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Trujillo chosen as next mayor

■ Mario Trujillo was elected by his city council colleagues to serve as Downey mayor in 2024

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — Mario Trujillo will serve as Downey mayor in 2024, with Hector Sosa stepping in behind him as mayor pro tem.

The decision — one of the newly established council's first actions — was not unanimous, as Downey's leadership in the upcoming year came down to two nominations between Trujillo and outgoing mayor Claudia M. Frometa.

Trujillo received the first nomination, made by freshly sworn-in councilman Horacio Ortiz Jr. and seconded by Trujillo.

His nomination was challenged by the other freshman councilmember, Dorothy Pemberton, who

preferred to see Frometa continue in back-to-back terms.

Pemberton defended her nomination by saying that Frometa's first stint as mayor in 2021 was not a true full term due to the pandemic.

"This city was on lockdown for half the year with Zoom meetings, no appearances, they couldn't fully represent the city; that's when Mayor Frometa was mayor in 2021," said Pemberton. "She actually had half a term, and she was not able to do everything because we were shut down and [had] protocols in place. This has been the first full year that she has been mayor running our city."

Pemberton added that the city has been "in turmoil" for the last two years, stemming from the exodus of many key staff personnel, but that Frometa had helped "lay the foundation" and built strong relationships with the new staff that have joined the city

in recent months.

"Her mission was to restore order in our council chambers, and she's accomplishing that, and that's a very hard task that she had to deal with," said Pemberton. "I feel, as many do feel in talking with residents, that our city is back on track, and that takes good leadership...I've spoken with so many people that think she's excellent, and she should continue for another year, especially since this is going to be her final term."

The deciding vote was Sosa, who relented his support to Trujillo but did not mince words with him.

"I believe in fair government. I believe in transparency... I can tell you, Mayor Pro Tem Trujillo, that one of the reasons I ran is because I didn't like the direction the city was going in; I didn't appreciate the ousting of [city manager Gilbert] Livas at all, and the mass exodus that came from there," said



Mario Trujillo, pictured at a May 22, 2023 city council meeting, was elected Tuesday to be Downey's mayor for 2024. He was scheduled to be sworn-in Dec. 14. (City of Downey photo)

Sosa. "However, in sense of unity, I'm telling you in front of all these fine people here that I will support you being mayor the next year, for us to come together."

He continued:

"I will tell you straight up, I am not happy with what happened to Gil Livas and the mass exodus that spilled out from there, I'm not a big

fan of your affiliation with [Los Angeles County District Attorney] George Gascon, but with respect to fairness and opportunity, I hope that we can move the city forward together."

The final vote was 3-1 with Pemberton opposed and Frometa abstaining.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	79°	
Saturday	80°	
Sunday	77°	

ON THIS DAY

1503:

French astrologer and physician Nostradamus, the most widely read seer of the Renaissance, was born.

1799:

George Washington, the first president of the United States of America, died at age 67.

1911:

Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole, nearly a year and a half after starting his voyage.

1918:

The United Kingdom held its first general election in which women were allowed to vote.

1968:

Marvin Gaye scored his first No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 with "I Heard It Through The Grapevine."



1979:

British punk rock band the Clash released its breakthrough album, "London Calling."

1985:

Wilma Mankiller became the first woman ever to serve as chief of a major Native American tribe when she was sworn in as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.

1993:

The dramatic film "Philadelphia," starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, had its world premiere; it was the first major Hollywood film to address the AIDS crisis, and Hanks won an Oscar for his performance.

2012:

A mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, left 28 people dead, including 20 children from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

2017:

The Walt Disney Company announces that it would acquire 21st Century Fox, including the 20th Century Fox movie studio, for \$52.4 billion.

BIRTHDAYS

Baseball hall of famer **CRAIG BIGGIO** (58), "High School Musical" star **VANESSA HUDGENS** (35), rapper **OFFSET** (32) and pop singer **TORI KELLY** (31).

Pemberton, Ortiz take oaths

■ New council members Dorothy Pemberton and Horacio Ortiz were sworn into office Tuesday.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — After operating nearly the entire year with just four members, the city council finds itself — once again — whole.

Councilmembers Horacio Ortiz (District 1) and Dorothy Pemberton (District 3) were sworn in on Tuesday.

In his first remarks as a councilman, Ortiz said that he wanted to be "a bridge to help move this council forward."

"My heart goes out to those who opened their doors for me and my team. I got to meet so many faces of Downey," I heard your unique stories of love, hardships, and concerns," said Ortiz. "Know that you have been heard, and I am determined to move Downey forward to a better place for everyone to enjoy."



Dorothy Pemberton, with her daughters, was administered the oath of office by former mayor Rick Rodriguez. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

Pemberton said that "Downey has seen many changes over my lifetime and yours."

"The residents have told me that the two top concerns that they have in the city are safety and homelessness," said Pemberton. "For community safety, I will focus on hiring more officers. We need to continue to offer more incentive programs, and to collaborate with the police

chief on ways to deter crime.."

She continued:

"With homelessness, I will collaborate with both the city and the county to provide outreach, resources, and programs for the homeless, who may also be mentally ill or have substance abuse problems. Keeping our neighborhoods safe is and must be a priority."

She also called for a



Horacio Ortiz Jr. was accompanied by his family as he was sworn into office Tuesday by Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

return to "proactive code enforcement," as well as the development for a dog park and community garden in her district.

New Years Eve

The city of Downey will now observe New Year's Eve as a holiday.

City facilities will be closed on the final day of the year. The city will spend approximately \$40,000 for holiday pay and

compensation time earned for some city positions for the additional holiday hours.

The city already officially recognizes eleven holidays, those being New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Swenson elected school board president

■ Nancy Swenson will lead the Downey Unified Board of Education in 2024.

DOWNEY — Nancy Swenson was elected president of the Downey Unified Board of Education at Tuesday's school board organizational meeting.

Other officers include Linda Salomon Saldaña as vice president and Jose Rodriguez as clerk.

Outgoing President Giovanna Perez-Saab, a member of the Board since 2018, will continue to serve as a board member representing Trustee Area 3.

There to present Perez-

Saab with certificates thanking her for her term as president was Downey Mayor Claudia Formeta and Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo, Ivan Sulic representing Supervisor Janice Hahn and Kayla Terrazas representing Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco.

Unable to be in attendance but was able to provide a certificate of appreciation to be presented on his behalf was Congressman Robert Garcia.

Lastly, Swenson presented outgoing president Perez-Saab with a plaque, on behalf of the entire Board of Education, thanking her for her leadership as president this past year.

"I am grateful to have been able to represent this strong district and all our staff, students, and families this past year. I appreciate the support from the rest of the Board, our Superintendent, our Cabinet, our staff, our teachers and especially our DUSD families," expressed Perez-Saab. "It is really truly when they say, 'alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much' and there's still just so much more I want to get done with the rest of the school board."

Serving on the Board for the last 18 years, Swenson is a lifelong resident of Downey and is a graduate of Warren High School. While on the Board, Swenson has been



Nancy Swenson, left, and Giggy Perez-Saab. (Courtesy photo)

very hands-on as a member of various committees. She has been a member of both the Budget and Audit committees as well as a member of the Character Counts Coalition.

She is an active member of the Assistance League of Downey Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary, Gangs Out of Downey, and other organizations.

Downey Medical Center named to list of 2024 Best Hospitals for Maternity Care

■ The Kaiser hospital received high marks from U.S. News & World Report.

DOWNEY – U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice, has named Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center as a 2024 High Performing hospital for Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy).

This is the highest award a hospital can earn for U.S. News' Best Hospitals for Maternity Care.

"We are honored to be recognized for our maternity care, which is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care for our patients," said Mitch Winnik, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center.

"This recognition reflects the dedication of our compassionate health care professionals who strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for every family's journey into parenthood."

Best Hospitals for Maternity Care is an annual evaluation designed to



Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center is one of the best hospitals in the nation for maternity care, according to a new ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

assist expectant parents, in consultation with their prenatal care team, in making informed decisions about where to receive maternity care that best meets their family's needs.

Downey Medical Center earned a High Performing designation in recognition of maternity care as measured by factors such as newborn complication rates.

The medical center joined 13 other Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Southern California in being listed on

U.S. News' national list of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care.

"This accolade underscores our commitment to excellence in maternal health," said Dr. J.T. Lee, area medical director, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center.

"Our physicians and care teams prioritize providing a standard of care that reflects our dedication to delivering the highest quality maternity services to every patient every time."

U.S. News evaluated

hospitals from across the nation that provide labor and delivery services and submitted detailed data to the publication for analysis; 680 hospitals, an all-time high, participated in this year's U.S. News survey.

Fewer than half – 46% – of all hospitals that offer maternity care and participated in the survey received a High Performing designation.

"Hospitals that receive a High Performing designation as part of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care meet a high standard in caring for parents with uncomplicated pregnancies," said Jennifer Winston, health data scientist at U.S. News.

"These hospitals have C-section rates that are 26% lower, and newborn complication rates that are 37% lower than unrecognized hospitals."

The U.S. News Best Hospitals for Maternity Care methodology is based entirely on objective measures of quality, such as C-section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, newborn complication rates, exclusive breast milk feeding rates, early elective delivery rates, birthing-friendly practices and transparency on racial/ethnic disparities, among other measures.

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

You are suffering from cough, body aches, headaches, and a mild fever. Do you have RSV, COVID, a common cold, or the flu? The answer is...it's difficult to say! Welcome to my world; all of these diseases can look remarkably similar, and are quite common at this time of the year. We will touch on each here, but with flu season now upon us, let's focus on that.



Flu season peaks between December and February. It's caused by a variety of viruses that are transmitted through droplets of moisture when we cough, sneeze, or even just speak. We can be contagious before symptoms appear, and for seven days after. Flu viruses can settle and accumulate on door handles, kitchen surfaces, telephones, remote controls, etc. Note that COVID viruses are far less likely to be transmitted through surface contact.

Flu symptoms include cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches and pain, runny and stuffy nose, fatigue, and fever. The flu typically lasts for five to seven days, but in the very young, old, or weakened, it can lead to significant complications, including pneumonia. RSV and COVID typically last longer, for up to two weeks, with similar symptoms. COVID may also lead to nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. The common cold, on the other hand, is typically mild, lasting under a week, with symptoms which include cough, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, fevers, and watery eyes.


A nose or throat swab can usually diagnose flu, COVID, and RSV. However, in the peak of flu season, your doctor will likely treat flu if the symptoms fit, unless there is a different diagnosis.

Treatment for the flu (and for all of these viruses) will usually involve nothing more than plenty of fluids, rest, and acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Signs of a more serious flu include difficulty breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; persistent dizziness, confusion, or inability to arouse; severe weakness; or a fever that does not go away. Prescription antiviral medication (like Tamiflu or Relenza) is available, and of course, a severe case requires hospitalization.

The best approach to avoiding viruses is prevention. Vaccines are available for flu, COVID, and RSV. Clean surfaces before touching them, and carefully wash your hands before touching your face. If you are around many people, assume that some of them are carrying various viruses, and feel free to wear a mask.



At this time of the year in particular, we look forward to spending time with family and friends. However, if you demonstrate signs of contagious disease, you MUST stay home for everybody's protection, and remain home until any fever has been gone (without use of medication) for 24 hours. If you must leave home, I urge you to wear a face mask and to wash your hands often.

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.



In loving memory of my father Benjamin Hobbs
August 1935~November 2023

Born and raised in Southern California, serving 8 yrs in the Air Force right after high school. He spent most of his career in aerospace, which included working on the space shuttle at Rockwell. In 1965 he got married and had my sister and me. He was a family man who always put us first. Sadly our mother passed away when we were young, leaving my dad to raise two daughters on his own. He was the best father anyone could have asked for, very loving and caring, making many sacrifices to give us a better life. He retired at 62 and spent most of his free time working on projects. He was fascinated with electronics and was an avid watch collector. In 2015 he suffered a major stroke. He made a remarkable recovery after spending a month at Rancho Los Amigos. He was a survivor, the strongest person I knew. He appreciated the simple things, like a nice sunny day, a good meal and a hot cup of coffee but most of all spending time with his family. In 2020 we experienced another devastating loss, my sister passed away. We got through it together with another reminder that tomorrow is never promised. He enjoyed life to the fullest but went through a lot in the end and I will always be saddened by that. After spending almost two months in the hospital, he got his final wish to come home. He died a week later with me by his side, holding his hand. He was a man of honor, a man to be respected and will never be forgotten. He was not only a father, he was a father in law, a grandfather, a great grandfather, and a veteran. He was loved dearly and will be missed by everyone, especially by me. I was truly blessed to have such a wonderful father. He was my best friend, my everything and he meant the world to me. "I love you and miss you daddy, with all my heart" ❤️

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EVERYDAY SAFE



Bastards Canteen reopens after fire

■ A fire in a neighboring unit forced Bastards to close for nearly a year, but they're returning better than ever.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – After being closed for nearly a year, Bastards American Canteen is nearly ready for a full reopening, coming back stronger and better than before.

On Dec. 19 last year, Bastards was unexpectedly forced to shut its doors after a fire at neighboring Peking China spread and caused considerable damage.

"You wake up to that call, it's never good news," said owner Nick Velez.

While not nearly in as bad of shape as its neighbor, Velez said that a lot needed to be done "just to get back into play."

"It took at least three or four months just to get that smoke out, the smoke smell out. It was very, very bad. It smelled like a chimney in here; that took a while to get cleaned out," said Velez. "They had to repair the roof... It took us about a year; almost a year to take care of all these small little tasks. They seem like small tasks, but they're all time consuming and very tedious."

Meanwhile, Velez was also juggling a second location in Temecula, which opened a year ago.

"It's been year after



One year after a neighboring fire caused its unexpected closure, Bastards Canteen is poised for a full-reopening at the beginning of next year. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

year where it's constantly something is going on," said Velez. "Whether it's losing my business partner and best friend, to opening up a new restaurant, to my main restaurant, my headquarters, Bastards catching fire."

Velez says it was "difficult to stay motivated." Rumors began to spread that Bastards would not return, or would even be sold.

"I heard those rumors too," said Velez. "I would get calls, I would get text messages...it's funny, because all this is scuttlebutt."

"When I heard it at first, I wanted to nip it in the bud and put something on social media, but for

one I didn't have the time, the energy or the time to entertain that. So, I said, 'Just keep pushing on with the mission.' Let everybody know about Temecula, and let's get people to Temecula who want to support us, and when it's time to reopen, you better believe we're going to reopen with a bang."

Velez and Bastards "kept pushing forward," but when the time to open drew near, there was a problem.

"Once you repair that, you still need to hire, you still need to train, you still need to order your initial inventories for front of the house, back of the house," said Velez.

That's when Velez was

struck with an idea.

"We were blessed to meet a nonprofit organization called Veterans Stand Together. They operate out of Downey / South Gate area... What they do is they focus on vocational training for veterans," said Velez. "I approached them and said, 'Hey, I have an idea. What if we put together a hospitality program for veterans.'"

Under the new free program, veterans are brought in and taught mixology and restaurant operation for two weeks. The program kicked off in October, and has already trained around 40 veterans.

"From October, we hired

100% of those veterans," said Velez.

Velez described it as a learning curve, saying that many of the veterans have never worked in "the food and beverage industry."

"All they've done is serve their country honorably. They've put on a uniform, they went to war and they came back," said Velez. "And now, they're working in the same trench lines that I'm working, that Calvin [Spencer] worked in, and they're getting a feel to what it's like to be a restaurateur."

The need for community service also remains important.

"This is something we did before the fire. This is something that has always separated us," said Velez. "We've always done this, 'Hey, how can we help?' Yeah, we served our country, but how can we serve our community now? And that's what separates us from any other restaurant in Downey, in Southern California, is that we have a nonprofit embedded into what we do."

"We're here not only to

help you, give you good food, give you good drinks, give you good service. We're also here to continue to serve you, to serve our community, whether it's finding you a job, getting you help, getting you help with your VA claim, or donating food to the community. That's something that we're here to do, and that's something that we take very seriously since we took our oath for this country."

Bastards reopened its doors back in November for an event celebrating the Marine Corps. birthday, though, says the restaurant is still in a bit of a "soft-opening mode."

But Bastards is poised to return to full operation come the start of the new year; they've even added pizza to the menu.

"I want to invite everyone to come into their home, because this place is not only a sanctuary and a place for veterans, it's a place where the community and veterans can unite."

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Paramount company ordered to pay \$10M for customs fraud

PARAMOUNT – A Paramount-based clothing wholesale company was ordered to pay nearly \$10.4 million and placed on probation for five years Friday for undervaluing imported garments in a scheme to avoid paying millions of dollars in customs duties and for doing business with a woman linked to Mexico’s Sinaloa drug cartel.

Ghacham Inc. -- doing business under the name Platini -- was also ordered by U.S. District Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong to create and maintain an anti-money-laundering compliance and ethics program and submit to review by a third-party monitor, who will report to the court on an annual basis, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

The company pleaded guilty in December 2022 to one count of conspiracy to pass false and fraudulent papers through a customhouse and one count of conspiracy to engage in any transaction or dealing in properties of a specially designated narcotics trafficker under a statute known as the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. This is the first criminal conviction in the district under the Kingpin Act.

Mohamed Daoud Ghacham, 39, of Bell -- a Ghacham Inc. executive -- pleaded guilty in December 2022 to one federal count of conspiracy to pass false and fraudulent papers through a customhouse. He is expected to be sentenced in the coming months.

According to documents filed in Los Angeles federal court, Ghacham Inc. imported clothing from China and submitted fraudulent invoices to U.S. Customs and Border Protection that undervalued the shipments, allowing the company to avoid paying the full amounts of tariffs owed on the imports.

From July 2011 and February 2021, Ghacham Inc. and Mohamed Ghacham undervalued imported garments by more than \$32 million and failed to pay about \$6,390,792 in customs duties.

Ghacham Inc. also illegally conducted business with Maria Tiburcia Cazarez Pérez in violation of the Kingpin Act, which prohibits people and businesses in the United States from doing business with “specially designated narcotics traffickers,” according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Cazarez Pérez was previously listed under the act for her involvement in the financial network of leaders of the Mexico-based Sinaloa Cartel. Cazares Salazar was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for drug trafficking activities in federal cases out of San Diego and New York City.

“The company flouted the Kingpin Act, doing business with member of a money laundering network used by ... two of the world’s most notorious drug traffickers,” prosecutors argued in a sentencing memorandum. “It cheated taxpayers out of millions, both to save itself money and to secure an unfair edge against its competition in the Southern California garment market. And it did so through a sustained, extensive effort over the course of more than a decade.”

City of Downey earns clean energy award

DOWNEY – The City of Downey was awarded the Clean Energy Champion Award by Southern California Edison (SCE) on Friday, Sept. 22 during their 13th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. The Clean Energy Champion Award is given to an individual or company, which has shown significant or remarkable savings through clean energy installations in partnership with SCE.

The City’s clean energy projects have consisted of Well Rehabilitation projects, LED street light installs, and facility light retrofits.

Savings between 2013 and 2022 were:

- Total Net energy savings amongst all projects: 1,356,146 kWh/year
- Total energy costs savings: \$353,449.00/year
- Total amount of SCE-issued incentive dollars from 2013-2022: \$721,868.01

Matt Robertson, Downey’s Superintendent of Utilities, stated “In the Maintenance and Utilities Division, it’s important we keep costs low for our residents, so we really appreciate the partnership with SCE through their incentive programs. These programs save the City and residents money through less usage and operating costs.”

Other recently completed clean energy projects include the installation of solar panels at City parking lots and facilities, and charging stations for EV vehicles.

“This award recognizes our city’s commitment to environmental stewardship through a variety of clean energy projects in partnership with Southern California Edison. I commend our Public Works Department’s efforts to create a greener and more sustainable future for the Downey community,” said Mayor Claudia M. Frometa.

Unclaimed bodies from 2020 laid to rest

LOS ANGELES – An estimated 1,937 unclaimed individuals who died in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic were laid to rest Thursday.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, along with the Department of Health Services, Office of Decedent Affairs and the Los Angeles General Medical Center Chaplains, held non-denominational interfaith burial ceremony for the county’s unclaimed dead at the L.A. County Cemetery.

Local faith leaders presided over the burial of decedents in a single communal grave, offering a “compassionate opportunity” to pay respects to individuals who died as a result of the challenges of the pandemic.

Since 1896, the ceremony has paid homage to those who have died but remain unclaimed. The Office of Decedent Affairs manages cremation and burial for indigent/unclaimed individuals who die within the county’s jurisdiction.

These individuals may be homeless or have no next of kin. There is a three-year waiting period between the year of death and burial to allow family members to claim cremated remains.

Shortly before the ceremony, ashes are placed in a single communal grave with a marker indicating the year of cremation.

The Office of Decedent Affairs works with families to facilitate remains retrieval before burial.

Sprouts to open grocery store at Downey Landing

DOWNEY – Sprouts Farmers Market submitted plans today to open a grocery store at the former Bed, Bath & Beyond location at the Downey Landing.

The store is anticipated to open by October 2024, city officials said.

“This is a significant milestone and economic development project that has been in the making for several months,” said Mayor Claudia Frometa. “I want our residents to know we heard them, I heard them. I want to extend our gratitude to our amazing city staff and city manager for their incredible work on this great new addition to our Downey business community.”

Frometa hinted that other major economic development news will be announced soon.

“I have been really advocating for Sprouts in our community, along with other really important economic development projects that will also be announced shortly,” said Frometa.

Former Kaiser nurse wins \$41.49 million in retaliation suit

LOS ANGELES – A jury has awarded \$41.49 million to a former nurse who said Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. retaliated against her for complaining about patient safety and quality of care and fired her in 2019 over a minor policy violation.

The Los Angeles Superior Court panel on Monday granted Maria Gatchalian \$11.49 million in compensatory damages, including \$9 million for the emotional distress, plus \$30 million in punitive damages.

“Maria had the courage to speak up about patient safety but Kaiser tried to silence her,” plaintiff’s attorney David deRubertis said. “This diligent jury spoke in a loud and clear voice telling Kaiser that it needs to put patients over profits. We hope this verdict will get Kaiser to focus more on patient safety and quality of care and less on the business of medicine.”

Gatchalian worked for the Woodland Hills Kaiser Permanente Hospital since 1989, first as a NICU registered nurse, then as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit charge nurse following her promotion in 2006.

In their court papers, Kaiser attorneys maintained that the 30-year employee admitted that in 2019 she took off her shoes and socks and placed her bare feet on an isolette, a medical device that holds sick or premature newborn babies. The defense attorneys included a photo of Gatchalian doing so in their court papers.

“Plaintiff’s conduct was unacceptable, made even more so by the fact that she was a charge nurse, a leader of the nursing team and a long-term employee who knew better,” Kaiser lawyers stated.

Having lost confidence in Gatchalian, Kaiser “made the difficult decision to terminate her employment” in 2019, according to the defense lawyers’ court papers.

But according to the suit filed in April 2021, Gatchalian raised repeated concerns to management about quality of care and patient safety, mostly stemming from Kaiser’s alleged understaffing. Multiple witnesses said during trial that the facility was undermanned.

Gatchalian maintained that Kaiser management repeatedly discouraged her from submitting formal complaints through the normal process, which her attorneys maintained was done so Kaiser could avoid conducting an investigation and taking corrective action. The plaintiff’s lawyers further maintained that Kaiser placed the value of profits ahead of patient well-being.

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It's time to cancel the Jeep Cherokee

The Jeep Cherokee brand and its related marketing is tone deaf in today's context.

By Gary D. Rhodes

Gary D. Rhodes, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is a professor of media at Oklahoma Baptist University.

It has been nearly a half-century since the Jeep Cherokee, a military-turned-consumer vehicle, was introduced to the market, stealing my people's name. Indigenous Americans remain branded, commercially and financially, in a way no other people are. It's time for that to end.

The American Motors Corporation began manufacturing the SJ Cherokee in 1974. Even as the company itself has been repeatedly bought and sold, its owners — currently Stellantis — have held fast to the Cherokee brand, with the word brand having particularly insidious meaning in this context. Stellantis is a multinational automobile manufacturer based in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a highly developed country, but Stellantis, apparently, is not a highly developed company, at least not when it comes to racism.

Some have claimed that the Jeep Cherokee is a tribute to my people. Quick history lesson: In the 19th century, the U.S. military forced my people onto the Trail of Tears — an involuntary displacement of Indigenous tribes from their homes in the Southeast to land in the West.

Jeep began as a U.S. manufacturer of military vehicles during World War II before it started to produce consumer vehicles in the mid-1940s. One of the earlier Jeep Cherokee commercials featured military-style music. In the ad, an Army Jeep drives up beside the Cherokee, a drill sergeant's voice shouting questions at the consumer vehicle. All that's missing is the cavalry.

Sculptor James Earle Fraser's famous 1918 statue, "End of the Trail," commemorated the conclusion of forced removal. But for Jeep Cherokee, the trail continues. Television commercials for the vehicle broadcast as recently as 2011 have depicted the U.S. military. And two Jeep Cherokee commercials from 2004 proclaim the vehicle to be "trail rated." This might be because of simple incompetence, but there are times when the line between incompetence and evil is blurred, if not porous.

I asked Stellantis for an interview on these matters. They accepted my questions, but then refused to answer. Among my questions was whether Stellantis has ever donated to any Cherokee cause, after making millions of dollars by stealing our name. No answer presumably means no.

Stellantis claims to be in touch with Cherokees on this issue. But that is, at best, an overstatement. It has spoken to the Cherokee Nation's elected principal chief, but he no more speaks for all of us than President Biden speaks for all Americans. Moreover, there are three federally recognized Cherokee tribes, but there's no record of Stellantis ever speaking to the other two.

As recently as 2021, Stellantis approved a particularly horrible tagline for the Jeep Cherokee: "Wildly civilized." The tone deafness of that language is staggering in today's context. It speaks clearly to the idea of the

Cherokees' "salvation" at the hands of White settlers who could civilize us.

Crucially, the phrase possesses particular resonance with regard to the Cherokee, as White settlers in the 18th century designated us one of the "Five Civilized Tribes." That term became commonly used during the 19th and 20th centuries to identify those tribes that had adopted some aspects of White settler culture in lieu of warfare and clearly suggests that we were "uncivilized" before coming under the influence of Anglo-Saxons.

"Wildly civilized" — wild before contact with Whites, civilized after. Most people today believe this terminology to be outdated, even racist. Imagine replacing the second word in "Jeep Cherokee" with the name of any other ethnic group. That would be obviously racist, of course. But Stellantis apparently doesn't see it that way.

During the 20th century, Americans could use a handful of "Indian head" pennies to purchase a Big Chief writing tablet, or buffalo nickels, featuring a Native American on the obverse, to buy a pouch of Red Man tobacco. As of last year, Red Man tobacco is no more. Gone, too, is the Washington Redskins football team name. Enlightenment — with an assist from public pressure — shed its glow on the owners of those enterprises.

The darkness of the past cannot be changed, but the darkness of the present can and should be. Enlightenment has not yet come to Stellantis. But it will. We Cherokee are a patient people. And progress will win out, however slowly.

The fires of greed and wrong are extinguished eventually by the waters of all that is right.

One way we can bring gun violence under control

Researchers in Chicago have discovered an effective way to curb gun violence.

By Andrew V. Papachristos

Andrew V. Papachristos is the John G. Searle professor of sociology, director of the Institute for Policy Research and faculty director of the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science at Northwestern University.

Over the past decade, excluding accidents and suicides, more than 300,000 Americans have been shot, and nearly half of them have died. Millions more have suffered trauma, either as witnesses to shootings or as friends and family members of victims. By every measure, the physical, financial and emotional toll of gun violence in our society is staggering.

But recent research has uncovered very real hope that getting gun violence under control is not only possible but also within our reach in the next decade.

Gun violence is especially acute in cities such as Chicago, where I lead a research team that evaluates community violence intervention (CVI) programs. Over the past five years, we have evaluated a program called Chicago CRED, which serves hundreds of mostly young men on Chicago's South and West sides who are at extreme risk of being involved in gun violence.

CRED provides participants with a modest stipend, a life coach, trauma treatment, education and job training. Among the metrics we track are the rate at which CRED participants are arrested for a violent crime and the rate of their getting shot, or "victimizations."

Our study, published Nov. 6 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, shows that CRED participants who finished the two-year program experienced a 73 percent reduction in violence-related

arrests compared with a similar group who did not take part in the program.

Most participants stopped carrying guns, getting into fights, robbing or shooting people, etc. By any measure, the program is a success. Most important, it reduces gun crimes, saving lives.

What our research does not yet show is a decline in the number of CRED participants being shot that could be directly attributable to the program. That doesn't mean the program didn't reduce victimizations. On the contrary, earlier research on CRED suggests that participants are less likely to be shot after joining the program. But, in the technical world of social research, we cannot yet make a direct connection, although a correlation exists.

CRED participants live in neighborhoods with hundreds of armed and active street factions. In the handful of communities the program serves, it is still too small-scale to meet the level of need. By our estimate, for every CRED participant, there are at least three other young men at equally high risk. Similar ratios apply to CVI programs in many other Chicago communities suffering extreme levels of gun violence. As a result, convincing young people to put down their guns and pull their lives together is no guarantee of safety. As one CRED participant put it, "Playing defense can only go so far if the rest of the neighborhood is still playing offense."

CVI is an increasingly common approach to reducing gun violence in cities across the United States, from Boston to D.C. to New York to Los Angeles.

Chicago is rapidly becoming a leader in the field. Today, more than 20 CVI organizations serve 37 of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. The total public and private investments from the city, county, state and private sources exceed \$100 million per year.

Plans are underway to greatly expand CVI programs

in Chicago over the next five to 10 years. As the work proceeds, we offer three key insights from our research.

The first is that it is critically important to keep participants in CVI programs. Rearrest and victimization are much more likely among program dropouts than among those who complete. The longer participants stay safe and avoid arrest, the more likely they are to leave street life behind.

Second, CVI must be integrated into an overall strategy that includes other public safety actors, including fair and just policing. In fact, we have documented how outreach workers have worked to support and enhance larger public safety efforts in Chicago, in part by successfully mediating hundreds of disputes and negotiating dozens of non-aggression agreements and peace treaties among opposing street gangs in hot spots.

Finally, we need to recognize that CVI alone cannot resolve much larger community conditions, such as poverty, segregation and unemployment. The absence of opportunity drives crime, which drives further disinvestment. We need to break the cycle and give people who would otherwise be engaged in gun violence an opportunity to enter and thrive in the legal economy.

The body of research supporting CVI is growing every day. We know that CVI programs can change people. We don't yet know whether they can change whole communities. But it's time to find out.

Gun Violence in America

As of Dec. 7, at least 40,167 people have died from gun violence in the U.S. this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive — which is an average of almost 118 deaths each day.

Of those who died, 1,306 were teens and 276 were children.

Deaths by suicide have made up the vast majority of gun violence deaths this year. There's been 22,506 deaths by gun suicide this year, an average of about 66 deaths by suicide per day in 2023.

The majority of these deaths have occurred in Texas, California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois and Louisiana.

The grim tally of gun violence deaths includes 1,344 people killed in police officer-involved shootings. Forty-six police officers have been fatally shot in the line of duty this year.

There also have been 1,472 "unintentional" shootings, the Gun Violence Archive shows.

There have been more than 632 mass shootings in 2023 so far, which is defined by the Gun Violence Archive as an incident in which four or more victims are shot or killed. These mass shootings have led to 597 deaths and 2,380 injuries.

The Oct. 25 mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, is the deadliest shooting of the year and one of the deadliest in recent decades. It left at least 18 people dead and 13 more injured, according to Maine Gov. Janet Mills.

The U.S. has surpassed 39,000 deaths from gun violence every year since 2014, according to data from Gun Violence Archive. Still, gun deaths are down from 2016, 2017 and 2018, when the total number of deaths each year surpassed 50,000. There were 44,310 such deaths in 2022.

Proud of a clean campaign

Dear Editor:

I want to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everybody who put their faith in me during my campaign for Downey City Council, District 3.

To my hardworking volunteer team, I am inspired by your commitment and tireless effort from the very beginning. To my campaign donors, I am humbled that you not only put your trust in me, but your hard-earned money as well.

Most of all, I am extremely grateful to those Downey residents who took the time to vote for me — THANK YOU! I appreciate the time and effort you took to cast your ballot in my name. I am fully aware of the preciousness of each vote, and I am humbled that you saw fit to give it to me.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Dorothy Pemberton on her win. More than anything I want our great city of Downey to move forward, and I wish Ms. Pemberton all the best over the next 12 months of the council term.

I am so very proud that we ran a clean campaign. I will make sure that our team conducts itself with the same class and dignity when we run for the full 4-year term on the Downey City Council in 2024.

May God bless everyone and happy holidays.

Gil Legaspi
Downey

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The Dodgers signed Ohtani. Now they need to get greedy.

■ If the Dodgers want to solidify their push for a championship, the Dodger's can't stop at signing Ohtani.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

A 10-year fantasy has become reality. A season of paying less, has paid off. Dodger fans rejoice: Shohei Ohtani is coming to Los Angeles.

There is reason to be ecstatic. Ohtani is, without a doubt, the best baseball player that we have seen in our lifetime, and now, he joins an already star-studded squad that includes the likes of Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman.

But that's the thing: the Dodgers always have a stacked team with playoff expectations. It's always anticipated that the Dodgers will make long playoff runs, and bids for World Series Championships.

The Dodgers have played October baseball for the past 11 years, 10 of which as the National League West Division Champions. For all that success and effort, they have won one World Series (and naysayers will say it doesn't count because it was during the shortened 2020 season).

Worse, Los Angeles's World Series dreams have been dashed early by division rivals (and let's be honest, inferior teams) for two years straight.

It's time to put the pedal to the metal, especially while Betts, Freeman, and Ohtani are in their primes. Ohtani is a huge boost to the team, but he alone will not get the Dodgers over the hump in 2024.

It's time for Los Angeles to get greedy.

If there was anything that stopped the Dodgers in their tracks last year, it was the utter collapse of their starting rotation heading into October.

The Dodgers entered the post season with an injured (and consistently inconsistent



in the postseason) Clayton Kershaw, a rookie in Bobby Miller, and a home-run happy Lance Lynn; a shell of what was once a formidable pitching staff that included the likes of Walker Buehler, Tony Gonsolin, Dustin May, and Julio Urias.

It's still anyone's guess whether or not Kershaw will return next season; every off-season, there are talks of him heading home to Texas (be it to play or retire). If he does come back, it won't be until much later in the season after recently having shoulder surgery.

Buehler is expected to come back from Tommy John surgery. Along with the natural question marks that come along with that, he may be put on limited innings, according to General Manager Brandon Gomes (per an X post by Bill Plunkett on Nov. 8).

Speaking of Tommy John, Gonsolin is likely out

for 2024. May could return, but Athletic reporter Fabian Ardaya reported that the Dodgers "are not going to push" him.

By no one's fault other than his own, Urias is done as a Dodger.

Ohtani's signing is an amazing splash to an already potent line-up, but while his bat is a huge addition, he won't see a Dodger mound until at least 2025.

The Dodgers desperately need to fortify their starting rotation.

If you follow the rumors, it seems like the Dodgers are already looking to do that. They have been linked to possible trades for Dylan Cease of the Chicago White Sox and Tyler Glasnow of the Tampa Bay Rays, as well as to free agents Yoshinobu Yamamoto (considered to be the number two free agent this offseason) and 2023 Cy Young winner Blake Snell.

To really shore things up, the Dodgers should look to bring at least one (if not two, or three) of these pitchers on board.

If I could have it my way, I'd sign Yamamoto and trade for Cease and Glasnow. Cease is young with a little more team control, and while having been largely injured over the last three seasons, Glasnow has been solid when healthy. I think it would be worth the risk (and to a certain extent, fun) to see how both would do in a Dodger's pitching system that has revitalized more than one hurler.

And to be completely fair, Snell is admittedly probably a better pitcher than the latter two mentioned, but he still gives me a case of the "Padres ick" that I can't seem to shake. Still, if the Dodgers were to sign him and he helped us win a World Series, I'm sure I could get over it.

The Dodgers also need to add another right-handed bat, and with Betts moving to the infield full-time, an outfielder would be ideal. Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Teoscar Hernandez come to mind, though I don't think anyone would be mad at a Kike Hernandez reunion.

However, in the spirit of going all out, I present a name whom I'd love to see in Dodger Blue.

Like many others, I was captivated by Randy Arozarena during the 2020 World Series. The 2021 Rookie of the year slashed .264 / .364 / .425 last season, with 23 home runs, 83 RBIs, and 22 stolen bases. Where his numbers really explode, however, is in the postseason, where he has a career .336 / .414 / .690 slash line. Arozarena brings power and speed, and shines in the bright lights where other Dodger's faltered last year.

Not to mention, he's just fun to watch and brings an exciting energy to the game, a great fit for LA.

Imagine it: Arozarena slides into second for a double. He picks himself up, dusts himself off, faces the dugout and crosses his arms. Mookie, Freddie, and Ohtani stare right back at him, smiles across their faces and arms in the air, waving side to side. Tell me it wouldn't be electric at Chavez Ravine; Dodger

fans would undoubtedly accept and embrace him with open arms.

The Dodgers landed the big fish, but their work isn't done; it's time to double, or even triple down.

Does it border on excessive? Yeah, probably.

But momentum is a helluva drug, especially in baseball. Right now, the Dodgers have it, and they should use every bit of it to bring a championship back to LA.

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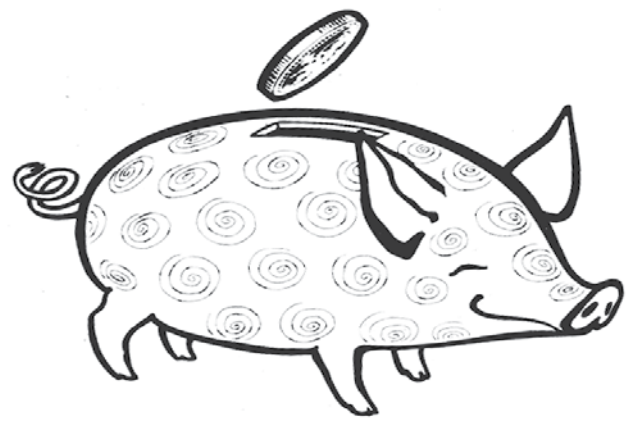
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11/30/23, 12/7/23, 12/14/23

Title Order No. : 95527867 Trustee Sale No. : 86615 Loan No. : 399440745 APN : 636-018-011 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 1/27/2023 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 1/3/2024 at 10:30 AM, CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 2/1/2023 as Instrument No. 20230065526 in book N/A, page N/A of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: VIVIAN G. LEE AND LINH H. TRAN, WIFE AND HUSBAND AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor VANNESSA ARESAPACOHAGA, as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn

by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766, NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE - continued all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: LOT 19 OF TRACT NO. 16653, IN THE CITY OF DOWNEY, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 390, PAGES 11 AND 12 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8618 PARROT AVENUE IN THE CITY OF DOWNEY, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CA 90240. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of trustee created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$89,530.46 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where

the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. DATE: 12/5/2023 CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE, as Trustee 8190 EAST KAISER BLVD., ANAHEIM HILLS, CA 92808 PHONE: 714-283-2180 FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION LOG ON TO: www.stoxposting.com CALL: 844-477-7869 PATRICIO S. INCE, VICE PRESIDENT CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALIST IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. *NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid on a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of the outstanding lien that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 844-477-7869, or

visit this internet Web site www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case T.S.# 86615. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844) 477-7869, or visit this internet website www.STOXPOSTING.com, using the file number assigned to this case 86615 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid; by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code; so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

STOX 942250
The Downey Patriot
12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23



Dear Downey Patriot Valued Reader,

On behalf of The Downey Patriot, I am thrilled to announce the establishment of the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism, a non-profit foundation launched by the Downey Patriot newspaper. As a cherished member of our community, I wanted to share this exciting news and invite you to be part of our journey.

For several years, the Downey Patriot has been dedicated to providing reliable and unbiased news coverage, championing the principles of journalism, and serving as a beacon of truth in our community. We strongly believe that independent journalism is a cornerstone of a thriving democracy, and it is with this conviction that we have founded the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism.

The Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to ensure the sustainability and integrity of local news reporting, fostering an informed and engaged citizenry. Our mission is threefold: to support the training and professional development of journalists, to promote investigative journalism, and to enhance access to reliable local news for all residents of our community.

To achieve these goals, we are seeking tax-deductible donations from generous individuals like yourself who share our commitment to independent journalism. Your support will play a crucial role in empowering local journalists, enabling them to cover important stories, hold those in power accountable, and provide unbiased information to our community.

With your contribution, we will establish scholarships and training programs for aspiring journalists, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to uphold the principles of ethical and accurate reporting. We will also dedicate resources to support investigative journalism projects, fostering in-depth reporting that uncovers truths, reveals corruption, and sheds light on critical issues affecting our community.

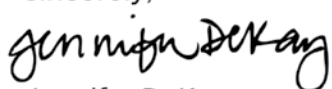
Additionally, the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to address the challenge of access to local news in underserved areas. We will explore innovative approaches, such as expanding our digital presence, partnering with community organizations, and launching initiatives to bridge the information gap for those who face barriers to accessing reliable news sources.

We kindly invite you to contribute to the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism and become a vital part of our mission. Your tax-deductible donation, no matter the size, will make a difference in supporting local journalism and nurturing a vibrant democracy.

Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to the ideals of independent journalism. Together, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that our community remains well-informed, engaged, and empowered. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide further information on how your contribution will be utilized. Please contact our office at (562) 904-3668 or jennifer@thedowneypatriot.com.

We look forward to your support and the possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,



Jennifer DeKay
Chief Executive Officer
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism

Donations can be mailed to:
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism
10927 Downey Avenue, Suite C
Downey, California 90241

DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Wreaths Across America, 10 am. Join Wreaths Across America as they place wreaths on the graves of local veterans. Downey Cemetery, 9073 Gardendale St.

Movie Night, 7 pm. Catch a free screening of "Back to the Future." Doors open at 6 pm. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Santa Claus Visit, 5-8 pm. Enjoy fun family-friendly activities and bring your camera for photos with Santa Claus, who arrives at 6 pm. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Parents Night Out, 5-8 pm. Are you a last minute holiday shopper? Need time to wrap gifts without the kids around? Need a break from the holiday hustle and bustle? Drop off the kids and let them enjoy plenty of food, hands-on activities, games and science fun while you take care of holiday necessities. \$10 per child, ages 5-12. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Coping with Stress Workshop, 5:30 pm. This four-week workshop offers participants an opportunity to learn about stress and how to gain better control of it. Workshops will cover topics on mind and body connection, tuning into your body, tuning into your mind and improving communication skills. Other classes are Jan. 11, Jan. 18 and Feb. 1. Each class is one hour. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Hands-Only CPR Training, 5 pm. This one-hour training will consist of a group session, CPR training without mouth-to-mouth breaths. The class is led by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and is not a CPR certified course. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Book Lovers Club, 12 pm. Join a lively book discussion in small

group setting. This month's title is "Tom Lake: A Novel" by Ann Patchett. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

A Night in Monte Carlo, 7-10 pm. A casino night fundraiser benefiting the 10-20 Club. Dress in dapper attire while enjoying casino table games, drinks and appetizers, with raffle and cash prizes. Luz Perez of the TLC Family Resource Center will be presented the 10-20 Club's Youth Legacy Award. The Arc, 12049 Woodruff Ave.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Astronaut Commemoration, 10 am to 5 pm. Come remember the astronauts of the Challenger, Columbia and Apollo I, all of whom we lost on our trek to the stars. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Robert Cazimero in Concert, 3 pm. Robert Cazimero is a Grammy-nominated recording artist who has performed from the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York to stages in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle. See him live at the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Recruitment Expo. Learn about employment opportunities with the City of Downey. The expo begins at 10 am for pre-registered participants and 1 pm for walk-ins. Sign up by calling (562) 904-7223. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

America's Ideal Miss California Pageant, 2 pm. Young women will compete for prizes, scholarships and the title of Ideal Miss California. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Book Lovers Club, 12 pm. Join a lively book discussion in small group setting. This month's title is "Still Life: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel" by Louise Penny.

Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Children's Cooking Class. Create something delicious while learning about different cultures through food and healthy eating habits. Classes are from 10:30-11:30 am for ages 3-5 and 3:30-4:15 for ages 6-12. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Coffee with the Superintendent, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Sussman Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

TLC 5K, 8 am. The TLC 5K run/walk returns to Apollo Park with proceeds benefiting Downey Unified School District's TLC Family Resource Center. Register online at dusd.net/tlc5K

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Family Night, 6-7:30 pm. Enjoy family fun with stories, music, crafts, and more. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Stomp, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Stomp, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Emergency Preparedness, 5 pm. Are you prepared for a disaster? In this one hour class, learn how to prepare your family for disasters and evacuations, identify three

types of LA County emergencies, how to connect with others before and after an emergency, and how to make a plan and supplies for your emergency kits. Presentation is provided by the Los Angeles County of Public Health. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Book Lovers Club, 12 pm. Join a lively book discussion in small group setting. This month's title is "The Indigo Girl" by Natasha Boyd. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Bunny Patch, 9 am to 1 pm. Carnival games, photo booth, petting zoo, inflatables, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Golden Park, 8840 Golden Ave.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Springtime," the concert features performances of Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 "Italian," and Mozart's Piano Concert No. 20 in D minor with Cameron Akioka on piano. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

The Dennis Kamakahi Music Festival, 3 pm. The Rev. Dennis Kamakahi is considered one of the most prolific Hawaiian songwriters of all time. Watch him perform live at the Downey Theatre, joined by special guests. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Coffee with the Superintendent, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Lewis Elementary, 13220 Bellflower Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Carpenters Legacy, 8 pm. Direct

from Las Vegas, Carpenters Legacy is the definitive show celebrating the music and legacy of the famed brother-sister duo. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Special Needs Awareness & Resource Fair, 10 am to 2 pm. Carnival games, live entertainment, a Special Olympics basketball tournament, and more. Apollo Park, 12544 Rives Ave.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Family Night, 6-7:30 pm. Enjoy family fun with stories, music, crafts, and more. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Touch-A-Truck, 10 am to 1 pm. Emergency rescue demonstrations, vehicle extraction demonstration, vehicle fire demonstration, Public Works trucks, police patrol vehicles, K9 unit, fire engines, construction equipment, and more. 10-11 is quiet hour - no sirens, horns or lights for those with sensitive ears and eyes. Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd.

Mark Yamanaka, Kupaoa, Hoku Zuttermeister in concert, 7 pm. An authentic Hawaiian concert featuring three talented, award-winning recording artists. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Submit Downey events to eric@thedowneypatriot.com

POET'S CORNER

Winter Trees

All the complicated details of the attiring and the disattiring are completed! A liquid moon moves gently among the long branches. Thus having prepared their buds against a sure winter the wise trees stand sleeping in the cold.

William Carlos Williams

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Loughner named interim chief

DOWNEY — Scott Loughner has been named interim police chief of the Downey Police Department effective Dec. 15.

Loughner, currently a captain, will serve as chief until the city hires a permanent replacement for Leslie Murray, who retired this week after 32 years with Downey.

"This appointment is an important step towards

maintaining the Downey Police Department's operational integrity and the safety of the public that will allow for a smooth transition to a permanent chief," said city manager Roger Bradley.

Loughner was hired by the Downey Police Department in 2000 and served as a sergeant and lieutenant prior to his promotion to captain in 2021.



Scott Loughner

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