



NEWS
LA County tackles increased street racing

HEALTH
Paging Dr. Frischer: How to improve sleep

NEWS
NLMUSD Wellness Centers defended against critics

FEATURES
Why Apple's Lightning cable is being phased out

SEE PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 13

City hires full-time attorney

■ John Funk, a 1987 Downey High grad, will become Downey's new city attorney.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Downey will hire John Funk as its new city attorney, effective next Monday, Sept. 18.

Funk will earn a salary of \$238,442 per year, plus a \$300 auto allowance per month and other fringe benefits.

His employment agreement includes a lump sum payment of nine months base salary and medical benefits for termination without cause.

Currently serving as the chief assistant city attorney for the City of Santa Ana, Funk brings with him 24 years of legal experience working for different municipal agencies.

The Downey City Council approved Funk's employment at their meeting Tuesday.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo publicly welcomed Funk, noting that he was "homegrown."

"He actually grew up in this city, and this is a big moment for our city to have you come back and represent us now as our city attorney," said Trujillo.

Funk graduated from Downey High School in 1987.

The city attorney position is one of the last holes that need to be filled at the city's administrative level, following the departure of Yvette Abich Garcia in 2022.

Since her resignation, the city has operated with an interim attorney.

Cudahy gas station worker killed

CUDAHY – A 27-year-old man who was shot to death inside the Cudahy convenience store where he worked was publicly identified Sunday.

The victim was identified as Arvind Arvind of Cudahy, according to the Los Angeles County Office of Medical Examiner.

Deputies were called at 4:50 a.m. Friday to the Circle K gas station in the 5000 block of Clara Street and Wilcox Avenue, where they found Arvind inside, according to homicide Lt. Patricia Thomas of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police said a black sedan was seen leaving the scene after the shooting.

The owner of the convenience store told ABC7 that Arvind was an employee of the store, and the shooting was believed to have occurred during an attempted robbery. It was unclear if anything was actually stolen.

Former Sheriff Villanueva challenging Hahn for L.A. County board seat

■ Villanueva is looking to become the first person since 1980 to unseat an incumbent supervisor.

By City News Service

DOWNEY – Former Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva is expected Wednesday to formally announce he will run against Supervisor Janice Hahn in the March primary.

Villanueva said in an interview Tuesday night on Fox 11 that he would run.

"County government is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all the county residents. In that regard the board has failed miserably," Villanueva told Fox 11 Tuesday. "All you have to do is look at the news every day. You're assaulted by images of violent crime, smash and grab robberies, senseless wanton violence."

When asked how he can defeat Hahn, whose late father Kenneth was a supervisor from 1952-92 and who the Hall of Administration is named in his honor, Villanueva responded, "One thing for sure is she is no Kenneth Hahn. When he was serving as supervisor, there was a time of civility in county government, balance."

"Today, they're so far to the left of center that no one can even recognize them. They do not represent the will of anyone, much less the residents of the Fourth District, so we're going to bring this back to the middle."

Janice Hahn was elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020 to represent the Fourth District, which now stretches from the Palos Verdes Peninsula to Long Beach and north to the southeastern Los Angeles County and the eastern San Gabriel Valley, including Huntington Park, Bell, Commerce, Pico Rivera, Whittier and La Habra Heights.

There was no immediate



Alex Villanueva, pictured above at a Norwalk city council meeting in 2021, is looking to unseat incumbent Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

response to an email sent late Tuesday night to Hahn campaign consultant Dave Jacobson seeking comment.

In a statement Wednesday morning, Hahn's campaign called Villanueva a "fraud and a failure."

"L.A. County voters - including District 4 - resoundingly rejected the man known as the 'Donald Trump of L.A. County' last November for his incompetence and corruption. L.A. County became less safe under Villanueva's reign. He is a fraud and a failure, and L.A. County voters won't be fooled again."

Villanueva was elected sheriff in 2018, upsetting then-Sheriff Jim McDonnell, but lost his bid for re-election in November to former Long Beach Police Department Chief Robert Luna.

Hahn and Villanueva are both Democrats. The Board of Supervisors, like all local government positions in California, is nonpartisan.

No Los Angeles County supervisor has been defeated



for re-election since 1980 when Baxter Ward was denied a third term by Michael D. Antonovich and Yvonne Braithwaite Burke lost her bid for a full term to Deane Dana after being appointed to fill the vacancy caused by James A. Hayes' resignation.

Villanueva is seeking to be the first man on the board since 2020 when Mark Ridley-Thomas was unable to seek re-election because of term limits.

"The Board of Supervisors has a responsibility to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the county," Villanueva said during a press conference Wednesday. "In that regard, they have failed absolutely miserably."

Downey Police to comply with L.A. County's new bail system

■ Nearly all suspects arrested for non-violent offenses will be immediately released after they are cited or booked, effective Oct. 1.

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department will comply with L.A. County's new set of bail schedules set to begin Oct. 1, resulting in arrestees being almost immediately released for non-violent offenses.

Under the new policy, police officers must cite-and-release or book-and-release suspects in nearly all theft offenses, vehicle code violations, and crimes against property such as petty theft and vandalism.

Instead of assigning money bail amounts to non-violent felonies and misdemeanors, a majority of suspects will now be released at the location of the arrest or booked in jail and then released on their own recognizance with a citation for a future court date.

Offenses involving guns, sexual battery, crimes against children or elders, and contact with minors with intent to commit a sexual offense will be subject to a magistrate review. Magistrates will consider the crime and determine whether the suspect should

be released with no conditions or determine the least restrictive, non-financial conditions intended to address whether the suspect is likely to return to court.

All offenses in the magistrate review category are designated as zero bail offenses.

As an example, a person arrested for false imprisonment under current protocols would be held on \$50,000 bail. Under the new system, the suspect would be eligible to be booked and immediately released.

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon introduced the new bail system and it was upheld by Los Angeles County Superior Court on July 18.

"This represents a significant change in protocols for all law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County," the Downey Police Department said in a news release. "The Downey Police Department remains committed to the safety and security of our community. We will continue to work within the processes set forth by the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and as a profession, make recommendations for improvement at every opportunity."

Eric Pierce, editor

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78°

Saturday 78°

Sunday 79°

ON THIS DAY

1741: English composer George Frideric Handel completed "Messiah," considered the most famous of all oratorios.

1752: Great Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar; the date was moved ahead 11 days (the day after September 2 became September 14)

1814: Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner" after Fort MCHenry successfully withstood a British attack.

1879: Social reformer Margaret Sanger, who was a founder of the birth-control movement in the United States and an international leader in the field, was born.

1901: President William McKinley died eight days after being shot in Buffalo, New York; Theodore Roosevelt was administered the oath of office as new president.

1982: Grace Kelly—an American actress who abandoned her Hollywood career to marry Rainier III, prince de Monaco—died after suffering a stroke and losing control of the car she was driving.

1985: "The Golden Girls" debuted on American television.

1994: Acting commissioner of baseball Bud Selig announced that the remainder of the 1994 major league baseball season, including the World Series, would be canceled. Players and owners had failed to reach a settlement of the players' strike begun in August.

2009: Patrick Swayze, who was best known for his performances in the box-office hits "Dirty Dancing" and "Ghost", died at age 57 after battling pancreatic cancer.

Birthdays

"The Walking Dead" star **Andrew Lincoln** (50), rapper **Nas** (50), Florida governor **Ron DeSantis** (45), and "Shameless" star **Emma Kenney** (24).

L.A. County taking regional approach to stop illegal street takeovers

■ Officials call street takeovers a growing problem in Southern California.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday unanimously directed a host of county and other agencies to hold a community symposium on street takeovers.

The motion by Supervisor Holly Mitchell calls on the county Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, the District Attorney's Office and other organizations to take part in a meeting no later than Feb. 28, 2024, then report back to the board with recommendations for addressing the issue.

Mitchell said the symposium should be "a forum to gather information and (develop) a comprehensive plan to address the issue."

She said participants should review preventive measures that have been tried in the past to determine which ones worked and which didn't, and what new steps can be taken.

She said there "seems to be an utter disregard by the organizers, the participants, those who film it ... for the safety of the surrounding community and their very own neighbors."

Street takeovers have been



L.A. County leaders are hosting a symposium next year where the topic will be street takeovers.

a growing problem across the Southland, highlighted in July 2022 when the Sixth Street Viaduct opened near downtown Los Angeles, leading to an almost immediate surge of dangerous stunt driving and vehicle takeovers on the bridge.

During the board meeting, several relatives of people who have died as a result of street racing spoke tearfully in support of the motion, with one saying, "My family will never, ever, ever be the same."

"It needs to stop," she added.

Mitchell's motion suggests participants in the symposium consider proposals such as providing secure permanent closed tracks, separate from public streets, for street performance activities in communities most impacted by illegal street racing and street takeovers.

Supervisor Janice Hahn supported such a concept, saying there used to be a legal racing facility in the harbor area.

"It was a regular safe place for racing," Hahn said. "And I don't know if there's a correlation between no safe space for that to happen versus this need to continually be illegal and take over intersections."

Mitchell's motion also suggested infrastructure improvements to curb street takeovers, along with an examination of whether land use encourages street takeovers.

Supervisors spoke unanimously in support of the symposium.

"Unfortunately, we may see more and more of this happen unless some action is taken," Supervisor Hilda Solis said.

The county's existing street

racing ordinance, which makes it a misdemeanor to be a spectator at such events, includes penalties including fines of up to \$500, imprisonment of no more than six months in jail, or both.

The motion calls for participants at the symposium to recommend possible changes to the ordinance, including potential increases in penalties, and whether penalties can be assessed against street racing spectators who post on social media. The possibility of working with social media partners to remove posts that include such illegal activity from their platforms would also be discussed.

Though dangerous street takeovers and sideshows can lead to deadly shootings, fatal car crashes and property damage, the county's ability to address the issues is limited in unincorporated areas, according to the motion. The California Highway Patrol enforces speed limits and the sheriff's department breaks up large gatherings, while the Department of Public Works deploys infrastructure solutions.

On Sept. 7, 2022, the county Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission conducted a virtual conference with law enforcement, local experts and nonprofit organizations to discuss the dangers of illegal street racing and reckless driving. Though the resulting report was not adopted by the COC, it addressed the need for a plan to address illegal street takeovers with a comprehensive approach that goes beyond punishment.

Downey Unified curriculum open for review

DOWNEY — Downey Unified invites the public to examine a new Social Emotional Learning Supplemental Curriculum being considered for adoption by the Board of Education for use at the elementary level.

The materials selected are in alignment with decision-making curriculum that is grade level appropriate, engaging students in discussions that further their academic connections.

Copies of the materials are on display for three consecutive weeks, Monday through Friday, from Sept. 5 until Sept. 29, 2023, in the Elementary Education Department of the Downey Unified District Office. Appointments are requested to be made for any person wishing to review these materials.

Please contact the office of Elementary Education at (562) 469-6567 to make an appointment.

Orchestra opening new season Oct. 14

DOWNEY — Tickets are now on sale for the Downey Symphony's Oct. 14 concert at the Downey Theatre, titled "Tides of Love."

Under the direction of music director Sharon Lavery, the orchestra will perform "Dances in the Canebreaks" by Florence Price and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. There will also be a special performance by baritone Anthony Moreno.

Preceding the concert is an art exhibit by the Downey Arts Coalition.

Tickets can be purchased on the Downey Theatre website or by calling the box office at (562) 861-8211.

OLPH Women's Guild holding fall general meeting

DOWNEY — Fr. Benedict, associate at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, will be the guest speaker at the fall general meeting of the OLPH Women's Guild, taking place Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 10 am at the Knights of Columbus Hall.


A salad luncheon will be made and served by Guild board members. Cost is \$15 if prepaid by Sept. 18 or \$20 at the door, payable by cash or check.

RSVP to Linda Malme at (562) 869-6491.

Fair housing meeting at library

DOWNEY — Learn what your responsibilities are as tenants and landlords, and how you are protected under fair housing laws, at a free workshop Thursday, Oct. 5, at 2 pm at the Downey City Library.

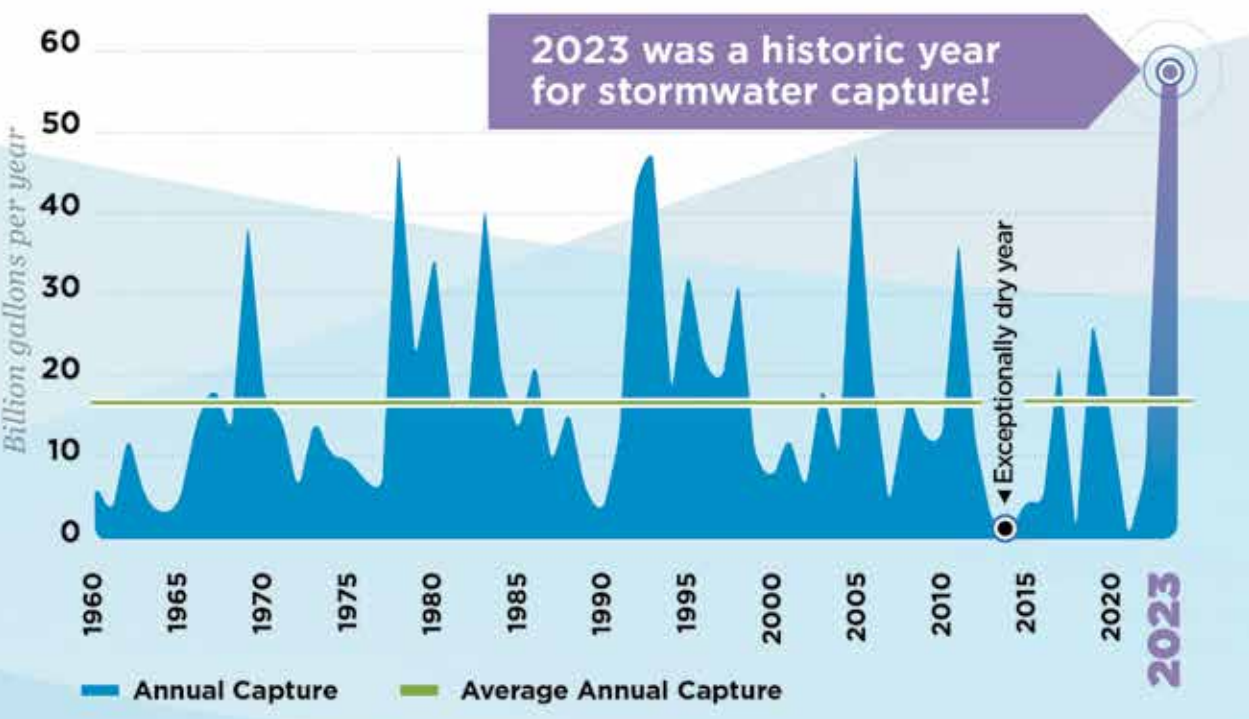
Other topics of discussion include state and federal fair housing laws, notices, security deposits, rent increases, Covid-19 protections, and more.



IT'S A GREAT YEAR FOR REPLENISHMENT!

RECORD AMOUNTS OF STORMWATER CAPTURED IN THE REGION


After the three driest years on record, the storms of 2023 brought welcomed moisture to the region. Through our partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, we have captured around 57 billion gallons (176,000 acre-feet) of stormwater. That is a year's worth of water for about 350,000 families of four! This stormwater is diverted from the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers into the Montebello Forebay spreading grounds. The spreading grounds are large ponds that allow water to soak into the ground, where it can be stored for future use.



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Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



Every day I listen to complaints from patients about how difficult it is to get a good night's sleep. All of us have had times when sleep is a challenge. Most sleep medications are fraught with complications, including addiction, dependency, and the simple fact that, over time, they just stop working.

Rather than putting up with being sleep deprived, or depending on meds, let me encourage lifestyle changes. Here are some of my favorite tips for how to get that satisfying night of sleep:

- **Have a consistent sleep schedule.** This helps to establish our circadian rhythms. Do note that this includes weekends as well.

- **Increase your bright**

light exposure during the day. Bright light affects the brain, body, and hormones, helping us to stay awake during the daytime. It also improves daytime energy, which then helps us fall asleep at night. (When daily sunlight is not possible, some people mimic it with a light therapy lamp.)

- **Reduce your light exposure in the evening.** Blue light, which comes from electronic devices like some TVs, smartphones, and computers, is the most problematic. Consider turning off the TV and other electronic devices two hours before bedtime.

- **Cut back on daytime naps.** Naps tend to affect nighttime sleep, but of course, if short daytime power naps work for you, and don't affect your sleep at night, then by all means, carry on.

- **Avoid alcohol.** Many

of my patients believe that alcohol relaxes them and helps them sleep. Unfortunately, even modest amounts of alcohol at night can interfere with sleep by increasing sleep apnea symptoms, worsening snoring, and launching poor sleep patterns. It alters the production of melatonin, which plays a key role in our circadian rhythms. It can increase feelings of panic, anxiety and depression, which will certainly keep us awake at night.

- **Cut out caffeine after lunch.** Caffeine has a number of benefits, as most Americans are aware. It can bring about better focus, more energy, and improved sports performance. However, it is a nervous system stimulant. Caffeine levels can stay elevated for eight hours after consumption. If you are craving coffee later in the day, let me suggest sticking with decaf.

- **Optimize your sleep environment.** This includes controlling temperature, noise, external lights, and furniture arrangement. Our mattress and pillow can have

an enormous effect on back pain, shoulder pain, back stiffness, and sleep quality. Consider whether it is time for a replacement, and test before buying.

- **Don't eat late.** Studies show that eating a large meal or snacks can affect sleep and sleep hormone levels. (Note that a small bedtime snack for diabetics is often necessary.)

- **Relax and clear your mind.** Various techniques for relaxation before bed have been shown to help. These include taking a bath, listening to music, reading a book, massage, meditating,

deep breathing, and visualization.

- **Exercise regularly.** Exercise is one of the very best ways to improve sleep and health. Note that while daily exercise is key, don't plan it too close to bedtime.

Be sure to rule out any underlying health condition. Sleep apnea, for example, is a sleep disorder which causes inconsistent and interrupted breathing. Urinary frequency keeps many up at night. Any condition that causes pain will disrupt sleep.

And yes, some supplements and natural remedies can help. Melatonin

is a key sleep hormone that helps our brain relax and go to sleep. It should not cause withdrawal symptoms or next day hangover effects. Other popular sleep aids include ginkgo biloba, glycine, valerian root, magnesium, chamomile and lavender.

Let's improve our health and well-being by making sleep a top priority.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 10927 Downey Ave., Suite C, Downey, CA 90241.

FDA approves updated Covid-19 vaccines

Updated vaccinations are expected to become available in the coming days.

The Food and Drug Administration on Monday approved updated Covid vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, putting the shots on track to reach Americans within days as U.S. hospitalizations from the virus rise.

The new vaccines, which target the omicron variant XBB.1.5, are approved for people 12 and older and are authorized under emergency use for children 6 months through 11 years old, according to an FDA release.

The FDA did not announce a decision Monday on an updated Covid shot from Novavax, but the company said in a statement that the agency is still reviewing its vaccine.

Novavax's vaccine uses protein-based technology, a decades-old method deployed in routine vaccinations against hepatitis B and shingles. Meanwhile, Pfizer's and Moderna's shots use messenger RNA, which teaches cells how

to make proteins that trigger an immune response against Covid.

The upcoming arrival of updated vaccines offers some reassurance to Americans as the nation sees an increase in Covid cases and hospitalizations.

While the shots do not target the variants dominant now, the vaccine makers have said the shots will still offer protection against those strains as children return to school and the weather gets cooler.

"We expect this season's vaccine to be available in the coming days, pending recommendation from public health authorities," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said in a release following the approval.

Hospitalizations have increased for seven straight weeks, and rose more than 15% for the week ending Aug. 26, to 17,418, according to the latest data from the CDC. But that number remains below the surge the nation saw in summer 2022, when hospitalizations climbed to more than 40,000.

The uptick is fueled by newer — but closely related to XBB.1.5 — strains of the virus such as EG.5, or Eris. That omicron strain accounted for 21.5% of all cases as of Sept. 2, according to the CDC.

Meanwhile, XBB.1.5 is declining in the U.S., the CDC said.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

The new **Domestic Terrorism, Mind Control**

What is happening is a mind controlling of people. This is the most dangerous thing anyone could have done to them. Mind controlling by terrorist is very dangerous because the people being affected are unaware, they are under a mind controlling spell. I began noticing the mental change with my friends around June 2022. It began with Officer Nadal from the Signal Hill Police Department. Nadal and his police friends tried to sneak up on me and enter my house. I was gone on that day. He tried again. I looked out the window. I wouldn't let him in my house. I told him I would speak with him when I hired a lawyer. Since that time, I've been unable to hire a lawyer. I'm still trying to hire a lawyer. I spoke with lawyers that will take my money. Then they make up excuses why they won't work for me. This is in my book: Donald Trump's Koward Kommunist K**ts.

I tried many different ways to advertise my political book, *The Washington Mafia*. The book is PG rated. The Long Beach newspaper, the beachcomber, was the only newspaper that I could get into to place an ad. The Downey Patriot is the second newspaper that would let me place an ad.

The mind controlling of people affects my family and friends. I can't talk about my book. I'm hated by everyone. I'm afraid of speaking with the police about this. I tried talking with the Washington DC Capitol Police, twice. The Signal Hill Police Department are terrorist. I told the Signal Hill City Council about their police. They did nothing. The Signal Hill City Council are terrorist. All the lawyers that have been mind controlled, turn their backs on me. Everyone that has been affected by this mind control won't, or can't, talk to me about my book. Once you're affected, or infected, it's terminal. It's very dangerous. I have evidence since April 2022 of what I'm writing here about. I have tried every day to contact higher law enforcement to help me with this. I'm asking everyone reading here to get me the California Attorney General Rob Bonta and every higher-level law enforcement. This communism, and terrorism, are real. It has to be exposed. It has to be stopped. It is very dangerous to everyone.

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In Memory of

Merlene Rosanna Hill

October 1, 1935 - August 5th, 2023

Merlene Rosanna Hill, 87, passed away at her Downey home on August 5th, 2023, having resided in Downey for 52 years. She was born in Los Angeles, CA, on October 1, 1935 to Merle and Florence Aldridge Hill. Merlene attended schools in Bell Gardens, California. She received her AA degree from Compton Jr College and her BA degree from Greenville (IL) College. She was awarded her MA degree from Long Beach State College. She taught in the Montebello Unified School District for 36 years and served during summer vacations and holidays as a guide at Hearst Castle.

Merlene was preceded in death by her parents and by two brothers, Paul R.Hill, and Gerald L. Hill, a nephew, Paul Wesley Hill, and a niece, Sharon E. Hill Hearn. Her brother, David C. Hill (Margaret) survives as do two nephews, Kevin Edwards and Brandon Hill, one niece, Amanda Tippey and eight grand nieces and nephews.

Services were held on August 17th, 2023 at Rose Hills Mortuary in the Memorial Chapel with Rev Kevin Boyce officiating. Interment was at Rose Hills.

In Memory of

Jane (Janie) Ellen Steadman

October 8, 1952 - August 29, 2023



Surrounded by family and loved ones, our beloved Jane (Janie) Steadman, 70, peacefully went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, after battling cancer.

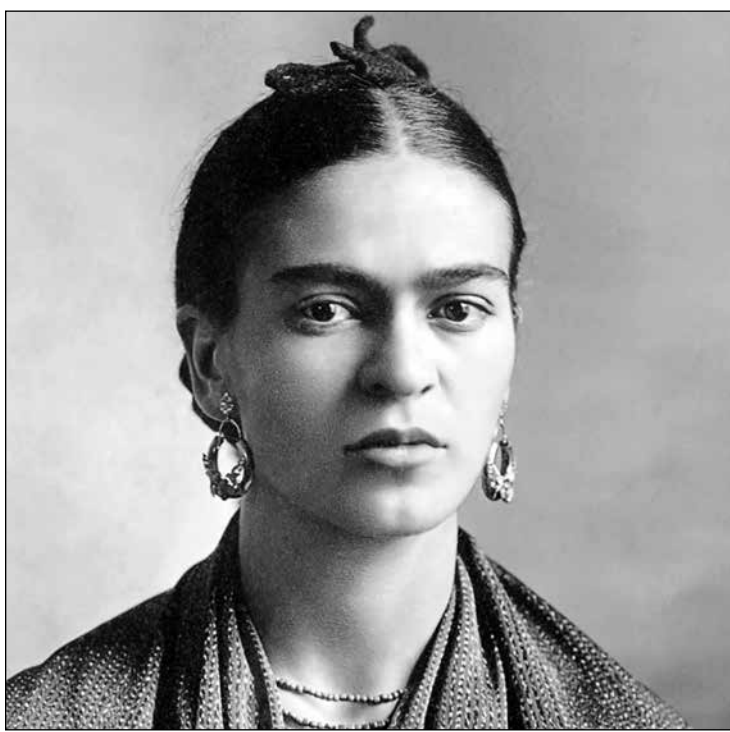
Jane was born and raised in Downey where she graduated from St. Pius X High School. After graduating from CSULA,

she taught third and fourth grade within the Downey Unified School District for more than 30 years. She enjoyed helping others and spent countless hours volunteering with the Carnival of Champions competition and Warren High School's Grad Night. She was an active member of St. Raymond's Catholic Church, where she was a Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) leader.

Jane was warm and kind. She hosted countless parties, and her home was the center of many gatherings and cherished memories, especially during the holidays. Jane enjoyed traveling, trying new restaurants shopping with her sisters, baking and decorating her home for the season. Jane was a great friend to many and remained close to many of her high school classmates throughout her life. More than anything though, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Jane is survived by the love of her life, her husband of 46 years, Gail, their children: Tammy (Tim), Sean (Kim), Julie (Matt), Jeff (Jessica) and Randy (Cynthia); grandchildren, Sarah, Shana, Jude, Leah and Micah; great grandchildren, Gauge and Jada; a grand dog, Chewie; her five siblings Donna, Carol, Theresa, Joanie and Michael; and countless nieces, nephews, friends, and former students who love Jane dearly. We will treasure the lasting impact she made on our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Her celebration of life will take place on Saturday, September 23, at St. Raymond's Catholic Church.



Frida Kahlo subject of Cerritos Library lecture

CERRITOS – Embark on a captivating journey about the life and art of legend Frida Kahlo in a free multimedia lecture at 6 p.m. in the Cerritos Library's Skyline Room on Monday, Sept. 18.

In "Frida Kahlo: Crossing Borderlines," Dr. Gloria Arjona will discuss the late artist's influence on culture by merging languages, genres, disciplines and her life and art. All ages are welcome.

Born to a German-Hungarian father and a Mexican mother with a strong Indigenous heritage, Kahlo is widely viewed as an icon of female creativity and feminism. The artist proudly embraced her Mestiza identity, transcending boundaries while seamlessly blending her father's European culture with the vibrant tapestry of her native Mexico.

Fluent in German, English and Spanish, Kahlo effortlessly navigated between languages, adapting to different situations and scenarios with ease.

The trailblazer crafted her own unique fashion style, by combining the Mexican tunic-like garment huipil with jewelry and garments from India and China, and merged elements of popular poetry, sayings and music into her visual art.

A Spanish professor at the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Arjona lectures through music, stories, media, traditional attire and living pictures to draw attention to the rich cultures and traditions of Latin America – in particular Mexico and the United States-Mexico border.

The Cerritos Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos.

English teacher promoted to vice president

NORWALK – Cerritos College named Dr. Frank Mixson as Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Academic Affairs.

Mixson was approved by the Board of Trustees at its June 21 board meeting and assumed his role on July 1. The college released a press release announcing his hiring Sept. 7.

Mixson began his career at Cerritos College in August 1995 as a part-time faculty member in the English department. Rising through the ranks, he became a full-time Professor of English in 1998 and was promoted in 2018 to the Instructional Dean of Liberal Arts.

Mixson served in numerous capacities across campus, including student learning outcomes coordinator, faculty accreditation liaison, basic skills coordinator, and Guided Pathways faculty co-coordinator.

Mixson earned his doctorate in English from the University of Georgia, master's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and bachelor's degree from Drake University.

"Dr. Mixson played a crucial part in building our campus community, and I am excited to see him advance in his new role," Cerritos College president and superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. "Initially as a faculty member, then as a dean, and now as a vice president, he continues to invest his experience and expertise into growing our award-winning programs and integrating student support services to increase our students' success."

Cerritos College featured in Amazon TV series

NORWALK – Cerritos College is featured in the Amazon Prime series "The College Tour" and will host a blue carpet premiere event on Sept. 19 in its new Performing Arts Center.

The episode is set to air on Amazon Prime in October.

Created by multi-award-winning producers and hosted by "The Amazing Race" season 2 winner Alex Boylan, "The College Tour" allows students and families to tour colleges from anywhere in the world. This series showcases the college and university experience from the perspective of their current students.

In the episode, audiences will hear the stories of 10 Cerritos College students who share their experiences about the college's student-centered approach, award-winning programs, incredible support services, and more.

"We are excited for this opportunity to show what our student-centered campus is all about," said Cerritos College president and superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. "Our 10 students did an excellent job telling their stories and bringing a personal touch to the college's programs and resources."

"I was given a sneak peek of the episode, and one thing that is very clear is that Cerritos College employees foster a campus that is incredibly supportive and driven by student achievement. I am proud of our students and look forward to seeing them and our guests during the blue carpet premiere."

The blue carpet premiere will feature a special showing of the episode and a Q&A panel with featured students, followed by a reception. Festivities begin at 5:30 pm.

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Why Trump can run for President

The constitution does not disqualify Donald Trump from running for office.

By David Orentlicher

David Orentlicher is a professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he specializes in constitutional law. He also serves as a Democrat in the Nevada Assembly.

Last week, six Colorado voters and the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) filed a lawsuit in state court to prevent former President Donald Trump from running for the presidency next year. They argue that the Constitution’s Disqualification Clause in the 14th Amendment, barring those who’ve engaged in insurrection from holding office, prohibits Trump from appearing on the ballot. (Since the filing, Trump has asked to move the CREW challenge to federal court.)

It is understandable that Trump’s critics have mounted aggressive efforts to derail the former president’s candidacy. As his two impeachments and four indictments indicate, Trump is manifestly unfit to hold public office and should not become president again. (Trump denies all the charges.) But claims that the former president should be barred from running by the Disqualification Clause are misguided, and the arguments for disqualification would have troubling implications for other cases.

The Disqualification Clause was adopted as Section 3 of the 14th Amendment in 1868, and its primary purpose was to address a serious problem with elections in the Southern states. After the Civil War, Southern states sent to Congress men who had violated their earlier oaths to support the Constitution by serving in leadership roles in the Confederacy. Accordingly, Section 3 prohibits individuals from holding office if they previously took an oath to support the Constitution and then “engaged in insurrection or rebellion against” the United States.

The text of the ban is written in general terms, so it could apply to insurrections or rebellions other than the Civil War. But the drafters of the ban did not provide a definition of “insurrection,” and a key question today is what the word should apply to. Does the insurrection have to be as serious as the Confederacy’s secession, rebellion and civil war? Or should we interpret insurrection more broadly, such as playing a role in the violent assault on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021?

Those who would disqualify Trump certainly believe in an expansive application – but it’s one that goes too far.

According to CREW, we should understand insurrection as “an assemblage of persons” who use “force” while “acting with the purpose to oppose the continuing authority of the United States Constitution.” To arrive at this meaning, the organization draws on criminal insurrection statutes, academic analyses and court decisions, including that of a New Mexico trial court that last year disqualified a county commissioner because of his role in the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

The problem with the CREW definition is that it would not only apply to Trump and others who tried to overturn the 2020 election with the conduct that culminated in the January 6 violence but also to others who use force for any reason to resist governmental authority. For instance, as proponents of a definition of insurrection essentially the same as CREW’s acknowledge, abolitionists who tried to prevent fugitive slaves from being returned to their owners in the years before slaves were emancipated would qualify as insurrectionists.

In fact, in defining insurrection, CREW and the New Mexico trial court drew on an 1894 criminal case involving the prosecution of labor activists, including labor leader Eugene Debs, for their participation in a nationwide strike of railroad workers. The CREW definition also would have presumably applied to those who protested our country’s involvement in the Vietnam War by using force of any kind to disrupt the military draft.

The broad interpretations of the Disqualification Clause extend too far in another way – in terms of who can be ensnared by it. According to the CREW lawsuit and the New Mexico trial court, one need not personally use force to fall under the Disqualification Clause. Rather, one can engage in insurrection with “words in furtherance of the insurrection,” including words that “provoke, encourage or command others to engage in insurrectionary conduct.” This view of insurrection could in theory apply to an elected official who speaks sympathetically at a protest against an unjust law were the protest to unexpectedly turn violent.

A narrow definition of insurrection makes much more sense. We should not disqualify those who strongly protest unjust laws, nor should we disenfranchise the voters who want to re-elect officials who fight against unjust laws. Indeed, such candidates may be especially desirable as elected officials. Moreover, elected officials should not have to worry whether their support for those protesters would trigger their own disqualification from running for re-election.

At the same time, we don’t need to worry that a narrow definition might not go far enough for those who have

undeniably engaged in insurrection. There are additional ways to prevent these people from holding public office, such as impeachment and prosecution for other crimes.

Courts have recently imposed sentences of 22 and 18 years on leaders of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, respectively, who played key roles in the January 6 violence. While Trump himself could still run for the presidency even if convicted in one or more of his four prosecutions, it would be very difficult to wage an effective campaign from a prison cell.



DONALD TRUMP

It is essential that Trump not escape accountability for his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. But some of the many civil and criminal cases against him are the best way to do so. In responding to efforts to thwart Trump’s re-election, courts should not interpret the Constitution in ways that would disqualify for public service people who try to block the implementation of unjust laws.

Culture of lawlessness

Dear Editor:

I very much enjoyed reading Mayor Claudia Frometa’s column. (DA’s Disastrous Policies Are Emboldening Criminals,” 8/31/23)

Our family moved to Downey in 1965 and I graduated from Downey High School in 1967. I’ve seen a lot of changes in Downey and many of them are great. Our population is more diverse and we can experience more cultures than ever.

But I agree with our mayor that crime is a problem, and it seems to be encouraged by some folks in the greater Los Angeles area and throughout the nation and the world. We have moved from being a culture that tried to keep various racial groups down to a culture that put that racism far in the background. Now we have a culture that is accepting and tolerant but sometimes of the wrong things including crime and behavior that harms businesses and individuals.

Can we expect that people who are coming to our city and becoming adults here to reject crime and brutality when our culture seems to be fascinated with it and some of our leaders engage in it themselves?

What can we do as a city and as individuals to stop crime and the continued laws that make it difficult for our police to act to stop it? What can we do to make sure our neighbors and friends are safe? I’m not a genius (ask anyone who knows me) so I don’t have all the answers. Hopefully together we can work on a solution for all of us, but starting with ourselves and our own families and friends.

Integrity isn’t just a nice word or slogan. It’s really a standard for living for us all.

Fr. John Higgins
Downey

Bad company

Dear Editor:

I got some friendly people knocking on my door running support for Horacio Ortiz and handed me a pamphlet. I quickly retracted any support after seeing some well known politicians that support him.

Posting himself with such politicians such as Rep. Robert Garcia and Janice Hahn are really damaging. Garcia is a failed Long Beach mayor that boasted 4,000 affordable homes were built under his term (only 973 were made), horrible renting increases (third in the nation before covid), and many other things.

I personally don’t trust Horacio Ortiz. He’s probably the same like every single one of these politicians he’s posted alongside with. If he were endorsed by Tulsi Gabbard, lesbian conservative Jaimee Mitchell, Christian Walker, and these types of individuals then I would most definitely vote for him. Until then, watch the political scene nationwide deteriorate.

Roger Orellana
Downey

Homeless have overtaken the library

Dear Editor:

An incident Saturday afternoon at our library prompted me to write again.

I was there at 1:30 pm to drop off some donated books and there were at least five Downey Police patrol cars by the front entrance, apparently in response to a fight between two of the homeless people who have taken up residence in front of the library.

I don’t know all the details, but as I left so did all the officers. No one was seen taken into custody so to me this was a waste of resources because the city has become too lax in the treatment of the homeless.

These officers could have been patrolling the streets for the parade of red light runners, speeders, cars parked blocking the sidewalks, parked on lawns, and the numerous DMV violations I see every day. Instead they were sidelined because of a fight between two men who had no business at the library in the first place.

The city needs to crack down on this situation. I’d say before it gets too late, but it seems too late already.

John Powell
Downey

Kevin McCarthy caved

By Susan Estrich

Susan Estrich is an attorney and first female female president of Harvard Law Review.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy caved to the far right of his party in giving the green light to an effort to impeach President Joe Biden, authorizing three House committees to begin investigations of Biden’s family finances. On Tuesday, the speaker told reporters gathered outside his office at the Capitol, “Today, I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.”

In fact, Republicans have been digging into their finances for some time, justifying it as assisting in the work of legislating. The Oversight Committee examined more than 12,000 pages of subpoenaed bank records, and more than 2,000 pages of suspicious activity reports as well as interviewing witnesses, including two of Hunter Biden’s former business associates, and found no evidence of any payments to the president.

Until now, McCarthy has taken the position, shared by many other House and Senate Republicans, that before undertaking an impeachment inquiry, the full House should vote, consistent with past practice, to move forward. But the full House is divided: Not everyone

agrees with Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Matt Gaetz and the other leaders of the impeachment effort. Rep. Ken Buck, a conservative Republican, criticized Greene for tying impeachment to the government spending bill, calling her timeline “absurd,” and saying, sensibly enough, that “the time for impeachment is the time when there’s evidence linking President Biden — if there’s evidence linking President Biden to a high crime or misdemeanor. That doesn’t exist right now,” on MSNBC’s “Inside with Jen Psaki.”

I agree with Ken Buck. What’s more, I agree with Sen. Marco Rubio, the very conservative Florida Republican, who argues that impeaching a sitting president “should generally be avoided for the interest of the country.”

“It can’t become routine ... There are countries like Peru that routinely now impeach whoever the president is, and it’s become almost a national sport ... My big fear remains that at some point you trivialize this, you make it routine. Suddenly it becomes a weapon or a tool routinely used by a political party against someone from the other party in power,” he said. It’s a measure of how far right McCarthy has gone that I find myself in agreement with Marco Rubio.

Of course, these same arguments were made by Republicans when it was the Democrats who were impeaching President Donald Trump, and by Democrats when it was Republicans who were impeaching President Bill Clinton. Is what’s good for the goose good for the gander? Maybe, but the analogy falls apart to the extent that Trump’s misdeeds have in fact led to indictment for high crimes, whereas in Clinton’s case, the failed impeachment effort led to Democrats picking up seats in the 1998 midterm election, which may be the closest analogue to this effort.

Indeed, even if the House Republicans were united, which they aren’t, impeachment doesn’t stand a chance in the Senate and could easily be viewed by voters as a waste of valuable time. According to Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Republican leadership team in the Senate, “It really comes to how do you prioritize your time? I don’t know of anybody who believes (Senate Majority Leader) Chuck Schumer will take it up and actually have a trial and convict a sitting president. ... Members of the House don’t really care what I think. All I can tell you, it’s unlikely to be successful in the Senate. Rather than doing something they know is unlikely to end the way they would like, maybe they want to emphasize other things.” Other things like the economy and the border, which voters do care about, and not inside politics, which is what is driving Kevin McCarthy further and further to the right, to the point that he may be driving his party out of the mainstream and into the hands of Democrats.

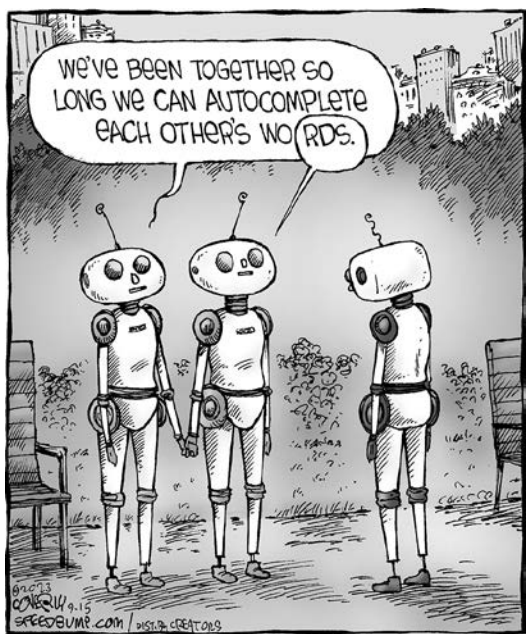
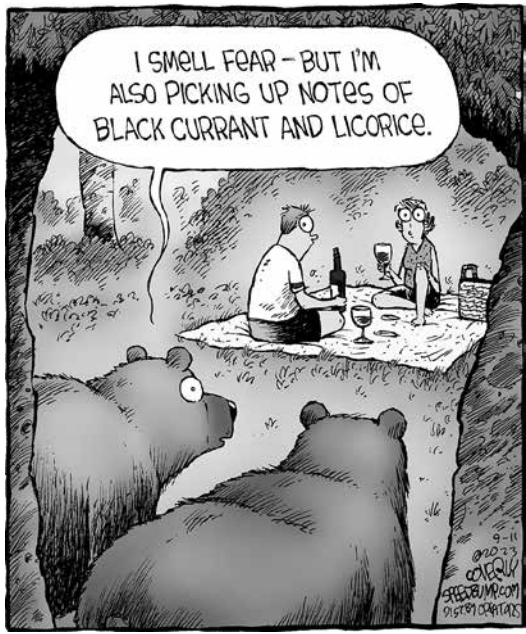
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:00pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Mel Sanchez 562-665-4125.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park, email scoutmaster@downeyboyscouts.com.
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 12 pm: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 10:30 am: Ballroom dance class, at Downey Community Center, call 776 7270.
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
 7 pm: Royal Rangers Outpost 132, at Desert Reign Church, call 562-861-6011.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
 2nd Wed., 7 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 484-8415.
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezhualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Bingo, at Woman's Club of Downey - Proceeds benefit Rancho.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 351, at Furman Park, contact 562-500-5093 for more information.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 1st Thurs., 6 pm, All other Thurs. 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 283-2335.
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Amateur Radio Club, EOC room Downey Fire Station #1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
 2nd Thurs., 12 pm: Creative Purposes, call Bill Wallace 923-2311.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.

SATURDAYS

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

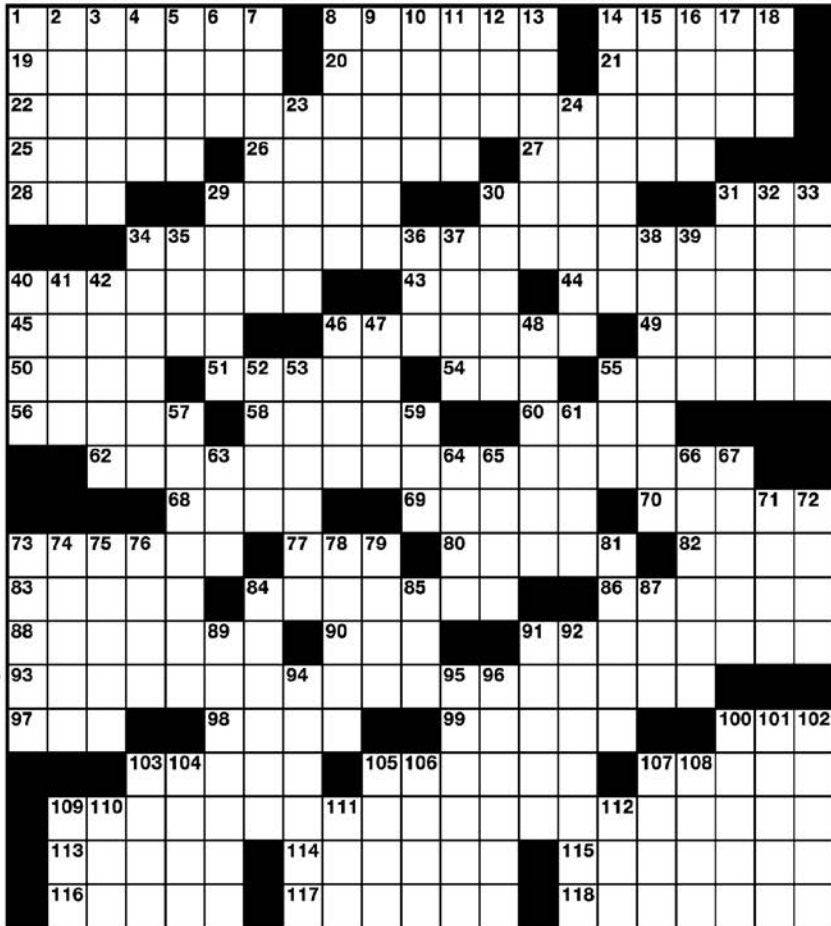
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- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 77 High-fiber grain | 14 Medium for talk shows |
| 1 Inept person | 80 Molded gold | 15 Checker or puck |
| 8 Bully's challenge | 82 Inconclusive contest | 16 Have stamina |
| 14 Improvise on stage | 83 Water near Notre Dame | 17 Texter's "I think . . ." |
| 19 Incompatible with | 84 Open porch | 18 Recycling receptacle |
| 20 Without a musical key | 86 Type of sedative | 23 "We __ please!" |
| 21 Marlins' home | 88 Roaring Twenties style | 24 Stretch out |
| 22 The Empire Strikes Back | 90 Self-pride | 29 Settle up |
| 25 Goes after | 91 Shirk work | 30 Troop's encampment |
| 26 Actress Tyson | 93 The Wizard of Oz | 31 Swinelike beast |
| 27 Precise | 97 Legislative vote | 32 Play hockey |
| 28 Count up | 98 Thin batteries | 33 Go by bike |
| 29 Groundhog Day director | 99 Bert's roommate | 34 Italian playhouse |
| 30 Cornerstone abbr. | 100 Large roll of bills | 35 Judah Ben- (Heston role) |
| 31 Cough syrup amt. | 103 Part of a Dracula costume | 36 Cry of distaste |
| 34 The Maltese Falcon | 105 Stored fodder | 37 Genesis twin |
| 40 Deal with, as something difficult | 107 Ahead of schedule | 38 Slow walks |
| 43 Federal purchasing agcy. | 109 Frozen | 39 Reason for reluctance |
| 44 Reporter's tablet | 113 Mirror's reflection | 40 Electronic car keys |
| 45 1998 Masters champ Mark | 114 Of mules, zebras, etc. | 41 Blessing conclusion |
| 46 Looking like pothooks | 115 Celestial event | 42 Labor leader |
| 49 Yogurt dip of India | 116 Opera star Simon | 43 Chavez |
| 50 Top-ranked | 117 Obliging celebrity | 46 Drop fur |
| 51 Big boat | 118 Puts up a fuss | 47 One-pot meal |
| 54 "One-eighty" turn | DOWN | 48 Checking out |
| 55 Reddish-brownish horse | 1 Topping for tacos | 52 Pop group from Stockholm |
| 56 Snide comment | 2 Informed, with "in" | 53 Defoe hero |
| 58 Kennel club category | 3 Hit the trail | 55 HS yearbook buyers |
| 60 Countess' husband | 4 Onion relative | 57 D.C. lobbyists' home turf |
| 62 Citizen Kane | 5 Les États-__ | 59 Courtroom VIPs |
| 68 " __ the night before . . ." | 6 High ranges: Abbr. | 61 Concerning |
| 69 Tilt a bit | 7 Audio show accessed by app | 63 Source of wool |
| 70 Doze noisily | 8 Brady Bunch sister | 64 Lost traction |
| 73 Drawing power | 9 Bear witness (to) | 65 Mandlikova of tennis |
| | 10 '90s German leader | 66 Cessation |
| | 11 Begrudge | 67 Hip-hop headgear |
| | 12 Goat sound | 71 Deserve to have |
| | 13 Firstborn | |

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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 72 Antique pitcher | 85 Nonverbal approval | 102 Measures of force |
| 73 Grilled, in Mexican cuisine | 87 ATM access code | 103 Italian auto |
| 74 Sports painter Neiman | 89 Probabilities | 104 French seraph |
| 75 Petrol measure | 91 Japanese graphic novel | 105 Cozy |
| 76 Negate | 92 "And how!" | 106 Has anted |
| 78 Lot sizes | 94 Gets ready for dinner | 107 Right-angle shapes |
| 79 License plates | 95 Fix, as brakes | 108 Et __ (and others: Lat.) |
| 81 " __ down in green pastures" | 96 App icon for deletion | 109 Diner dessert |
| 84 Sea journey | 100 Cylindrical lunches | 110 Apt. parts |
| | 101 Elite roster | 111 EPA stat |
| | | 112 Cold cubes |

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Forgy and Bess.
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Whittier teachers travel to Poland for living history experience

WHITTIER – Three Whittier Union history teachers received an up-close look at living history when they participated in the Auschwitz Legacy Program, a one-week trip to Poland in July that included tours of the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as access to archives of letters and personal items saved from Holocaust victims during World War II.

John Bellanti of Whittier High School, Gena Arriola-Salas of Pioneer High School and MaryAnn Fajardo of Frontier High School joined a group of 30 educators and Holocaust researchers from across the United States as part of an education initiative created by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation to keep the memories of victims alive.

For Bellanti, Arriola-Salas and Fajardo – who all include WWII and the Holocaust in their lesson plans and have worked extensively with entities such as the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum, the United States Holocaust Museum and the Anti-Defamation League – the trip was educational. Each teacher discovered new information, such as the existence of the Ringelblum Archives, a collection of letters written by Jewish families in Warsaw that were hidden in milk cans and are now preserved at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

During the trip, the three teachers found themselves in areas and locales where Holocaust victims arrived, slept and washed up. At the Auschwitz Museum, seeing handprints on the walls and unused canisters of Zyklon B provided images that the teachers said will stay with them forever.

“I’ve been to Pearl Harbor and Normandy. I wanted to put myself in these situations because I want to be able to explain to my students the history as best as I can,” Bellanti said. “But this one will really be hard. It will be hard to teach these lessons without getting



MaryAnn Fajardo of Frontier High School (left), Gena Arriola-Salas of Pioneer High School (center) and John Bellanti of Whittier High School.

emotional. But you have to tell them, you have to teach the history.”

For Arriola-Salas, the tours were essential for her roles as a historian and teacher, but once inside – where she could see for herself how meticulous planning and technological innovation conspired to perpetrate horrendous crimes – she said she wondered if it was right to be able to view this history at all.

“I felt torn. I’ve waited all these years to finally come to the Auschwitz Museum, then I felt like, is it O.K. to be here?” Arriola-Salas said. “It’s not easy to describe what you see to those who have not seen it themselves. But that’s the goal of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation, to preserve what’s there, not to rebuild or reinterpret. They are an amazing organization that wants to ensure students are learning these lessons.”

The teachers toured the Warsaw Ghetto extensively, an area where more than 450,000 Polish Jews were taken to concentration camps. The encampment was leveled by Nazis during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.

The tour group viewed the remaining segment of the iron wall and remnants of the ghetto, which is now mostly apartment complexes. The group also spent a day in Krakow touring centuries-old synagogues that were spared destruction by the Nazis.

“I was humbled by the trip, both personally and professionally,” said Fajardo, who traveled to Berlin in 2019 to meet with Holocaust survivors. “Visiting the camp was impactful. Just to see what you have been teaching for so many years and see it firsthand. It’s hard to put into words.”

As Bellanti, Arriola-Salas and

Fajardo work to incorporate their experiences in their classroom lessons on WWII, they agree that the best possible outcome of their overseas trip is to teach their students to be good, kind and empathetic human beings who will stand up to those who employ hateful speech and seek to eliminate our personal freedoms.

One possible outcome of the trip abroad is a joint effort by Whittier Union and the Foundation to arrange for a virtual tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau for Whittier Union’s Advanced Placement European History or World Civilization students, which aims to give students a better perspective of the history contained within its walls.

The trip also afforded Bellanti, Arriola-Salas and Fajardo the opportunity to meet with representatives of Holocaust museums in Los Angeles, Colorado and Michigan, which could lead to a series of professional development seminars with history teachers throughout the District.

“It is an honor to have three of our educators selected to travel with the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation and participate in this indispensable yet heartbreaking journey,” Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo said. “The true beneficiaries will be Whittier Union students, who will gain

tremendous knowledge and a unique perspective about the Holocaust. It is more important than ever that the lessons learned from World War II are passed

on to a new generation, so that no one will ever forget what happened in the ghettos and concentration camps of Europe.”

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La Mirada Theatre swaps ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ with ‘Jersey Boys’

LA MIRADA – “Jersey Boys,” winner of a Tony Award for Best Musical, has been added to the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts’ 2023-24 season calendar, replacing the previously announced “Fiddler on the Roof.”

“Jersey Boys” follows the evolution of four blue-collar kids who became one of the greatest successes in pop music history.

The musical takes you behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to discover

the secret of a 40-year friendship as the foursome work their way from the streets of New Jersey to the heights of stardom.

Songs performed in the show include “Sherry,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” “Dawn” and “My Eyes Adored You.”

“Jersey Boys” plays April 19, 2024 through May 12. Tickets go on sale Oct. 30 and can be purchased online at lamiradatheatre.com or by calling the box office at (562) 944-9801.

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Students, parents defend high school wellness center against protestors

■ A survey of students and staff showed overwhelming support for the Wellness Center.

By Vincent Medina
Contributor

NORWALK – Damien Berry, 10th grade student at Norwalk High School, explained why he supports the Wellbeing Center at John Glenn High School to the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District board of education during their meeting on Monday.

“As a member of the trans community, I know that it’s very important that kids have somewhere they can go, especially if they don’t feel like they can’t talk to their friends or family at home. This center will offer a lot of different services at school including sexual health and self-harm prevention,” Berry said.

“For kids like me, self-harm is something that is thought about very often because we do not take into the status quo or we appear to be different than our fellow students. Please consider putting more

centers like this and other schools in our district.”

Berry’s friends and family listened and applauded him in support after he was finished.

The Wellbeing Center at John Glenn and Southeast Academy High School has been the target of scrutiny from MassResistance, an organization that has been labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. However, the group is a self-described pro family group.

The board of education addressed concerns from MassResistance in June, but members of the organization continued to express unfounded claims that have been discredited multiple times by the school board.

The field director, Arthur Schaper, tried to dismiss a survey released by the district to John Glenn High School parents, students and staff to get their feelings towards the Wellbeing Center, and if they felt the services were necessary.

The survey was available



Former student board member Joseph Trevizu express his support for the Wellbeing Center at John Glenn High School during the NLMUSD board of education meeting on Monday.

to parents from Sep. 1-6.

“The statistics on [the survey results], what a ridiculously low sample size, and we have reports from parents that they were not allowed to see the survey, which is their right,” Schaper said.

“I think it’s really shallow that the school district pushed this survey and tried to do it on the

Labor Day weekend, as if you could get a sample that try to lie to the public that the vast majority of people in the community wanted that student Wellbeing Center.”

Jessica Medrano, assistant superintendent of educational services (secondary) and Jennifer Padilla, principal at John Glenn High School and

Southeast Academy High School, explained that approximately 103 (12%) of parents, 57 (36%) of staff and 279 (28%) of students responded to the district survey, according to the data.

The overwhelming majority of those who responded to the survey feel the services at the wellbeing center including

mental health and wellness support, substance abuse, education and prevention, physical health and wellness resources and sexual health education and resources are either important or extremely important.

Students and parents from NLMUSD also arrived in person to express their support for the Wellbeing Center, including former student board member Joseph Trevizu.

“This is terrible to hear our students are scared to leave the high school because people are approaching them outside forcing information on them,” Trevizu said. “These people don’t belong to our community. I would tell him to take the kids out of our schools if they had any.”

Superintendent John Lopez expressed that as long as the community is in favor of the Wellbeing Center it will continue to operate at John Glenn High School.



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What is USB-C, the charging socket that replaced Apple's Lightning cable?



Bye, Lightning cable. Hello, USB-C.

Apple is ditching its in-house iPhone charging plug and falling in line with the rest of the tech industry by adopting a more widely used connection standard. A big part of the reason is a European Union common charging rule that's coming soon for the 27-nation bloc.

Here's a look at the USB-C plug and what it means for consumers:

The first part of the acronym stands for Universal Serial Bus, and it replaces earlier versions of the USB cables used on everything from printers and hard drives to computer mice and Kindle readers.

The USB-C plug comes in a different shape than its predecessors — an elongated oval. It's also symmetrical and reversible, which eliminates one of the common gripes about previous versions like the rectangular USB-A connectors because there's no wrong way to plug it in.

USB-C cables can carry more power so laptops can be charged faster, and they enable faster data transfer speeds, allowing a big trove of files to be copied from a computer to an external hard drive. At the same time, they can pump out a video signal to a monitor and supply power to connected accessories.

The USB-C connector also is designed to be future-proof. Its shape won't change but newer versions — and the devices they connect to — will come with upgraded capabilities. That means users will have to beware because older devices might not be able to support the latest specs.

It's also slimmer than boxy USB-A plugs, making them a better fit for newer devices that keep getting smaller.

Why is Apple using it?

Apple has long championed its proprietary Lightning connector for iPhones even though

pretty much no one else used it. It resisted the EU's common charging push, citing worries that it would limit innovation and end up hurting consumers.

Apple held out even as others started adding USB-C connectors into their devices. But after the EU proposal won a key approval last year, the U.S. tech giant gave in and didn't look back.

A company executive unveiling the latest iPhone on Tuesday didn't even mention the Lightning cable as she introduced its replacement.

"USB-C has become a universally accepted standard so we're bringing USB-C to iPhone 15," said Kaiann Drance, vice president of iPhone product marketing.

She said USB-C has "been built into Apple products for years" and can now be used on MacBooks, iPads, iPhones and AirPods.

What role did Europe play?

Apple's shift is an example of how European Union regulations often end up rippling around the world — what's known as the "Brussels effect" — as companies decide it's easier to comply than make different products for different regions.

The EU spent more than a decade cajoling the tech industry into adopting a common charging standard. The push to impose rules for a uniform cable are part of the bloc's wider effort to make products sold in the EU more sustainable and cut down on electronic waste.

The EU's common charging rule won't actually take effect until fall 2024. It covers phones, tablets, e-readers, earbuds, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld video game consoles, keyboards and mice, portable speakers and navigation devices.

It also standardizes fast-charging technology and gives consumers the right to choose whether to buy new devices with or without a charger.

Federal judge rules DACA illegal

■ The Supreme Court is expected to make a final decision on the program's legalities.

While a federal judge on Wednesday declared illegal a revised version of a federal policy that prevents the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, he declined to order an immediate end to the program and the protections it offers to recipients.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen agreed with Texas and eight other states suing to stop the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. The judge's ruling was ultimately expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, sending the program's fate before the high court for a third time.

"While sympathetic to the predicament of DACA recipients and their families, this Court has expressed its concerns about the legality of the program for some time," Hanen wrote in his 40-page ruling. "The solution for these deficiencies lies with the legislature, not the executive or judicial branches. Congress, for any number of reasons, has decided not to pass DACA-like legislation ... The Executive Branch cannot usurp the power bestowed on Congress by the Constitution — even to fill a void."

Hanen's order extended the current injunction that had been in place against DACA, which barred the government from approving any new applications, but left the program intact for existing recipients during the ongoing legal review.

Hanen also declined a request by the states to order the program's end within two years. Hanen said his order does not require the federal government to take any actions against DACA recipients, who are known as "Dreamers."

Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, which is representing DACA recipients in the lawsuit, said it will ultimately be up to higher courts, including the Supreme Court, to rule on DACA's legality and whether Texas proved it had been harmed by the program.

"Judge Hanen has consistently erred in resolving both of these issues, and today's ruling is more of the same flawed analysis. We

look forward to continuing to defend the lawful and much-needed DACA program on review in higher courts," Saenz said.

The Biden administration criticized the judge's ruling.

"We are deeply disappointed in today's DACA ruling from the District Court in Southern Texas," press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement Wednesday night. "... As we have long maintained, we disagree with the District Court's conclusion that DACA is unlawful, and will continue to defend this critical policy from legal challenges. While we do so, consistent with the court's order, DHS will continue to process renewals for current DACA recipients and DHS (the Department of Homeland Security) may continue to accept DACA applications."

The Texas Attorney General's Office, which represented the states in the lawsuit, and the U.S. Department of Justice, which represented the federal government, didn't immediately return emails or calls seeking comment.

The states have argued the Obama administration didn't have the authority to first create the program in 2012 because it circumvented Congress.

In 2021, Hanen had declared the program illegal, ruling it had not been subject to public notice and comment periods required under the federal Administrative Procedures Act.

The Biden administration

tried to satisfy Hanen's concerns with a new version of DACA that took effect in October 2022 and was subject to public comments as part of a formal rule-making process.

But Hanen, who was appointed by then-President George W. Bush in 2002, ruled the updated version of DACA was still illegal as the Biden administration's new version was essentially the same as the old version, started under the Obama administration. Hanen had previously said DACA was unconstitutional.

Hanen also had previously ruled the states had standing to file their lawsuit because they had been harmed by the program.

The states have claimed they incur hundreds of millions of dollars in health care, education and other costs when immigrants are allowed to remain in the country illegally. The states that sued are Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, Kansas and Mississippi.

Those defending the program — the federal government, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the state of New Jersey — had argued the states failed to present evidence that any of the costs they allege they have incurred have been tied to DACA recipients. They also argued Congress has given the Department of Homeland Security the legal authority to set immigration enforcement policies.



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