



## ENTERTAINMENT

### Circus Vargas opens three-week residency in Downey

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## FEATURES

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## Townhome project clears Planning Commission on second try

**DOWNEY** – A controversial condominium project that initially failed to gain Planning Commission approval finally got the go-ahead to move on to the city council.

The project, slated for the current site of an over 50-year-old church at 7360 Foster Bridge Rd., would bring 33 condo units — spread across four three-story buildings — each with a two-car garage and either a private balcony or patio.

The project has drawn criticism from residents of the Treasure Island neighborhood, who have voiced concerns over safety, privacy, limited parking, and traffic congestion.

At its meeting on April 17, the Planning Commission failed to take action on the project, only able to come to a 2-2 vote (vice chair Mario Guerra was out of state on Army business at the time). Because the item required action from the Planning Commission, it was placed on the agenda for the May 1 meeting.

The project again came before an incomplete dais, this time chair Carrie Uva being the missing member. Uva had voted against the project previously.

Uva's absence along with Guerra's presence made all the difference, as this time the project earned a 3-1 approval.

Commissioner Louis Morales, the sole vote in opposition, called it "a nice project," but sided with many of the frustrated neighbors, saying that there were "some issues that could have been worked out to make it a better project."

Guerra responded that "a good city planner or economic development personnel knows this is a very good project."

"I believe this will bring value to your homes and safety to the area. This is a good project for the city, for our community and, yes, for the residents of Treasure Island," said Guerra. "Traffic mitigation is something the city needs to work on. Not in the future, but today. That's something that needs to be fixed now."

"Yes, this is going to bring some traffic more in the mornings and in the afternoons, but I'd rather have a few extra minutes and have that corner protected by 33 families, living there just like the rest of us."

The project still requires approval from the City Council to move forward.

## Downey mayor invited to White House



Downey Mayor Mario Trujill traveled to Washington, D.C. over the weekend after he and other leaders were invited to the White House.

"It was an honor for me to represent Downey at the White House. It was a memorable day celebrating Cinco de Mayo with the President and Dr. Biden. My mom would be proud."



Ashley Rauls is leaving her position as Downey High School cheer advisor to focus on her duties as a teacher and department chair. Photo by Alex Dominguez

## DOWNEY HIGH'S ASHLEY RAULS LEAVES A WINNER

■ After four division titles and two state championships, Ashley Rauls steps down as Downey High cheer advisor.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Ashley Rauls isn't just any coach at Downey High School. Having led Downey's cheerleading program to four CIF Southern Section Division 1 titles and two CIF Regional State titles, she's the winningest coach in school history.

And after this year, she's hanging it all up.

This year marked Rauls' 34, 10th year teaching at Downey High School, ninth running the cheer program. When she initially took the program over, Downey was competing in intermediate divisions.

After winning at that level several times, Rauls says it was time for the team to start pushing themselves.

"I just feel like we have incredibly hard-working kids at this school," said Rauls. "I have an amazing coaching staff who works very hard. We have a vision for them, and the kids are so self-motivated and driven to just get better, and better, and better, and better."

The team moved up to the advanced level and found similar success. When CIF recognized cheerleading as an official sport in the 2018-19 season, it became clear just how dominant Downey had become.

"We won Division 1 coed every year except one," said Rauls.

In addition to leading the

Vikings to their fifth CIF Southern Sectional victory this year, Rauls was named CIF Southern Section Division 1 Coach of the Year.

Her success isn't limited, however, to that of her team. Rauls has proven to be an effective teacher in her classroom as well, teaching US History and serving as co-department head of the social studies department. She was recently named Downey High School Teacher of the Year.

As a kid, Rauls says she "didn't have a very stable life," coming from a family that saw lots of moving and separation. As such, it was at school where her "hopes and dreams were being nurtured," which helped mold her into the educator that she is today.

"Growing up, I just feel like a lot of my consistency, and a lot of my positive role models were always at school for me, and that was somewhere I felt like I could really be myself, and I had adults that cared and were pushing me, and making me be my best, and I didn't necessarily have that at home," said Rauls.

"I always knew I wanted to be that for kids. I always wanted them to come to this place and feel safe, and know that the adults here care about them, no matter what's going on in your home life, we care, and we want you to be successful."

"That's what I had when I was young, so I'm just hoping to recreate that in the school here."

With so much momentum, it might come as a surprise that Rauls has decided to give up the reins of the cheer program that she helped guide to so much success.

"I feel like I have been able to just accomplish so much, and

I feel like I really want to focus on my role here at Downey High School as department chair," said Rauls. "This is my first year as department chair, and I feel like I want to really focus on that and teaching history. That's what I originally intended to do, was to get into this to be a history teacher, so I'm really excited to be able to focus on that."

The decision does not come easily, as Rauls says "her life has been Downey cheerleading" for the last nine years.

"Some of the best moments of my life have been with the kids, and just seeing them now that they're getting older, seeing them and the lives that they've created... just seeing the kids that you've made such strong connections with grow up is still such, just big moments in my life."

She continued:

"Now that I'm getting older, I don't know that I can necessarily do that anymore, and I definitely want to end this on a high note, and it has been a high note, absolutely. And I don't want to wait until I'm too tired to give the kids what they need, and be who they need."



## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 74°

Saturday 77°

Sunday 78°

## ON THIS DAY

### 1502:

Christopher Columbus, long considered the "discoverer" of the New World, set sail from Cádiz, Spain, on his fourth and final voyage, hoping to find a passage to Asia.

### 1958:

Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller "Vertigo," starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in San Francisco and became widely regarded as one of the greatest movies ever.

### 1960:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first birth control pill.

### 1974:

The U.S. House Judiciary Committee began formal hearings in the impeachment investigation of President Richard M. Nixon.

### 1980:

The horror film classic "Friday the 13th," about summer camp counselors being hunted by a masked killer, was released in theatres.

### 2006:

The Red Hot Chili Peppers released their ninth album, Stadium Arcadium, featuring the hit singles "Dani California" and "Snow (Hey Oh)."

### 2020:

The U.S. unemployment rate hit 14.9 percent, the worst since the Great Depression.

### 2020:

Little Richard, whose hit songs of the mid-1950s were defining moments in the development of rock and roll, died at age 87.

## BIRTHDAYS

Actress **CANDACE BERGEN** (78), rock singer **BILLY JOEL** (75) and actress **ROSARIO DAWSON** (45).

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# Lupita Infante honored at Latino Spirit Awards

**DOWNEY** – Downey singer Lupita Infante has been selected by the California Latino Legislative Caucus to be honored at its 22nd annual Latino Spirit Awards.

Infante was one of 16 prominent Latinos chosen for the honor, which includes prominent Latinos in technology, journalism, media, literature, health and science, advocacy, business, education, human rights, arts, public service, and entertainment.

Infante and the other honorees were recognized on the Assembly floor at the state capitol.

In addition to Infante, the other honorees include Vanessa Aguilar, Rafael Agustin, Castulo de la Rocha, Joe L. Del Bosque, Ignacio Gomez, Jorge Gutierrez, Dr. Jose Hernandez, Doris Munoz, Pilar Nino, Dr. Diana Ramos, Maite Gomez-Rejon, Diana Riva, MANA de San Diego, Nancy Sutley and Lisa Vidal.

In 2023, Lupita released her album “Amor Como En Las Peliculas De Antes,” which was nominated at the 2024 Grammy Awards for “Best Musica Mexicana Album,” making this her second-ever Grammy nomination.

Her name is familiar to tens of millions of Mexicans, as she is the granddaughter of Pedro Infante Cruz, the most beloved Mexican singer and actor of the 20th century.

With a multitude of awards and recognitions, such as the Mayor’s Excellence Award from her hometown of Downey, being featured in the 2024 People en Español’s “Most Powerful Women of 2024” list, and being a two-time Latin Grammy nominee, Lupita Infante is solidifying her place in becoming one of the most beloved Musica Mexicana artists of the new generation.



# Crime Report

On 4/8/2024 at 2:20 am, officers were patrolling the area of Lakewood Blvd. and Imperial Hwy. when they conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. During a search of the driver, a large amount of narcotics and cash were located. The driver was arrested.

On 4/8/2024 at 10 pm, officers were flagged down in the area of 9000 Firestone Blvd. regarding an attempted robbery. The victim stated the suspect had pointed a handgun at them and demanded their vehicle. Officers searched the area and located the suspect and located a object similar to a handgun on the suspect which matched the victim’s description. The suspect was arrested for attempted robbery.

On 4/11/2024 at 9:10 pm, officers responded to the area of 11800 Paramount Blvd. regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated the suspect had entered the business armed with a firearm and demanded money. The suspect fled with the money and the victim did not sustain any injuries. Detectives are investigating.

On 4/15/2024 at 7 pm, officers responded to the area of 7900 Florence Ave. regarding a robbery. The victim stated two suspects exited from a vehicle and began assaulting him and forcefully took his necklace and cell phone. The victim sustained minor injuries. Later, an officer recognized one of the suspects and he was arrested. Detectives are still investigating.

On 4/19/2024 at 4:20 am, officers responded to the area of 9100 Firestone Blvd. regarding a graffiti in progress. Officers located four suspects and determined all of them had vandalized property. All four were arrested.

On 4/20/2024 at 6:40 pm, officers responded to the area of 9400 Firestone Blvd. regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated

the suspect was armed with a handgun and demanded the victim purchase property for the suspect. The victim complied and was released. The suspect fled the scene and detectives are investigating.

On 4/20/2024 at 9:10 pm, officers responded to a burglary in progress in the area of 7300 Irvinggrove. Officers arrived and located the suspect inside of a residence. Upon further investigation, the suspect was linked to another burglary in the area. The suspect was arrested.

On 4/21/2024 at 9:40 PM, officers responded to the area of Firestone Blvd. and Newville Ave. regarding a vehicle/pedestrian collision involving major injuries. Upon arrival, officers located the pedestrian who had succumbed to their injuries. Traffic investigators and detectives responded and started their investigation. The investigation is ongoing.

On 4/22/2024 at 1:45 pm, officers responded to the area of 9100 Imperial Hwy. regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim and suspect, who know each other, were involved in an argument when the suspect drew a firearm. The suspect pointed the firearm at the victim and the two began struggling. Another person intervened and the suspect left the location. No injuries were reported. Detectives are investigating.

On 4/24/2024 at 12:10 am, officers on patrol observed a stolen vehicle being driven in the area of Imperial Hwy. and Old River School Rd. Officers stopped the vehicle and detained the driver. The driver was eventually arrested for driving a stolen vehicle.

On 4/26/2024 at 3:25 pm, officers responded to the area of the Downey Landing regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated he observed a suspect steal his bicycle from the location and confronted the suspect. The suspect approached the victim with a knife, but did not swing it at him. The suspect fled the scene, but was located by responding officers. The suspect was arrested and property returned to the victim.

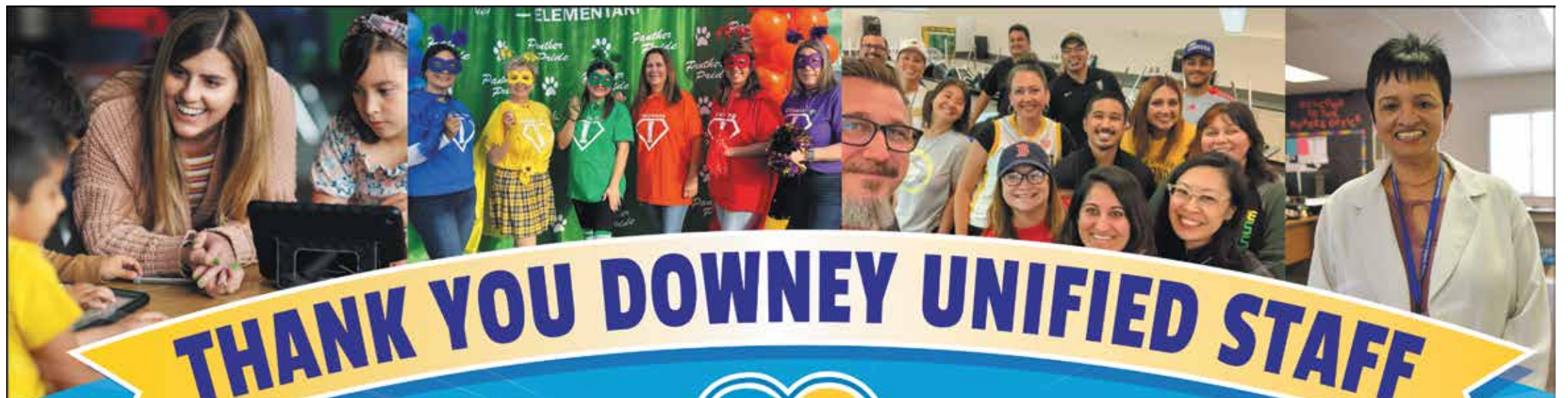
On 4/28/24 at 11:30 pm, officers responded to the area of Downey Ave. and Noren St. regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim and suspect, who know each other, were driving in a vehicle together. The suspect suddenly started assaulting the victim and collided with objects on the roadway. The victim and suspect exited the vehicle and began fist fighting in the street. The victim lost consciousness and the suspect continued to punch and kick the victim. The suspect was located nearby by responding officers and the victim suffered moderate injuries. The suspect was arrested.

On 4/30/2024 at 9:10 pm, officers responded to the 9200 Lakewood Blvd. regarding a robbery in progress. The victim stated the suspect attempted to grab property forcefully out of their hand. Several bystanders observed what was occurring and held the suspect at the scene until police arrived. The suspect was taken into custody and arrested for attempted robbery.

On 5/2/2024 at 12:10 am, officers responded to the area of 7900 Florence Ave. regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated the suspect, who is known to the victim, pointed a firearm at her and fled the scene. Later, Downey detectives responded and were able to locate and arrest the suspect.

On 5/4/2024 at 3:05 pm, officers responded to the area of the Stonewood Mall regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated the suspect entered a department store at the mall, selected merchandise and left. The victim confronted the suspect who brandished a bladed object at the victim. The suspect fled but was located by responding officers and arrested. No injuries were sustained by the victim.

On 5/5/2024 at 12:30 am, officers responded to the area of 8300 Firestone Blvd. regarding a robbery. The victim stated he was assaulted by two suspects who he had gone to a restaurant with earlier in the night. The victim sustained moderate injuries. Detectives are investigating.



# THANK YOU DOWNEY UNIFIED STAFF



All throughout the month of May, Downey Unified is excited to recognize our outstanding staff. We want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude for all your hard work, dedication, and the role that each of you play in living the DUSD vision of ensuring our students receive a 21st Century education moving them toward readiness for the college and/or career of their choice, being globally competitive and acting as citizens of strong character.

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## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

A few years back I had a wonderful vacation in Japan. One of the many things that surprised me was how prevalent bidets were. I saw (and used) them in restaurants, hotels, and even train stations! Are bidets “better” than standard traditional toilets?

Bidets clean with a spray of water, and mostly eliminate the need for toilet paper. Note that bidets don't always come with all of the features I encountered in Japan, but some are equipped with heated seats, warm water, warm air, music, and a lid that knows when to open and when to close!



What are some of the advantages of a bidet?

- Washing with a spray of water is more hygienic than using toilet paper or wipes. Toilet paper only removes some urine and fecal matter – it doesn't remove tiny particles. A spray of water is gentle, and can help to minimize irritation.
- Bidets can help with constipation, and even hemorrhoids caused by straining. A gentle and firm stream of warm water can increase blood flow, relieve pressure, and stimulate the nerves.
- Bidets are kid-friendly. A bidet can make it easier for them to thoroughly clean themselves.
- Older (or disabled) adults may not be flexible enough to wipe properly. The bidet can help maintain independence.
- Bidets can help the environment by saving trees. (Note that some toilet paper may still be needed.) Less toilet paper can also mean fewer calls to the plumber.

What about the disadvantages?

- It's possible that a bidet could encourage a vaginal infection, because washing with warm water can affect the vagina's healthy bacterial balance.
- If the bidet is not kept clean, it could actually collect bacteria and spray them onto the genitals.
- Bidets come with a temperature control, and it is important to avoid water that is too hot.
- Bidets have been (rarely) known to cause fecal incontinence by over-relaxing the anal muscles and loosening the sphincter muscles. It is possible for excessive use to dry out the skin.
- A bidet will not work during a power outage. It is an electrical device plugged into an outlet where water is nearby, so a short circuit is possible. Safety features are usually built in.
- Bidets can take up more space, may need additional plumbing for hot water, and require an electrical outlet, which often does not exist near an existing toilet.
- A bidet is generally more expensive than a standard toilet. In addition to the upfront costs for purchase and installation, electricity and water bills will be higher.

What have I chosen for my own home? Ultimately, having to bring in electricity discouraged me and I haven't yet replaced my traditional toilets. However, bidets definitely remain on my wish-list!

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.

# With a stroke, timing is critical

■ Stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability in seniors; learn to spot the symptoms.

Contributed by Kaiser Permanente

With May being National Stroke Awareness Month, it's important to know the signs and causes of stroke that affect more than 795,000 people in the United States every year, resulting in serious long-term disability for many of those afflicted by this cardiovascular disease.

A stroke is damage to the brain that occurs when a blood vessel in the brain bursts or is blocked by a blood clot. Without blood and the oxygen it carries, part of the brain starts to die, and the part of the body controlled by the damaged area of the brain can't work properly. Brain damage can start within minutes of a stroke. But quick treatment can help limit the damage and increase the chance of a full recovery.

Knowing the signs of a stroke and understanding when to seek immediate medical attention can be the difference between life and death, according to Dr. Zahra A. Ajani with Kaiser Permanente Southern California, which operates Downey Medical Center.

“Stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability, as it reduces mobility in more than half of stroke survivors aged 65 and older,” she said.

Because stroke can often be a debilitating disease, it's important to know what symptoms to look for and when



to seek immediate medical attention, Dr. Ajani said. She recommended remembering the acronym known as BE FAST and calling 911 if you or a loved one experience these kinds of symptoms.

- B = BALANCE:** Sudden change in balance or coordination.
- E = EYES:** Sudden vision loss or double vision.
- F = FACE:** Facial droop. Sudden uneven appearance of the face.
- A = ARMS/LEGS:** Sudden trouble moving or feeling arms and/or legs.
- S = SPEECH:** Sudden difficulty speaking or can't speak clearly.
- T = TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST:** Make note of the time the symptoms started. Call 911.

Seeking immediate medical attention often is the difference between life and death. Consider the following statistics from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

In 2021, 1 in 6 deaths from cardiovascular disease were due to stroke.

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke. Every 3 minutes and 14 seconds, someone dies of stroke.

About 185,000 strokes—nearly 1 in 4—are in people who have had a previous stroke.

About 87% of all strokes are ischemic strokes, in which blood flow to the brain is blocked.

Stroke-related costs in the United States came to nearly \$56.5 billion between 2018 and 2019. This total includes the cost of health care services, medicines to treat stroke, and missed days of work.

“Once you have a stroke, you are more likely to have another one,” Dr. Ajani said. “But the good news is that stroke survivors can take action to reduce their risk of having another stroke. And that begins

with identifying what caused your stroke and learning more about all of your personal risk factors.”

According to the American Stroke Association, the following will help reduce your probability from suffering a stroke:

**Brain Health:** As you age, a healthy body is key to a healthy brain and sharp mind.

**Healthy Eating:** Healthy eating and cooking start with smart food choices.

**Healthy Lifestyle:** True health includes good sleep, practicing mindfulness, managing stress and connecting socially.

**Physical Activity:** Whether it's a structured exercise program or just part of your daily routine, all physical activity adds up to becoming healthier.

“It all comes down to knowing how to lead a healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically,” Dr. Ajani said.

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# Circus Vargas returns for multi-week stay in Downey

**DOWNEY** – The circus has come back to town.

Circus Vargas has made its return to Downey, once again raising its big top in the parking lot of the Stonewood Center, kicking off with performances over the weekend, and staying through May 20.

The show this year, called Jublie: An Epic World Celebration, is “modeled after a peace on earth story” done in “our own circus way” according to circus owner Katya Arata-Quiroga.

“It’s the story of how different cultures and different countries come together and can be one,” said Arata-Quiroga.

The cast has expanded from years past, bringing new performers while enhancing old favorites.

“Every year, people want some joy in their lives,” said Arata-Quiroga. “That’s something that we try to give to people. They come here, they forget their problems, they get some joy, they see something new.”

“That’s why every year there’s a new show with new acts. Sometimes old favorites come back like the wheel of destiny, like the motorcycle globe, but we add something new. Like this year, instead of three motorcycles, this year you have four motorcycles in the cage. So, even though sometimes we bring back old favorites, they will have been refurbished, renewed, improved, made more exciting, better.”

Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson described what audiences will see at Circus Vargas as “a miracle in front of your face.”

“Circus tells its own story in a way of human beings who clearly work exceedingly hard at what they do because what they do is so high risk; for most of the acts, it’s very high risk,” said Iverson. “So, they’re constantly retooling and doing all the things necessary to produce the magic that they will share with you, and they take pride in these things. They represent their countries, they represent their cultures, they’re ambassadors for that, but they represent it in the framework of our collective culture, which is circus.”

For ticket information, visit [circusvargas.com](http://circusvargas.com).

Alex Dominguez, staff writer

# Kaiser hospital receives ‘A’ grade for patient safety

**DOWNEY** – Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center received an ‘A’ Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for spring 2024 for its achievement in protecting patients from preventable harm and errors while receiving hospital care.

“Everyone who works at Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center should be proud of this ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “It takes complete dedication of at every level, and an ironclad commitment to putting patients first. I thank Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for caring so deeply for its patients and their safety.”

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to general hospitals across the country. The grades are based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as hospital harm prevention systems.

“Our commitment to safety is unwavering,” said Mitch Winnik, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center. “This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our entire team to prioritize patient safety above all else.”

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

“Our duty is not just to heal, but to safeguard everyone who walks through our doors,” said Dr. JT Lee, area medical director, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center. “This award pays tribute to the physicians and staff who deliver the exceptional care and service for which Kaiser Permanente is known.”

# See Downey trucks up close

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey will hold its third annual Touch a Truck event on Saturday, May 18 from 10 am to 1 pm at Independence Park.

The event will feature emergency rescue demonstrations, public works trucks, police vehicles, fire engines, construction equipment and more.

There will be a quiet hour held from 10 to 11 am for those with sensitivity issues.

# Gangs Out of Downey hosting scholarship gala

**DOWNEY** – Tickets are on sale for Gangs Out of Downey’s annual scholarship banquet.

This year’s event is scheduled for Friday, May 17, starting at 6:30 pm inside the Reagan Center Banquet Hall at The Arc.

Admission is \$100. Formal attire is requested.

The banquet is held annually in honor of late Downey police officer Ricky Galvez and provides college scholarships to Downey students pursuing careers in law enforcement and related fields.

RSVP by emailing [info@downeygood.org](mailto:info@downeygood.org). Tickets can also be purchased at [downeygood.org](http://downeygood.org).

# Aldo Schindler named Tustin city manager

**DOWNEY** – Aldo Schindler, a former deputy city manager in Downey, has been named city manager of Tustin.

Currently the city manager of Artesia, California, Schindler brings over 20 years of local government executive management experience to the City of Tustin.

Prior to Artesia, he held positions as the Assistant City Manager in Moreno Valley, Deputy City Manager and Director of Community Development in Downey, Director of Community Development in Whittier, Director of Community Development in Bell Gardens, and Redevelopment Project Officer in Long Beach.

“We are extraordinarily fortunate to have attracted one of the leading city managers in the region,” said Mayor Austin Lombard.

Schindler was in Downey until 2022, when he, the city manager, city attorney and other administrators left.

“I am grateful to the Mayor and City Council for their trust and partnership,” Schindler remarked. “Tustin has a phenomenal reputation in the industry and I am honored to lead one of Orange County’s premier municipalities.”

Schindler’s employment agreement was approved by the Tustin City Council on Tuesday. His anticipated start date is June 10.

Schindler holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Administration and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. He is a member of the International City/County Management Association and International Council of Shopping Centers and is also a Graduate of the CORO Leadership Southern California Program.

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## Trump’s critical VP pick: five criteria he must consider

Court ruling could allow local authorities across the US to crack down on homeless encampments

By Liz Peek

Liz Peek writes for The Hill and contributes frequently to Fox News, the New York Sun and other publications.

Between now and July 15, when the GOP convention kicks off in Milwaukee, presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump will pick a running mate. Oftentimes the vice presidential choice is not especially consequential; this time it is.

Trump can only serve one term. If you believe, like two-thirds of your fellow Americans, that the country is on the wrong track, you must agree that four years of Donald Trump will not suffice.

To fix our open border, restore law and order, unleash our domestic energy industries, bring federal spending under control and so much more, will take 8 to 12 years. That is what our nation needs and, with the help of his vice president, that is what Trump must deliver.

The former president gets it. More than once, he has said that his major criteria in choosing a running mate will be that the individual can serve as president.

This past weekend, the Republican National Committee convened important donors in Palm Beach. The gatherings showcased several potential VP candidates, including Republican senators Tim Scott of South Carolina, Marco Rubio of Florida, and J.D. Vance of Ohio. Governors Kristi Noem of South Dakota and Doug Burgum of North Dakota were invited as were congressional representatives Elise Stefanik from New York and Byron Daniels from Florida. Businessman and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy was also at the fund-raising event.

Others apparently under consideration include former Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Arizona Senatorial candidate Kari Lake and – wait for it – former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley.

The buzz in Palm Beach was all about Tim Scott and Doug Burgum. Are they the finalists? No one knows; indeed, the vetting process, which can take weeks, has not formally begun. But the guessing-game is well

underway.

I judge the candidates on these five attributes:

1. Credible presidential candidate
2. Loyalty to Donald Trump
3. Well vetted, not likely to surprise
4. Helps with an important demographic, state and/or fund-raising
5. Aligns with Trump on abortion

We can rule out Kristi Noem. She not only shot a 14-month-old puppy, she shot herself in the foot. How the South Dakota governor could not have predicted that her revelation about puppycide would cause an uproar in our dog-obsessed nation is unimaginable; after all, the most damning thing most people remember about Mitt Romney was that he once traveled with his family dog on the roof of his car.

Former Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is out. The one-time Democrat, who endorsed Sen. Bernie Sanders in 2016 and Joe Biden in 2020, is mostly celebrated for having switched sides. That’s not compelling.

Also unlikely is Vivek Ramaswamy, who is too young and unpredictable, and who behaved like an insufferable jerk in the GOP debates.

The abortion issue sidelines some otherwise strong candidates, including Florida’s Ron DeSantis, who has been an effective governor and in a recent poll of contenders, earned the highest approval ratings from both Republicans and right-leaning independents. For many, his signing of a 6-week abortion bill in Florida disqualifies him. Trump has enough problems combatting Democrats’ right to choose campaign and eagerness to misrepresent his moderate stance on the issue without giving them extra fuel. Gov. Burgum argues abortion should be left up to the states, which is Trump’s position. Burgum, a wealthy businessman who could help fund the campaign, has little name recognition but is otherwise a solid choice.

Choosing a female running mate could bolster Trump’s standing with women, currently his weakest demographic. A recent Quinnipiac poll showing the race in a dead heat had Biden beating Trump with women 52% to 41%; narrowing that gap would be powerful.

But, many women in contention are strong anti-abortion campaigners, which will not help win over female voters in swing states. Arizona’s Kari Lake, for instance, has complicated her credentials by flip-flopping

on abortion. Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who is popular with Republicans and right-leaning Independents and who is well vetted thanks to her stint as White House spokesperson under Trump, is similarly staunchly pro-life.

Ditto Rep. Elise Stefanik, the firebrand congresswoman from New York who came to prominence chastising university presidents for allowing antisemitism to blossom on campuses. She is not well-known and has been awarded an A+ rating by the non-profit Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America group.

The V.P. pick could also bolster Trump’s standing with minorities. Senators Tim Scott and Marco Rubio could help with Black and Hispanic voters, respectively. Both are also relatively well-known; Scott, in particular, is popular. A recent YouGov poll assessing several V.P. candidates showed 49% of Republicans and right-leaning independents approving of Scott, with only 14% disapproving. (Rubio was not covered in that survey.) That’s why oddsmakers put Tim Scott at the top of the contender list.

But Scott did not gain traction in the GOP primary race; he is viewed by some as having a wonderful life story but otherwise narrow credentials. Marco Rubio, on the other hand, has credibility on foreign policy and could bolster Trump’s fast-growing appeal to Hispanics.

Mike Pompeo, Trump’s former Secretary of State, has an impressive C.V., and clearly has the ability to occupy the Oval Office. J.D. Vance is not broadly known and probably, like Byron Daniels, too new to the national scene (in that recent survey 58% said they were “unsure” about the Ohio senator).

Many centrist Republicans would like to see Nikki Haley run with Trump, thinking she could attract women to the ticket and also moderate voters who dislike both Biden and the former president. It might work, but would require repairing what became a serious rift between her and her former boss. The former U.N. Ambassador angered Trump and his supporters by staying in the race even when she had no chance of winning; her approval among Republicans and independents who lean GOP is poor.

On the plus side, Haley’s position on abortion aligns with Trump, and she is an excellent campaigner.

In the coming weeks, expect to see Trump road-test numerous candidates. For the sake of the country, let’s hope he chooses a winner.

## Put cameras in the courtrooms

By Susan Estrich

Susan Estrich is a professor of law and political science at the University of Southern California Law School.

I read all the updates from the reporters in the courtroom. But it just isn’t the same as watching it yourself.

I want to actually see it. I want to see how Donald Trump reacts when he hears his former aides testify. I want to hear for myself the testimony of the witnesses against him, and the cross-examination. I want to judge for myself what the judge has to say about Trump’s violation of the gag order.

You can watch pundits talk about the trial 24/7 on cable news, from whatever perspective you choose. But most of them only know what I know, from reading the updates from the limited number of reporters lucky enough to secure access to seats in the courtroom. They aren’t seeing and hearing what is really going on.

There is no reason why we should still be stuck in the past getting our news secondhand rather than seeing it for ourselves.

The old fear was that cameras would somehow turn courtrooms into circus tents and undermine the

seriousness of what was going on or that lawyers would pay too much attention to the cameras. That makes no sense. What we see instead of the serious goings-on in the courtroom is the circus outside, when Trump sounds off to the press. What sense does that make?

The judicial system has been politicized, unfortunately. The answer to restoring confidence is sunshine — to actually let people see and hear what is going on inside, and judge for themselves.

This is a historic event. A former president and one of two men who will be our next president is standing trial. Whether and how the public responds to the trial and its verdict will shape history. Trump has done everything he can to put off any judgment of him, but he found one judge who would have none of it, and insisted that the trial go forward. He is doing

everything he can to ensure an orderly process, and by my (secondhand) lights, he is doing a fine job of it. But what do I really know? I’ve not heard any of it directly.

Whether or not Trump was engaged in an unlawful conspiracy or just an ugly cover-up is not only a legal question. For voters, this trial is a measure of character. The judgment voters must make is whether this man has the character to be our next president.

To make that judgment based on secondhand reviews is not nearly as fair and effective as it would be if we could literally see what’s going on.

## Traffic signal needed at Firestone and Pangborn

Dear Editor:

There was a fatal hit-and-run on Firestone Boulevard near Pangborn Avenue, where the Jack in the Box is. A woman was hit and killed while “jaywalking.” She was allegedly ran over by multiple vehicles after the first collision.

As an east Downey resident, I see people jaywalking at that intersection all the time. Hell, I’ve even done it myself.

There are many reasons why people choose to jaywalk there, but it mostly stems from the fact that in order to cross the street in a safe and legal way, you’d have to walk all the way over to Woodruff Avenue or Neville Avenue to get to the crosswalk, and that is not ideal for someone who wants to make a quick trip to the Arco station or Dippity Donuts from Pangborn Ave.

But it’s not just the crashes involving pedestrians. I’ve also seen dozens of car collisions there as well. And often you’ll see people trying to make an illegal left turn onto Firestone from Pangborn even though it’s a “right turn only” lane. This is very dangerous due to the limited visibility from the car turning left.

A signal light and crosswalk combination would fix all of these issues. If you can’t add a signal light there, then at the very least put one of those protected crosswalks.

Rob Mendoza  
Downey

## Mariachi festival uplifts a community

Dear Editor:

Schools can be agents of change when they spotlight the positive through the arts. Downey Unified School District did just that at the first Mariachi Music Festival.

Lupita Infante, granddaughter of legendary ranchera singer Pedro Infante, launched a spectacular Mariachi Music Festival at Layne Stadium. The festival, well-organized and a class act, was graced and emceed by Emmy-nominated Lupita Infante, a Downey High and UCLA graduate.

Lupita serves as a beacon of cultural pride and a role model for students who aspire to higher education. Her promotion of the arts and personal and community empowerment inspired the viewing audience.

As it takes a village to launch such a huge undertaking, I applaud Superintendent Dr. John Garcia and the DUSD School Board, Councilman Horacio Ortiz, and Violins Not Violence among other sponsors for making the festival possible. Lupita’s seasoned mariachi mentors also made the festival successful for participating DUSD students.

It is my hope the success of DUSD’s first Mariachi Music Festival will spur future ones as it did more than simply spotlight student talent; it uplifted an entire community during a time when students need inspiration and hope for a brighter future.

Sandra Nevarez  
Downey

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## 'The Office' reboot will center on reporters at a dying newspaper

Over a decade after viewers said goodbye to beloved NBC series "The Office," a new comedy set in the same universe as everyone's favorite paper company Dunder Mifflin is coming to Peacock.

"Ex Machina" star Domhnall Gleeson and Sabrina Impacciatore from Season 2 of HBO's "The White Lotus" will lead the ensemble cast in the still-untitled mockumentary series, according to a news release shared Wednesday.

"The documentary crew that immortalized Dunder Mifflin's Scranton branch is in search of a new subject when they discover a dying historic Midwestern newspaper and the publisher trying to revive it with volunteer reporters," the logline for the new comedy series reads.

Greg Daniels, who adapted "The Office" for US audiences from the original UK series of the same name, will serve as the showrunner along with "Nathan For You" co-creator Michael Koman. Daniels and Koman will also produce the series with original "Office" creators Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant.

The American take on "The Office" first debuted in the US in 2005 and aired its final episode in 2013. It starred Steve Carell, John Krasinski, Jenna Fischer, Mindy Kaling, Rainn Wilson and BJ Novak, among many others. Many cast members became household names following the widespread and early success of the series, which won five Emmys throughout its run.

Like its predecessor starring Gervais, the series followed a



John Krasinski, Rainn Wilson and Steve Carell in 'The Office.'

mockumentary-style format with cast members breaking the fourth wall as a crew followed staffers around an office, capturing tedious day-to-day tasks, office romances and at-times outlandish behavior.

It is not yet known if any previous cast members will make cameos in the Peacock series, which is set to begin production in July.

shows, international series that now reach US shores, and acclaimed series labeled "comedy" that aren't really comedies at all, like "The Bear" and "Barry."

Even taking Seinfeld's argument at face value, "All in the Family" is the only one of the shows he mentioned that might have regularly run afoul of the comedy scolds to which he objects. As for standup comics, there has been an explosion of opportunities to get their material in front of the public he couldn't have imagined when he was breaking in sets on "The Tonight Show," including the barrage of specials spilling out as part of the "Netflix is a Joke" festival.

Granted, there's a long tradition of talent bemoaning how bad things have gotten since their heyday. Having recently turned 70, Seinfeld and the rest of the baby-boom generation have seen TV change in unrecognizable ways from the period during which he cut his professional teeth.

While it might not be "All in the Family" or "Mary Tyler Moore," there's still funny stuff to watch for a broader range of tastes, including those with the fortitude to sit through "Unfrosted." All that's required is knowing where to look, and maybe, opening your eyes.

Brian Lowry has been a media columnist and critic for CNN since April 2016.

## Jerry Seinfeld's frosty view of modern TV

By Brian Lowry

"Seinfeld" premiered 35 years ago on NBC, becoming one of the most popular sitcoms ever and making Jerry Seinfeld and creator Larry David insanely rich. In promoting his directing debut "Unfrosted," Seinfeld has lamented the current state of TV comedy, in a way that identifies some modern challenges while ignoring the complexity of how times have changed.

Seinfeld voiced those remarks to the New Yorker while making the rounds (he joked about the extent of that promotional tour on "Saturday Night Live") to support the movie, which looks back at the creation of the Pop-Tart in the 1960s. Yet the comic's views of where comedy went wrong have an unavoidable "Old man yells at cloud" quality, not because the observations were entirely wrong but because of everything they overlook in oversimplifying and romanticizing the past.

"It used to be you would go home at the end of the day, most people would go, 'Oh, Cheers' is on. Oh, 'M\*A\*S\*H' is on. Oh, 'Mary Tyler Moore' is on. 'All in the Family' is on," Seinfeld told The New Yorker. "You just expected, there'll be some funny stuff we can watch on TV tonight. Well, guess what - where is it? This is the result of the extreme left and P.C. crap, and people worrying so much about offending other people. Now they're going to see standup comics because we are not policed by anyone."

That's a lot to unpack, starting with singling out four of the best sitcoms ever, conveniently skipping all the lame ones that existed during those years. Similarly, people looking for something to watch when those shows premiered only received three broadcast networks and a handful of channels, before Fox, cable and premium TV, much less Netflix, streaming and a host of internationally produced imports.

Yes, greater sensitivity among various constituencies - or "PC

crap," if Seinfeld prefers - has complicated the comedian's job. But one aspect of the past Seinfeld appears to long for is that people could be offended with little fear of consequences or reprisals because, well, where were they going to go? When the menu consisted of ABC, NBC and CBS, it's not like they had a lot of choices or alternatives.

The mass-appeal comedies that Seinfeld cites were indeed great shows, but they have given way to a wider variety of series aimed at narrower tastes, scattered across a vast array of outlets. The result has been fewer traditional multi-camera sitcoms but more single-camera shows, including the broadcast hits "Abbott Elementary," "Ghosts" and "Young Sheldon," the last of which (spun off from "The Big Bang Theory") will wrap its seven-season run this month.

That doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of cable and streaming comedies, animated

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## Express closing Downey store

DOWNEY - Trendy fashion retailer Express Inc. has filed for bankruptcy after consistently struggling with continued missteps over its merchandise mix that failed to get shoppers excited.

The retailer filed with the bankruptcy court in Delaware and said it also plans to shutter several stores as part of the process.

The company operates Express, Express factory outlets, Bonobos and UpWest stores under its corporate umbrella and said in a release Monday that it plans to close 95 Express locations (it operates more than 500 in the US) and all UpWest locations with closing sales at those stores set to begin on April 23.

All of its brands' online channels will continue to accept orders and all brands will otherwise also fulfill orders, process returns and redeem gift cards and store credits in-store. Customer benefits related to the Express Insider program will remain unaffected, the company said.

"With the company struggling to gain traction with consumers, it has been obvious for quite some time that bankruptcy was the inevitable destination for Express," Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData, said in a note last week.

"The woes at Express are not all of its own making. The formal and smart casual market for both men and women has softened over recent years because of a rise from working from home and the casualization of fashion," he said. "This puts Express firmly on the wrong side of trends and, in our view, the chain made too little effort to adapt."

At the same time, according to Saunders, the retailer was punished with poor sales because its products were overpriced and bland as compared to its competitors. "As a result, the Express brand itself has become less relevant to shoppers," he said.

"We continue to make meaningful progress refining our product assortments, driving demand, connecting with customers and strengthening our operations," Stewart Glendinning, Express Inc. CEO, said in a statement. "We are taking an important step that will strengthen our financial position and enable Express to continue advancing our business initiatives."

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**File Number 2024072135**

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Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
 REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) EDWARD ROMERO, 10744 BOGARDUS AVE, WHITTIER CA 90603  
 State of Incorporation: N/A  
 THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: an Individual  
 The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 04/2024

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 Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.  
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/2/24, 5/9/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File Number 2024082199**

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: **(1) CHAMPION IRRIGATION PRODUCTS (2) CHAMPION IRRIGATION, 5147 ALHAMBRA AVE, LOS ANGELES CA 90032, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
 REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) ARROWHEAD BRASS & PLUMBING, LLC, 5147 ALHAMBRA AVENUE, LOS ANGELES CA 90032  
 State of Incorporation: CA  
 THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: a Limited Liability Company  
 The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A  
 I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
**S/ ARROWHEAD BRASS & PLUMBING, LLC, MANAGING MEMBER, KUO REI CHEN**  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on APRIL 16, 2024.

Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective

January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.  
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
**4/18/24, 4/25/24, 5/2/24, 5/9/24**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**File Number 2024091163**

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: **(1) ARA MACAO, 5225 ELIZABETH STREET, CUDAHY CA 90201, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
 REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) GABRIEL GERARDO GERMAN GONZALEZ, 5225 ELIZABETH STREET, CUDAHY CA 90201  
 State of Incorporation: N/A  
 THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: an Individual  
 The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
**S/ GABRIEL GERARDO GERMAN GONZALEZ, OWNER**  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on APRIL 26, 2024.  
 Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.  
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS / INVITATION TO BID**

Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the **Downey Unified School District** ("District") will receive sealed bids to construct the following project:

**Bid No. 23/24-39: Downey High School Field Speaker Upgrade** ("Project" or "Contract") located at locations below:

Downey High School, 11040 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241

Contractors must submit sealed bids on or before 10 AM on May 31, 2024 at the District Office Facilities Department, located at T-4, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241 at or after which time the District will open the bids and publicly read them aloud. Any claim by a Bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with Public Contract Code § 5100, et seq. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the Bidder. The District is not responsible for Bids that are received after the deadline noted above.

The Project consists of: **Provide and install new speakers for the football stadium at Downey High School.**

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District, attached hereto. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: C-7

The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.

As security for its Bid, each Bidder shall provide with its Bid form

- a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District,
- cash, or
- a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the **Downey Unified School District**

in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code § 22300.

The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to Labor Code § 1770 et seq. Prevailing wage rates are on file with the District and are available to any interested party on request or at [www.dir.ca.gov/oprl/statistics\\_and\\_databases.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oprl/statistics_and_databases.html). Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1725.5 & 1771.1.

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on May 21, 2024 at 11 AM, at Downey High School, 11040 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241 at the back parking lot located at the corner of 3rd St. and Lakewood Blvd. All prospective Bidders are required to sign in at each school site. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately an hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

Contract Documents are available on or after May 9, 2024.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Contract Documents are to be directed in writing to the District no later than May 24, 2024 at 4 PM. Only questions answered by formal written Addenda will be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarifications will be without legal effect.

The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful Bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no Bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive

responsible Bidder based on: The base bid amount only.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/16/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Downey Unified School District will receive sealed bids for the award of a Contract for **Bid Number 24/25-01R Food Service Dairy Products.**

Bid documents are available for download on the District's website at: <https://web.dusd.net/purchasing/#bids>.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Invitation To Bid are to be directed via email to the buyer, Florence Shih at [fshih@dusd.net](mailto:fshih@dusd.net). Questions received prior to May 29, 2024 will be addressed in written addenda. Only questions answered by formal written addenda will be binding.

Please bid your lowest prices for the items or services on the attached Bid Form. Before bidding, please read and thoroughly acquaint yourself with every section within this Invitation to Bid.

**Submit all bids in a sealed envelope showing the Name of Bidder, Bid Number, Title, Due Date, and Opening Time.** Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., June 7, 2024, at the District's Purchasing Department (Room 169) located at 11627 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241. Bids will be opened and read aloud at or after the time indicated above. Any bids received after the time specified above or after any extensions due to material changes shall be returned unopened.

All bids shall be on the forms provided by the District, attached hereto. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent sections within the Invitation To Bid, including, but not limited to, the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

The District shall award the contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. Unless otherwise required by law, no Bidder may withdraw its bid for sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/16/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Downey Unified School District will receive sealed bids for the award of a Contract for **Bid Number 23/24-37 STM Goods DUX Keyboard iPad Case.**

Bid documents are available for download on the District's website at: <https://web.dusd.net/purchasing/#bids>.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Invitation To Bid are to be directed via email to the buyer, Danny Jimenez at [djimenez@dusd.net](mailto:djimenez@dusd.net) with a copy to Assistant Director of Technology & Information Systems, Tarek Israwi at [tisrawi@dusd.net](mailto:tisrawi@dusd.net). Questions received prior to 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024 will be addressed in written addenda. Only questions answered by formal written addenda will be binding.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/16/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Downey Unified School District will receive sealed bids for the award of a Contract for **Bid Number 24/25-02 Food Service Paper Products.**

Bid documents are available for download on the District's website at: <https://web.dusd.net/purchasing/#bids>.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Invitation To Bid are to be directed via email to the buyer, Florence Shih at [fshih@dusd.net](mailto:fshih@dusd.net). Questions received prior to May 23, 2024 will be addressed in written addenda. Only questions answered by formal written addenda will be binding.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/2/24, 5/9/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Board of the Downey Unified School District will receive sealed bids for the award of a Contract for **Bid Number 24/25-02 Food Service Paper Products.**

Bid documents are available for download on the District's website at: <https://web.dusd.net/purchasing/#bids>.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Invitation To Bid are to be directed via email to the buyer, Florence Shih at [fshih@dusd.net](mailto:fshih@dusd.net). Questions received prior to May 23, 2024 will be addressed in written addenda. Only questions answered by formal written addenda will be binding.

Please bid your lowest prices for the items or services on the attached bid sheets. Before bidding, please read the Instructions and Conditions and thoroughly acquaint yourself with the bid.

**Submit all bids in a sealed envelope showing the Name of Bidder, Bid Number, Title, Due Date, and Opening Time.** Sealed bids will be received until 11:00 a.m., May 31, 2024, at the District's Purchasing Department (Room 169) located at 11627 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241. Bids will be opened and read aloud at or after the time indicated above. Any bids received after the time specified above or after any extensions due to material changes shall be returned unopened.

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District, attached hereto. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent sections within the Invitation To Bid, including, but not limited to, the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

The District shall award the contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. Unless otherwise required by law, no Bidder may withdraw its bid for sixty (60) days after the date of the bid opening.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/2/24, 5/9/24**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS / INVITATION TO BID**

Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Downey Unified School District ("District") will receive sealed bids to construct the following project:

**Bid No. 23/24-38: Warren High School Field Speaker Upgrade** ("Project" or "Contract") located at locations below:

Warren High School, 8141 De Palma Ave., Downey, CA 90241

Contractors must submit sealed bids on or

before 9 AM on May 31, 2024 at the District Office Facilities Department, located at T-4, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241 at or after which time the District will open the bids and publicly read them aloud. Any claim by a Bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with Public Contract Code § 5100, et seq. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the Bidder. The District is not responsible for Bids that are received after the deadline noted above.

The Project consists of: **Provide and install new speakers for the football stadium at Warren High School.**

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: C-7  
 The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.

As security for its Bid, each Bidder shall provide with its Bid form

- a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District,
- cash, or
- a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the **Downey Unified School District**

in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code § 22300.

The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to Labor Code § 1770 et seq. Prevailing wage rates are on file with the District and are available to any interested party on request or at [www.dir.ca.gov/oprl/statistics\\_and\\_databases.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oprl/statistics_and_databases.html). Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1725.5 & 1771.1.

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on May 21, 2024 at 10 AM, at Warren High School, 8141 De Palma Ave., Downey, CA 90241 at the back parking lot located at the corner of Manatee St. and Mac Govern Ave. All prospective Bidders are required to sign in at each school site. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately an hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

Contract Documents are available on or after May 9, 2024.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Contract Documents are to be directed in writing to the District no later than May 24, 2024 at 4 PM. Only questions answered by formal written Addenda will be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarifications will be without legal effect.

The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful Bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no Bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder based on: The base bid amount only.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/16/24**

**LIEN SALES**

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated.

14879 Carmentia Rd, Norwalk, CA 90650 on 05/22/24 at 12:30pm

Carlos Garcia

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24**

**NOTICES**

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

**CASE NUMBER: 24NWCP00157**  
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RUDY MEZA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) RUDY MEZA to Proposed name (1) RANULFO MEZA  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**Date: JUNE 14, 2024, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312**  
**The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650**  
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **The Downey Patriot** APRIL 24, 2024.  
 JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES  
 Judge of the Superior Court  
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**RUDY MEZA**  
**14908 LIBLEN AVE**  
**BELLFLOWER, CA 90706**  
**MEZA2370@GMAIL.COM**

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/2/24, 5/9/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24**

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

**CASE NUMBER: 24NWCP00174**  
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
 Present name (1) YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ to Proposed name (1) YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**Date: JUNE 17, 2024, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312**  
**The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk CA 90650**  
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **The Downey Patriot** MAY 1, 2024.  
 JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES  
 Judge of the Superior Court  
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ**  
**7514 SUVA ST.**  
**DOWNEY CA 90240**  
**(310) 849-5233**  
**yanderisemail@gmail.com**

Present name (1) YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ to Proposed name (1) YANDEREI MARTINEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**Date: JUNE 17, 2024, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312**  
**The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk CA 90650**  
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **Downey Patriot** MAY 1, 2024.

JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES  
 Judge of the Superior Court  
 Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**YANDEREI SANDOVAL-MARTINEZ**  
**7514 SUVA ST.**  
**DOWNEY CA 90240**  
**(310) 849-5233**  
**yanderisemail@gmail.com**

**The Downey Patriot**  
**5/9/24, 5/**

## CLASSIFIEDS

<b>FOR RENT</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
<p><b>N. DWY STUDIO</b> Separate from main house. Kitchen &amp; Bath. \$1,280/mo. (562) 619-7658</p>	<p><b>HANDY CRAFTSMAN SERVICE</b> for all your home improvements &amp; repairs. All labor and material guaranteed. (562) 331-0976</p>	<p><b>APPLIANCE TECH HAS ARRIVED</b> House calls. Same day rapid service all major brands. Washers, dryers, ovens, stoves, refrigerators, etc. Senior citizen discount. (562) 866-4291 (310) 251-3018</p>	<p><b>GENERAL CONTRACTOR</b> Kitchen &amp; Bath Remodeling Doors, Windows &amp; Floors (562) 307-7315 CSLB# 1036011</p>	<p><b>FULL SERVICE 24/7 PLUMBING</b> Snr Discount, Bonded, Insured &amp; Licensed C-36 #759646 BBB Grade A+ <b>McKinnon &amp; Sons</b> Plumbing of Downey (562) 904-3616</p>	<p><b>NICE-N-KLEAN</b> Residential &amp; Commercial Cleaning. Call for a Free Estimate. (562) 419-6577</p>
<b>SERVICES</b>					
<p><b>ALL ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING WORK</b> Lic 965519 &amp; Bonded Jobs start at \$35, free estimate Call Erik (323) 228-4500</p>					
					<b>YARD SALE</b>
					<p><b>5/11 &amp; 5/12</b> 7:30am-2pm 9257 Otto St. Downey</p>

POMERING RD, DOWNEY, CA 90241  
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$380,629.03 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that

may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.AUCTION.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 119715-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are 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 (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 119715-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and

highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (800) 280-2832 CLEAR RECON CORP 8880 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92108

**STOX 944777**  
The Downey Patriot  
5/2/24, 5/9/24, 5/16/24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 18-20560-SP-CA Title No. 180300640-CA-V01 A.P.N. 6365-001-044 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 08/16/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale

will be made in an "as is" condition, 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 the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Vanessa Huerta, a single woman Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 08/23/2006 as Instrument No. 06 1879656 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Los Angeles County, California. Date of Sale: 06/03/2024 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: By the fountain located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,260,680.36 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 8910 Smallwood Avenue, Downey, CA 90240 A.P.N.: 6365-001-044 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand

that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 866-539-4173 or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 18-20560-SP-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. 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 a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" you may be able to 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 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 18-20560-SP-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. \*Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 04/24/2024 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany and Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 920 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line 866-539-4173; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative A-4815726 05/02/2024, 05/09/2024, 05/16/2024  
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# Orange County sees 28% rise in homelessness

■ Despite the increase in homelessness, officials still say that the overall five-year trend is still encouraging.

By Paul Anderson  
City News Service

**SANTA ANA** – Orange County saw a 28% increase in homeless individuals compared with the last count two years ago, but county officials were encouraged that the number is just 7% higher than the previous pre-pandemic count in 2019, according to a report issued Wednesday.

County officials found the five-year trend encouraging and a validation of efforts to address the problem since the county found itself in federal court over a plan to clear out an encampment along the Santa Ana riverbed in January 2018.

The extended gap between the previous two counts was due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's Point In Time count tallied 7,322 homeless individuals in the county.

Doug Becht, director of the county's Office of Care Coordination, pointed out that officials have been using the same methodology approved by the federal Housing and Urban Development agency, so the five-year trend provides a more helpful picture than a year-over-year comparison.

"Obviously, a 28% increase is a significant increase from 2022," Becht told City News Service.

But he said the five-year trend compares favorably to neighboring counties and the state of California, which has seen a 20% increase over that span.

"And when we compared our surrounding counties, San Diego, L.A., San Bernardino and Riverside, we're seeing their trend is 29%," Becht said.

"I would find the increase from 2022 to be encouraging in the sense that that's the

worst possible take from this Point in Time report," Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do told CNS. "To have only that increase in light of all of the headwinds with COVID, with the economy and especially in relation to other large counties, I think we are ahead of our peers."

Do added that the five-year comparison given how COVID-19 affected the economy "speaks to our county's foresight in crafting the continuum of care, and I'm referring specifically to Bridges in Anaheim, the courtyard in Santa Ana and subsequently the Yale Street site in Santa Ana."

Along with Orange County CEO Frank Kim, Do led efforts in federal court regarding the riverbed homeless encampment to do more than just build temporary shelters. A landmark settlement led to the development of regional service areas in north, central and south county in which local cities agreed to build shelters designed to guide transients toward permanent housing. The county also developed more outreach to the homeless and provided more mental health services.

"Our continuum of care created that capacity that allows our county to absorb all of the adverse forces in society that pushed the number of homeless up and to maintain it as a pretty stable level over five years," Do said. "Seven percent is very low ... and we see other counties not coming anywhere close to what we've achieved and I'm very proud of that fact."

Supervisor Katrina Foley, who led similar reform efforts when she was mayor of Costa Mesa, said that while lobbying in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, she intended to push HUD and the county congressional delegation for more affordable housing grants to help move people in transitional centers into permanent housing so those still on the streets will have a bed.

"The five-year lookback is an appropriate measure given that in between the five years



Duane Nichols, 64, sits in his wheelchair with his dog Axel at North Beach in San Clemente on March 30, 2023. The San Clemente City Council is closing the beach early and hired private security to deal with a growing homeless community. (Photo by Leonard Ortiz/MediaNews Group/Orange County Register via Getty Images)

we've had a pandemic and lot of factors that wouldn't be realistic data in that cycle," Foley said. "The important information for my office and what I'll be drilling down on is we have a bottleneck in our system."

"We need to work with more urgency to build more projects," she added. "We still have 1,811 units to build out our system that we identified in 2022. I suspect those numbers will double, but regardless we don't have enough permanent housing to keep the flow going. Seventy percent of the people in our shelters are ready to go into permanent housing and there isn't a unit for them to move into."

Kim said it will be key for the county to work collaboratively not only with its cities, but also with neighboring counties.

"We succeed and fail together," he said. "The homeless individuals we know can move from city to city and county to county, so it's important we work together even outside of Orange County. That regional approach is very important. And

I think that in the past we've not had as strong a collaboration ... That's something we'll have to look at."

Kim said the counts have become more accurate because the county has been using the same method for five years and with a database there's less risk of double counting or missing people. Also, the database has shown officials where the homeless are most likely to congregate.

Officials say part of the reason for the increase in homelessness could be rising inflation, which has prompted federal officials to hike interest rates. That increases rents and mortgages, experts say.

Officials are hoping that if inflation can meet the 2% target sometime this year, interest rates will be cut and that will lower housing costs. Inflation increased after the federal government stimulated the economy as it struggled to get through the pandemic.

Another factor could be an eclipse in the \$300 million in rental assistance funding given

out by the county and state to prevent residents from eviction during the pandemic. The moratorium on evictions ended on May 31, 2022.

Since 2019, 61 emergency shelters were established in Orange County to serve about 3,000 people, an increase of 730 beds. Since 2018, 1,364 affordable and supporting housing units have been built.

From 2022 to this year, the county added 681 shelter beds for a total of 3,920. The county built 859 units since January 2022.

Foley said in her meetings with developers she's identified "three key areas preventing the expediting of affordable housing." Interest rates on construction loans is one issue, but the costs for construction materials such as lumber and steel are "particularly, extraordinarily expensive," Foley said.

The county must also focus on reducing bureaucratic costs related to building, she said.

"We have to figure out a way to reduce the time and expedite the permit process," she said.


Helping developers procure construction materials through partnerships with government that can get discounts from high-volume orders might help, she said.

"I'm working on a procurement policy where maybe we can piggyback on federal procurement contracts or county or state contracts," she said.

The county has made great strides getting homeless families off the streets, but more work needs to be done helping veterans, Foley added.


Of the 7,322 homeless individuals counted, 3,227 are in the northern part of the county, 3,454 are in the central part of the county and 641 were in south county.

Veterans accounted for 328 people in the count, and 308 were ages 18 to 24. The number of homeless seniors 62 and older amounted to 869.



## LAST CALL

# Class of 2024!









**PROMOTION**  
Class of 2024 - Celebrating the Class of 2024

**DESCRIPTION**  
The Downey Patriot created a commemorative issue to celebrate the Class of 2024.

**DEADLINES**  
Camera Ready Artwork: May 16, 2024  
Edition: May 30, 2024

**CIRCULATION**  
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**Email [julie@thedowneypatriot.com](mailto:julie@thedowneypatriot.com) to reserve your space**

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## Karen Ella named Nurse of the Year at Rancho Los Amigos

**DOWNEY** – Rancho Los Amigos (RLA) National Rehabilitation Center celebrates their more than 650 nurses during Nurses Week May 6th-12. The week-long celebration highlights the invaluable roles nurses play in the recovery process, as Rancho patients work to restore their health, rebuild their lives, and rediscover hope after a life-altering injury or illness.

Each year, the RLA Nursing Department honors one individual as their Nurse of the Year and on Tuesday, that honor was bestowed upon Karen Ella, an ambulatory care nurse at Rancho Los Amigos.

Ella, BSN, RN, AMB-BC, is a Registered Nurse II in Ambulatory Care at RLA. She began her career at DHS in 2016 at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center before coming to RLA in 2018. Since then, she has been a clinical nurse and nurse leader within our outpatient clinics.

In her practice, Ella demonstrates outstanding clinical skills and a natural ability to connect with patients on a personal level, which allows her to deliver care that is not only impactful, but also tailored to each patient's needs.

Ella is known amongst her colleagues for her professionalism, integrity, leadership, and unwavering dedication to improving patient experience and staff engagement. Whether she is comforting a fright-ened patient, coordinating complex medical treatments, educating families on healthcare practices, or identifying areas of improvement, she approaches each task with kindness, empathy, and a commitment to excellence.

This year, Ella represented RLA at the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing Annual Conference, with a podium presentation on The Nurse-Driven Blood Pressure Medication Titration Clinic that demonstrated Rancho's successful initiative to improve patient care.

Rancho Los Amigos' nurses are extraordinary advocates, dedicated care providers, and an integral part of the patient care team at Rancho.

## Sanchez delivers \$1.6 million to Whittier YMCA

**WHITTIER** – Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez (D-CA) last week delivered \$1.66 million in federal funding she secured for the YMCA of Greater Whittier through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was signed by President Biden in March.

The funding will be used to make modifications to the Uptown Whittier Family YMCA Center to improve accessibility, safety and equity at the 40-year-old building.

"Our vision for the Uptown Y is simple yet powerful: everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential," said Curt Skotnicki, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Whittier. "By creating facilities comparable to those in affluent neighborhoods, we ensure that our residents have access to high-quality programs and services that can truly enhance their lives and futures."

"Our work remains unfinished. The transformation of the Uptown Y is an ongoing journey, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential."



## Bellflower physician pleads guilty to defrauding Medi-Cal

**BELLFLOWER** – The owner and sole physician at a Bellflower medical clinic has pleaded guilty to submitting millions of dollars' worth of false claims to a Medi-Cal health care program that provides family planning services to low-income and uninsured patients, causing more than \$2.5 million in losses, the Justice Department announced Tuesday.

Robert Eyzaguirre, 77, of Torrance, pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud, a felony that carries a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison.

According to his plea agreement, Eyzaguirre owned and operated Dr. Robert's Medical Center, a Bellflower-based medical clinic enrolled as a Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) provider run through the Medi-Cal public health program that California administered under Medicaid.

At this clinic, Eyzaguirre employed and supervised Gary Lee Didio, 54, of Huntington Beach, and Sandra Rios, 51, of South Los Angeles.

From at least December 2013 through January 2020, Eyzaguirre conspired with Didio and Rios to submit more than \$4.6 million in fraudulent claims to the Family PACT program for family planning services that

were never provided.

Rios picked random names from an online phone-and-address directory and created fake patient files, including inserting fake vital signs and patient notes.

Eyzaguirre signed the fake patient files, falsely representing that he had provided family planning services to those patients. Eyzaguirre sometimes signed blank patient forms before the false vital signs and notes had been added. The fake patient files were then submitted to the Family PACT program for reimbursement.

The Medi-Cal program paid

more than \$2.5 million on the fraudulent claims submitted by Dr. Robert's Medical Center.

Eyzaguirre also falsely certified in the fake patient files that laboratory tests were medically necessary. Didio and Rios then referred the names of fake patients to a laboratory in Northern California, which then paid an illegal kickback of \$30 cash for each referral.

In total, the laboratory paid more than \$372,000 in illegal kickbacks for the referrals of fake Family PACT patients from Dr. Robert's Medical Center.

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