. Both were honored at a luncheon hosted by the Downey Police and Fire Foundation.

Downey dropped its mask mandate on the Downey Link public bus system.

The Mary Stauffer Foundation donated \$30,300 for the creation of "calm rooms" at all 13 public schools in Downey. The rooms are to be used by students struggling emotionally with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Downey education veteran Donald LaPlante was chosen to finish the unexpired term of Councilman Sean Ashton, who had resigned a month prior. LaPlante pledged not to run for the seat in November "unless we have either nobody run or a Communist or a Nazi."

City manager Gilbert Livas declined a suggestion to have Dennis the Menace Park renamed after him.

Three California Highway Patrol officers were seriously hurt after they were struck by an impaired driver on the 105 Freeway. The officers were stopped on the side of the freeway helping a motorist when they were rear-ended by an SUV.

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This holiday season is a time to reflect and be thankful for our many blessings. I am grateful to my family for their continuous support and for their love. I am looking forward to 2023, which is set to be an amazing year. I am honored and looking forward to serving as your Assemblywoman for the 64th District.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Love Mr. Belvedere and Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco

Happy New Year

City of Downey

Mayor District 4
CLAUDIA M. FROMETA

Wishing our Downey families a Safe, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Looking forward to serving you in 2023!
 -Mayor Claudia M. Frometa & Family

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DOWNEY MAYOR PRO TEM MARIO TRUJILLO AND FAMILY

Happy New Year DOWNEY

My family and I would like to wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2023
 -Councilmember Hector Sosa

MAY



Thirty-five Downey Unified School District students brought home medals from the statewide SkillsUSA competition.

The Amistad Gala, the premier annual fundraiser of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, returned with in-person attendance at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach.

Lauren Langer was appointed interim city attorney, replacing Yvonne Abich-Garcia. Langer is a partner at Best Best & Krieger.

The City Council approved the purchase of a \$1.8 million fire engine, replacing the fire department's current 16-year-old engine.

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia introduced legislation first pitched by Downey High grad Sade Neri. AB 2124 would allow local educational agencies to apply for grant funding in order to train 9-12 grade students to act as peer mental health supporters on campus. Although the bill passed the state Senate and Assembly, it was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Seventeen people were honored as Downey's Volunteers of the Year at a reception hosted by the Downey Coordinating Council at the Woman's Club. Honorees included Rachel Gluck - Assistance League of Downey; Anita Rivero - Citizens Climate Lobby; William Wallace

- Creative Purpose; Alistair Hunter - Downey Arts Coalition; Gabriel Enamorado - Downey Conservancy; G. Aron Ramirez - Downey Historical Society; Jonathan Browning - Downey Rose Float Association; Lorine Parks - Downey Symphonic Society; Wanda Iacovitti - Exchange Club Family Support Center; Teri Perno - FoodHelp; Karen Voigt - Friends of the Downey City Library; Daniel Frase - Keep Downey Beautiful; Dorothy Pemberton - PTA HELPS; Rich Strayer - Rotary Club of Downey; Rebecca Strayer - Soroptimist International of Downey; Fabiola Barcena - Toastmasters; and Anna Orozco - Woman's Club of Downey.

Soroptimist International of Downey distributed \$10,000 worth of scholarships to local students pursuing higher education.

Mark Scott was hired as Downey's interim city manager.

The City Council gave approval to policy allowing the Downey Police Department to acquire and use military equipment, including armored vehicles and unmanned aircraft.

The Downey Clergy Council was disbanded by the City Council, allowing it to be privately operated by the Living Tree Foundation.

Doty Middle School swept Downey Unified's middle school track & field competition, winning all six competitions.

The son of rapper DJ Quik was charged with murder after a fatal shooting in Downey.

Metro announced it had ended a decades-long effort to widen the 710 Freeway.

JUNE

After a two-year hiatus, the Downey Greek Festival returned to St. George's Greek Orthodox Church.

Downey mayor and state Assembly candidate Blanca Pacheco advanced to a November runoff against her Republican opponent, Raul Ortiz Jr. In the contest to replace retiring Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Democratic Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia advanced to face Republican John Briscoe.

The Downey Unified School District gave preliminary approval to a \$341.8 million spending plan.

A total of 1,861 Downey students received their high school diplomas. Of the graduates, 1,011 were from Downey High, 850 came from Warren High, and 170 were from Columbus High.

The City Council agreed to pay \$55,000 to replace the promotional banners hanging outside the Downey Civic Theatre.

The Chicken Koop restaurant announced it was planning a Downey location. The chicken restaurant already operates locations in Whittier and Montebello.

Downey's board of education voted to prohibit gum on school campuses.

Stay Arts, the non-profit that operates Stay Gallery, revealed an ambitious proposal to keep the gallery open an additional three years. The plan would cost

Downey up to \$519,055 in public funds.

The Downey Arts Coalition was designated a "legacy organization" by the City Council, entitling them to rental discounts at the Downey Civic Theatre.

Rio Hondo Golf Course hosted a celebrity golf tournament with proceeds benefiting the Southeast Community Foundation. Participants included comedians Alfred Robles and Martin Moreno, radio hosts The Baka Boyz, actor Emilio Rivero, and more.



City manager Gilbert Livas officially retired, ending a 14-year run in Downey. Livas called being Downey's city manager a "dream job."



Carmen Gonzalez was installed as president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, replacing Sheila Tetangco-Bartolone.

Happy Holidays
We wish you health and happiness throughout the coming year!

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JULY

Six fires were reported on the Fourth of July, all caused by fireworks. No one was injured.

Longtime school board member Martha Sodetani announced she would not seek re-election.

Former Downey police officer Eduardo Castro was charged with felony witness tampering. Castro was a 14-year veteran of the department before he was charged. Details of the alleged tampering were not revealed.

The Downey City Council joined Los Angeles in giving eligible healthcare workers a \$25 per hour minimum wage. The order was later repealed via referendum and Downey voters will have the final decision in 2024.

Three men were shot and killed during a house party in south Downey. The shooter was reportedly killed by another man with a gun; that person was not charged.

Downey residents Paula Mejia and Cecilia Neuman were named "Women of the Year" by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.

The Downey Kiwanis Foundation issued \$112K in college scholarships to 37 graduating high school seniors.

Nearly 100 women attended FLEW Empower Hour, a networking event designed for women looking to advance their careers while helping other women advance theirs.

The City Council failed to reach a decision on a proposal by Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez to waive permit fees for sidewalk vendors in Downey.

Tony Cristiani, branch manager at Financial Partners Credit Union, was installed as president of Gangs Out of Downey.

Grocery Outlet reopened after fireworks caused a fire at their building, prompting a two-week closure.

A package of six government funding bills passed by the House of Representatives included \$1 million for the expansion of the Columbia Memorial Space Center. Plans are to expand the Space Center so it can house a space shuttle mock-up currently in storage.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center was named one of the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

Carpenter Elementary was named an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School.

AUGUST

Downey hosted the two-day Downey Pride Sunset Festival. Streets in Downtown Downey were closed for the first day of the festival; Furman Park hosted the second day's festivities.

Hundreds of families received free backpacks and school supplies at a giveaway hosted by Gangs Out of Downey at Golden Park.

Downey added the name of Joshua Whittle to its veterans memorial outside City Hall. Whittle, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marines, was killed by a land mine in Iraq in 2009. He was 20.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard voted in support of a federal ban on assault weapons, sending the legislation to the senate.

An off-duty Monterey Park police officer was fatally shot during an attempted robbery outside the L.A. Fitness at Downey Landing. Gardiel Solorio, 26, had just started working as a police officer three weeks prior. A 17-year-old boy was arrested and charged with his murder.

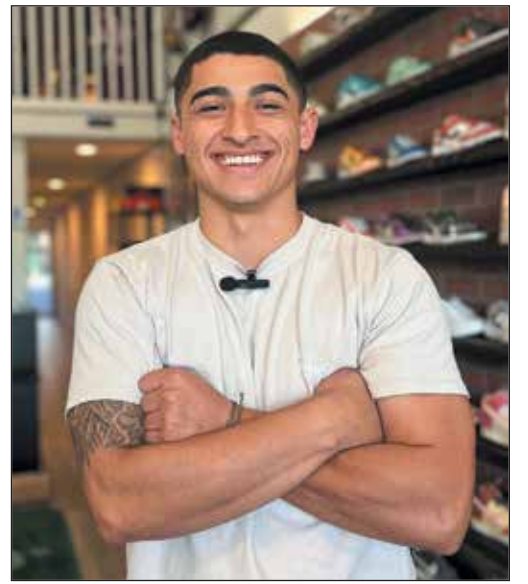
The City Council allocated \$374,000 in an ambitious effort to clean up the city's alleyways.

Hall of fame boxer Anne Wolfe spoke to the young ladies participating in Downey's Girls of Fire summer camp.

The Downey Historical Society was named Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.

Four new principals were announced for the 2022-23 school year: Margaret Meehan (Price Elementary), Cary Calvo

Downey mourned the death of 23-year-old Sebastian Valencia, an entrepreneur and co-owner of Brick L.A., a sneaker store in Downtown Downey. Valencia was killed in a solo vehicle traffic collision in Bellflower.



(Imperial Elementary), Billie Barrios (Williams Elementary) and Gladys Diaz (Ward Elementary).

A substantial donation by the Kiwanis Foundation made the Wellness Center at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center free to the public. The facility offers fitness and educational programs, as well as support groups for families dealing with disabilities.

The school board canceled November's planned elections due to a lack of candidates. With no opposition, board members Bobbi Samperi and Nancy Swenson kept their seats.

Downey real estate values jumped 6% from the previous year, according to data released by L.A. County. The total value

of all Downey real estate reached \$14.32 billion, a record.

Janisha Harris, a 35-year-old Downey resident, was killed after a vehicle fleeing police crashed into her car in Los Angeles. LAPD officers had tried to pull over a Cadillac for speeding but the 20-year-old driver fled. The driver ran a red light and collided with Harris' vehicle. She left behind a son and daughter.

The City Council approved new restrictions on drones. Among the new regulations was a ban on take-offs and landings from public sidewalks and parking lots, and prohibitions on flying drones within 200 feet of schools or 500 feet of emergency vehicles with its lights and/or sirens activated.



Downey's newest park - Rancho Los Amigos Sports Complex - opened to the public. The 5-acre, \$12.5 million facility features football and soccer fields on synthetic turf, concession stand, and multi-purpose building. The land is owned by L.A. County and leased to the City of Downey for \$1 annually.

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SE HABLA ESPANOL

SEPTEMBER

Half a dozen bands performed at the International Food & Music Festival in Downtown Downey. The festival attracted thousands of spectators.

The Downey City Library hosted its Beyond the Book Festival, featuring author readings, baby races, workshops, and a discussion with comedian and "Saturday Night Live" alum Melissa Villasenor.

Downey boxer Adelaida Ruiz won the WBC Interim World Super Fly after beating Sonia Osorio via unanimous decision in Costa Rica.

Council members allocated \$30,000 in financial assistance for the Downey Rose Float Association.

Downey's homeless population declined, according to figures released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The number of unhoused residents counted in Downey was 218, down from 258 in 2020.

The City Council codified its meeting rules to require support from at least two council members before a policy request is placed on an agenda for consideration.

A recall election against Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez was officially a go after the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder certified more than 4,500 petition signatures from residents living in Downey's District 3. The recall election, set for Jan. 31, 2023, will be the first in City of Downey history.

The Downey YMCA accepted a \$3 million donation from Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia in support of the Y's fundraising efforts to build a new facility.

The City Council moved forward with plans to prohibit overnight RV parking on public streets, citing complaints from residents.

Warren High principal Dr. Cari White was honored with the CIF Champions of Character Award.

Darrell Jackson, longtime director of the non-profit 10-20 Club, officially retired. A celebration was thrown in his honor at the Embassy Suites.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for newly-renovated Crawford Park.

OCTOBER

The Downey Unified School District's State of the Schools breakfast returned following a two-year pandemic-induced break.

The four-day Glennfest Film Festival returned to Downtown Downey.

Former mayor Rick Rodriguez was installed as president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis.

Stay Gallery celebrated its 10th anniversary.

"Desert Stories for Lost Girls," a play by Downey resident Sylvia Cervantes Blush, opened at Los Angeles Theatre Center.

Downey's Dia de los Meurtos Festival drew an estimated 25,000 people to Downtown Downey. The free event included live stage performances, vendors, Aztec dancers, altar presentations, food trucks, and much more.

VenueTech was awarded a new 3-year contract to manage the day to day operations of the Downey Theatre.

Mayor Blanca Pacheco delivered her State of the City address at a luncheon at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Pacheco highlighted Downey's financial stability and infrastructure investments.

Open houses were held to show off Downey's newly-renovated middle schools, including Doty, Griffiths, Stauffer and Sussman.



Warren High beat rival Downey, 49-22, in their highly-anticipated football game.

More than 9,000 people attended the game, held this year at Warren High School. Warren quarterback Nico Iamaleava is pictured above. Below is Downey quarterback Aidan Chiles



Step INTO Spring

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Olive

— RESTOBAR —

NOVEMBER



Sarah Sarofeem was crowned Miss Downey 2023 at the Downey Rose Float Association's 66th annual Miss Downey Pageant at the Downey Theatre. Her court includes Deborah De La Torre, Alexandra Martinez, Kimberly Nava and Ruth Palmquist. Jessica Frometa was crowned Miss Teen Downey. Teen princesses include Aleezah Mackewicz, Ava Miranda and Miah Mount. The title of Junior Miss Downey went to Alexis Givens. Her court includes Sophia Anaya, Emmarie Perez and Leilah Simonian. Clover Curtice was crowned Little Miss Downey. Little princesses include Mavis Cortez and Jacqueline Ruelas.

Downey Avenue in Downtown Downey was closed as Bastards Canteen threw a Veterans Day celebration party.

Downey resident Lisette Rivera founded WOLF (War on Lethal Fentanyl) in response to increasing overdoses occurring in the community.

Former city manager Gilbert Livas was honored with a plaque at the Downey Promenade.

After months of complaints from residents, the City Council agreed to install a barricade in the residential neighborhood near Tacos Don Goyo. Residents said the restaurant's customers littered their neighborhood, parked illegally, and drove in excess speeds, putting children at risk.

Downey councilwoman Claudia Frometa won re-election for a second term on the City Council representing District 4. In District 2, voters elected Hector Sosa.

The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEACA) warned that more than 50 dogs, cats and rabbits were at risk of being euthanized due to overcrowding in their shelter.

Voters approved Measure K, a \$504 million bond measure benefiting the Downey Unified School District. Voters, however, rejected Measure D, a proposed increase to Downey's hotel tax.

The amphitheater at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center was renamed in honor of disability rights advocate Carlos Benavides.

Other election winners included Blanca Pacheco (state Assembly) Bob Archuleta (state Senate) and Robert Garcia (Congress).

A 5K run/walk was held outside the Columbia Memorial Space Center in honor of fallen Downey police officer Ricky Galvez. The run was hosted by the Downey Police Officers Foundation and Friends of the Downey Police K9 Foundation.

Tim Hutcherson, owner of Downey Nissan, was nominated by TIME for its Dealer of the Year award.

Stars of the cult comedy classic "Napoleon Dynamite" including Jon Heder and Efen Ramirez participated in a Q&A at the Downey Theatre.

With ridership declining, the City Council signaled interest in possibly discontinuing the Downey Link transit system. "Every time I see a Downey Link there's no one in it, except for one time I saw one person," said Councilman Mario Trujillo. "I understand that some cities are providing alternative methods of transportation for those in need, but I think it's time we consider eliminating the Downey Link."



Blanca Pacheco became the first Downey resident ever elected to the California state Assembly.

DECEMBER

Thousands watched as the 71st annual Downey Christmas Parade made its way down Downey Avenue.

Decorated for Christmas, the historic Casa de Parley Johnson estate opened for public tours.

The Mariachi Divas performed a special Christmas concert at the Downey Theatre.

Downey couple Aubrey Reyes and David Hernandez reached the top 5 of CBS' reality competition "The Amazing Race."

Downey police officers took 20 families on a holiday shopping spree at Walmart. The families were chosen by the Downey Unified School District based on need.

Who needs a Christmas tree? The Apollo space capsule outside the Columbia Memorial Space Center was draped in lights and lit for Christmas. The ceremony included a live performance by TubaChristmas.

Claudia Frometa became Downey mayor, taking the oath of office at City Hall. Frometa would lead the charge to find Downey's next city manager. On the same night, Hector Sosa was installed as a city councilman.

Giggy Perez-Saab was elected president of the Downey Board of Education.

The Rotary Club of Downey treated 70 second-graders to lunch and a visit from Santa Claus at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Each student received a present, candy, and a mini cow donated by Chick-fil-A.

Doty Middle School's theater was named in honor of Sarah Jamison, a longtime teacher who died of brain cancer.

An early morning kitchen fire at Peking China restaurant forced the restaurant to close one week before Christmas. Bastards Canteen, located next door, also closed due to fire damage.

Tragedy struck after a mother and her daughter were killed in an apartment fire. The fire was reported at 10:47 p.m. in the 9400 block of Tweedy Lane, and is believed to have started in the garage.

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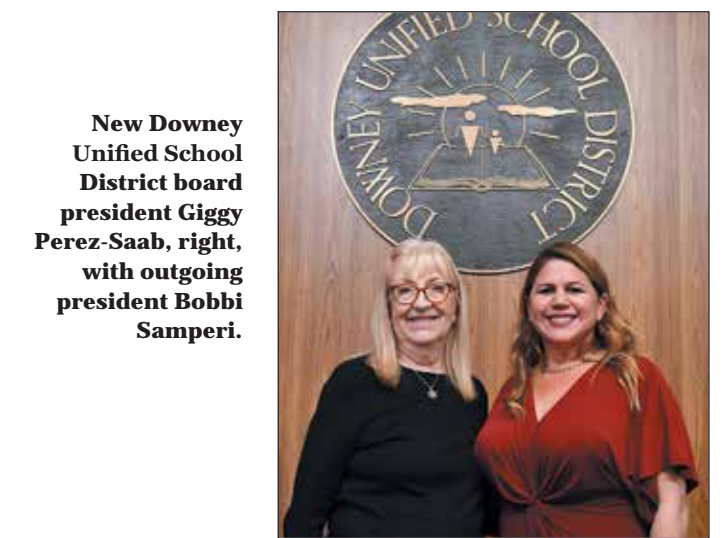
In what family members called a Christmas miracle, 25-year-old Downey resident Reina Koepp was found safe two weeks after her disappearance.

No details were released about where and how Koepp was found.



After 17 years on the Downey school board, Martha Sodetani retired.

A celebration was held in her honor at the Pace Education Center, where Downey dignitaries heralded Sodetani's life of service.



New Downey Unified School District board president Giggy Perez-Saab, right, with outgoing president Bobbi Samperi.

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The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22

LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice reflects changes in due Dates/Deadlines. See dates below.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) #19DEC22PFM

Notice is hereby given that LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LUSD) hereinafter the "District" is requesting sealed Proposals for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment and Indoor/Outdoor Lighting Systems (LS).

The expectation is to reduce HVAC and LS operation/maintenance costs, with the lowest possible life-cycle costs, longest expected useful life, and high-efficiency energy rating.

To receive an RFQ solicitation package and to ask questions regarding this RFQ, **contact by email only to**; Porfiria Mora, Buyer at pmora@mylUSD.org and CC; Shaunda Miller, Senior Buyer at smclucas@mylUSD.org

Phone calls for information concerning this RFQ will not be accepted

A Mandatory Job Walk on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) 11321 Bullis Rd, Lynwood, CA 90262.

*****Meet in front of LUSD building at 9:00am; vendors will be taken by bus to school sites*****
Note: Only Two (2) vendor representatives will be able to participate in the Mandatory Job Walk.

Vendors interested in submitting their Qualification Proposals who fail to attend the entire Mandatory Job Walk will be deemed a "Non-Responsive" and will have their proposal returned unopened. Attendees are asked to **bring business cards** as part of the sign-in process

The RFQ Proposals from vendors are due:

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM
 Lynwood Unified School District Office, Purchasing Department, 2nd Floor 11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262

*****It is improper for any potential respondent to contact any Board Member or employee of LUSD other than the Purchasing Department during the solicitation process, related to this RFQ.*****

The Downey Patriot
 12/29/22, 1/5/23

NOTICES

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

CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00493
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner KADY ANN STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) KADY ANN STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) KADY ANN RYDER
 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 17, 2023, 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 AND NORWALK PATRIOT
 DECEMBER 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
KADY ANN STOUT-RYDER
 4225 STEVELY AVENUE
 LAKEWOOD, CA 90713
 (562) 588-5997
KSTOUTRYDER@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/15/22, 12/22/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00472
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SARAH KRISTINE CHICARELLI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) SARAH KRISTINE CHICARELLI to Proposed name (1) SARAH KRISTINE CHICARELLI
 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: JANUARY 23, 2023, 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 1, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner

SARAH KRISTINE CHICARELLI
 8711 Boyne St.
 Downey, CA, 90242
 (562) 755-1487
 Skc31@ca.rr.com

The Downey Patriot
 12/8/22, 12/15/22, 12/22/22, 12/29/22

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 22LBCPO0460
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner WARNAKULASURIYA EMMANUEL CHRISTIE JASON FERNANDO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) WARNAKULASURIYA EMMANUEL CHRISTIE JASON FERNANDO to Proposed name (1) CHRISTIE FERNANDO
 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: JANUARY 27, 2023, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: N/A
 The address of the court is 275 MAGNOLIA AVE LONG BEACH, CA, 90802
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, DOWNEY PATRIOTS INC.
 DECEMBER 13, 2022
 Mark C. Kim
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
WARNAKULASURIYA EMMANUEL CHRISTIE JASON FERNANDO
 507 BROAD AVE APT #7
 WILMINGTON CA 90744
 (310) 261-4181
CHRISTIEFERNADO@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 22PSCP00574
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RYAN KENNETH KUKLINSKI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RYAN KENNETH KUKLINSKI to Proposed name (1) RYAN KENNETH ARGUINZONI KUKLINSKI
 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 9, 2023, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: O, Room: N/A
 The address of the court is 400 CIVIC CENTER LAZA, POMONA CA 91760
 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
 NOVEMBER 29, 2022
 Peter A. Hernandez, Judge
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RYAN KUKLINSKI
 3051 JOY ST
 WEST COVINA, CA 91773
 626-634-8734
THEKUKLINSKI@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/15/22, 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00468
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ISRAEL RUIZ filed a petition with this court

for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) ISRAEL RUIZ to Proposed name (1) ISRAEL RAMIREZ
 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: JANUARY 27, 2023, 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 1, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ISRAEL RUIZ
 11434 MAZA ST
 NORWALK, CA 90650
 (424) 393-8959
Ruiz.izzy@gmail.com

The Downey Patriot
 12/8/22, 12/15/22, 12/22/22, 12/29/22

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

CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00425
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ALBERTO MEJIA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) ALBERTO MEJIA to Proposed name (1) ALBERT DIGAT
 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 6, 2023, 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 21, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ALBERTO MEJIA
 10933 COBY AVE
 NORWALK, CA 90650
 562-569-2678
AL.MEJIA010@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00492
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) RIAN MARIE WHITTIER
 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 17, 2023, 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 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER
 819 GUINEA DR WHITTIER CA 90601
 (626) 364-2057

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22WCP00492
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) RIAN MARIE WHITTIER
 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 17, 2023, 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 AND NORWALK PATRIOT
 DECEMBER 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER
 4225 STEVELY AVENUE
 LAKEWOOD, CA 90713
 (562) 252-5568
RIANSTOUTRYSER@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22WCP00492
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) RIAN MARIE WHITTIER
 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 17, 2023, 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 AND NORWALK PATRIOT
 DECEMBER 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER
 4225 STEVELY AVENUE
 LAKEWOOD, CA 90713
 (562) 252-5568
RIANSTOUTRYSER@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22WCP00492
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) RIAN MARIE WHITTIER
 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 17, 2023, 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 AND NORWALK PATRIOT
 DECEMBER 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER
 4225 STEVELY AVENUE
 LAKEWOOD, CA 90713
 (562) 252-5568
RIANSTOUTRYSER@GMAIL.COM

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 1, 2022
 Margaret M. Bernal, Judge
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
SANDRA JIAHUI CHEN
16055 CHELLA DR
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745
626-378-0080
XANDRA.VIN@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot
 12/8/22, 12/15/22, 12/22/22, 12/29/22

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

CASE NUMBER: 22WCP00494
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MICHAEL JOSHUA MENDOZA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) MICHAEL JOSHUA MENDOZA to Proposed name (1) MICHAEL JOSHUA MENDOZA VELASCO
 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 17, 2023, 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 AND NORWALK PATRIOT
 DECEMBER 19, 2022
 Judge Margaret M. Bernal
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
MICHAEL JOSHUA MENDOZA
819 GUINEA DR WHITTIER CA 90601
(626) 364-2057

The Downey Patriot
 12/22/22, 12/29/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23

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

CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00492
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name (1) RIAN MARIE STOUT-RYDER to Proposed name (1) RIAN MARIE WHITTIER
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Christmas in the 1950s

By Bobbi E. Bruce
Downey Historical Society

DOWNEY – For several years in the 1950s I did my Christmas shopping using the catalogs from Marshall Fields Store, J.C. Penney, Montgomery Ward, Carson Pirie Scott, Spiegels and, most of all, the Sears Christmas catalog.

Carson Pirie Scott and Steven's Department Stores might have been mainly via newspaper advertising but it was so much fun looking at the ads.

As you can tell, I grew up in the Chicago area and my parents would give us the catalogs to look at when we were kids to see if there were any items we might want Santa to bring us for Christmas.

In the 1950s, some great toys were made out of metal, steel, wood, Masonite, cloth and sturdy plastic - they were made to last and to stir kids' imaginations.

For the boys, there was a service station and autocarrier with working parts. For the girls, Toni doll and doll coach were sure to entertain. And what kid wouldn't love an air rifle, sled, ice skates, model train or billiard table for hours of fun?

Also popular were action-packed toy cash registers, two-way target outfits with convertible pump gun with interchangeable barrels, and Lincoln Logs - the set included five Indians, two pioneers, two dogs and a design book.

Christmastime in the 1950s was also meant for chocolates - you almost wanted to eat the pages out of the Christmas Sears Book, it made you hungry. My sister still has her metal cookie cutters used for making batches of holiday cookies, gingerbread men, Christmas trees, etc.

Some of my favorite candy is Powerhouse bars, Clark bars, Mary Janes, Necco wafers, Smarties, root beer barrels,

Bun Bars and Mallo Cups, but enough...already I am feeling full.

My friend Carol just called me and she is going to make her favorite fruit cake. She has the mincemeat and is looking for the candied fruit. It's getting harder to find mincemeat as a lot of people have never heard of it. Mincemeat is a wonderful pie filling with cooked ground beef, chopped apples and raisins for the body, plus spices and other juices for flavor.

What is hard now is getting help to hand-toss the ingredients into readiness before baking. Strength is what is missing when you get older.

There is no Christmas tree this year but we do have a Christmas wreath that smells like having a tree. I don't miss putting tinsel on the tree - old tinsel was made out of lead and nickel, making the strands on the tree heavy and I really don't have the time to decorate it.

I have boxes of Christmas decorations in the garage and will try to get the energy to do the decorating next year. It has always been fun to get the ornaments out and share the history of how we got them.

I want to wish everyone a great holiday. I had great fun riding in the Downey Christmas Parade. Downey had snow in 1949 and Downey Historical Society president Bob Thompson remembers making a snowman in his yard.

In 2023, the City of Downey will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. Come into the History Center next year and learn about Downey.

Bobbi E. Bruce is a docent with the Downey Historical Society.



Happy Holidays

Hello Downey,

As we enter into a new year, I want to take the time to thank all the residents in Downey for allowing me to serve on the Downey City Council and for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

As you may know, I have been elected to the State Assembly to serve the 64th District. I am excited to continue serving my hometown and working for Downey residents, and I am equally excited to serve the eight other cities within my district.

Serving on the City Council has truly been rewarding, and I am honored that the residents of Downey had the faith to elect me in November of 2016. This is the city I grew up in, where I went to middle school and high school, and have always loved Downey.

When I was first elected, I had a good sense of how city government works. But, it was only when being involved in everyday city operations that I realized how important it is to have good leadership at the forefront and a dedicated and robust city staff who

genuinely care about their profession. They continue to make our city a wonderful place to live, play and work. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Mayor this year. I have considered this position one of the most important roles in my life.

I want to conclude by wishing everyone a joyous holiday season. Let's spend time with our family and friends. But, most importantly, let's be kind to one another.

Blanca Pacheco
Assemblywoman,
64th District



Mayor Claudia M. Frometa took the Downey Patriot to a family vacation at Disney World last week.

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Fixer!!
3 Bedroom 2-bathroom fixer with bonus room, 2 car detached garage. In a great area of Bellflower. Don't miss this great opportunity! Call Today!!

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Triplex!!
5 Bedroom 3 1/2 Bathroom Great Triplex in East Los Angeles is perfect for the first-time buyer, investor, or DEVELOPERS. The Front House has 2 Bedrooms and a den. Living room opens to the dining room. Nice galley style kitchen. Master bedroom comes with its own private bathroom. Front yard has been converted to "maintenance free". Long driveway that can fit 3 cars in tandem leads to the units. The two, 1 bedroom, 1-bathroom units are above a 3 space garage. Call Today!!

Great Opportunity!!
2-bedroom 1 bath home with laminated floors, updated windows, granite countertops and multiple upgrades. Small office in the front and small office without a closet in the back. Large bedrooms, small dining area in kitchen. Long driveway and an extended one car detached garage. It needs work! Call Today!!

Great Potential!!
Property with lots of potential. Great location each unit with their own share of space to park, close to public transportation, businesses, and shopping centers. It has the possibility to create an ADU. Back unit needs a little TLC. Property condition sold as is. Call Today!!

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A Must See!!
This home is a perfect opportunity for anyone looking to purchase as a first-time buyer or possible investor rental property. Featuring 2 bedrooms - 1 bathroom. Residence also features a front porch, driveway to accommodate two cars, and much more. Call Today!!

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REALTOR®
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DRE #01234589



VICKI SPEARMAN
REALTOR®
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DRE #00542721



MARIO PERSICO
REALTOR®
562-533-7433
MARIO@MARIOPERSICO.COM
DRE #01341121

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

9072 ANGELL, DOWNEY
9840 MYRON, PICO RIVERA
11735 CLEARGEN, WHITTIER
10544 LEMORAN, DOWNEY
1429 EL PASO, EAGLE ROCK
12618 EASTBROOK, DOWNEY
8913 ELMONT, DOWNEY
7908 SERAPIS, PICO RIVERA
8352 OTTO, DOWNEY
7914 BROADWAY, WHITTIER
405 WILCOX, MONTEBELLO
9037 POMERING, DOWNEY

Thank you

TO ALL MY CLIENTS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR! I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU! THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

2023

THANK YOU TO ALL MY CLIENTS IN 2022 FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR FULL OF LOVE AND PROSPERITY!

Angelo & Marie Picarelli

JUST LISTED



FRIENDLY HILLS IN WHITTIER

- 3 beds
- 2 baths
- 1,485 sq. ft.
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- Living room
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- Carport
- Large backyard

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GREAT LAKEWOOD HOME

- 3 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- 1,424 sq. ft.
- 4,995 sq. ft. lot

LIST PRICE \$789,000

2023

WISHING YOU A **HAPPY NEW YEAR**



CHRISTINA DAVILAS
REALTOR®
562-761-6080
CHRISTINADAVILAS24@GMAIL.COM
DRE #01062471

Happy **NEW YEAR**

Thank you

TO ALL MY CLIENTS FOR THEIR TRUST & CONTINUED SUPPORT IN 2022! WISHING YOU A PROSPEROUS HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PAM LEE
REALTOR®
562-537-1134
PAMLEEREALTOR@GMAIL.COM
DRE #01750256

JUST LISTED



GREAT LAKEWOOD HOME

- 3 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- 1,424 sq. ft.
- 4,995 sq. ft. lot

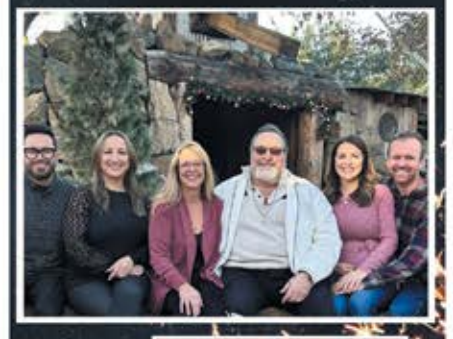
LIST PRICE \$789,000

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Saturday, January 14, 2023
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Two Billboard Music Awards
One American Music Award
Six platinum albums
Five gold albums
Thirty-Nine Billboard top 20 singles
Eleven Billboard #1 singles



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- We've Got Tonight (ft. Kenny Rogers)
- Sugar Walls
- The Lover in Me
- Modern Girl
- Telephone
- Strut
- U Got The Look (ft. Prince)
- For Your Eyes Only (from James Bond)



TAYLOR DAYNE

- Tell It To My Heart
- Prove Your Love
- I'll Always Love You
- Don't Rush Me
- With Every Beat of My Heart
- Love Will Lead You Back
- Heart of Stone
- Can't Get Enough of Your Love
- I'll Be Your Shelter

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