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## CRIME REPORT

### FRIDAY, NOV. 18

Officers were assigned to patrol the downtown area from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m. During this time they issued one traffic citation, four municipal code citations and made a DUI arrest.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Officers were assigned to patrol the downtown area from 8 pm until 3 a.m. During this time period they issued 4 municipal code citations, 4 traffic citations, 2 parking citations, and made 1 warrant arrest. The officers also dealt with fight calls outside the DB lounge, 20/20 Sports Bar, Mambo Grill and the Hookah Lounge.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 20

At 5:45 am, officers were dispatched to the area of Lakewood and Firestone regarding a possible stolen vehicle. Officers checking the area located the vehicle and stopped it on the 605 freeway. The driver was taken into custody without incident and the vehicle was recovered.

At 3:30 pm, officers were dispatched to the area of Lakewood and Imperial regarding a possible stolen vehicle. The vehicle was ultimately located and stopped in the park-n-ride parking lot. The driver was arrested without incident and the vehicle was recovered.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the Holiday Season in full swing, the Downey Police Department would like to offer a few crime prevention tips to help lessen the chances of becoming a victim during the busiest shopping season of the year. Busy stores and crowds during the holidays can invite crime. Avoid being a victim by following these simple safety tips:

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use credit cards or checks
- Never leave valuables, including purses and wallets, unattended. Don't let your attention be diverted while leaving these items in shopping carts or strollers
- If you leave store purchases in your vehicle, lock them in your trunk or keep them in a non-visible area. Criminals watch for shoppers who place purchases in their vehicles and leave them unattended
- Park in well-lit areas
- Remain alert in parking lots. Avoid carrying so many packages that you are unaware of your surroundings and personal safety
- Scan the area surrounding your vehicle when you park and when you return, making sure to look for suspicious persons that may be loitering in the area
- Lock your doors immediately after entering your vehicle
- Immediately report suspicious persons and activities to police or store security personnel

At this time of year many people are away from their residences during the day, shopping and running errands in preparation for their holiday celebration. To help prevent your family from becoming a victim of a theft at home, follow these safety tips:

- Packaging left at the curb of your home for trash pick-up is a clue to the criminal element of any items that may be inside your home. Break down packaging and/or wrapping and place it inside the recycle container so that it is not visible to anyone outside of your home
- Beautifully wrapped gifts under a tree which are visible from outside the home are enticing to the criminal element, so avoid leaving any such items within view of unobstructed windows of your home
- If you will be going on a holiday vacation or a trip, be sure to have your mail and/or newspaper delivery stopped. Uncollected mail or a pile of newspapers sitting at the front step are a clue that the homeowner is away.

If you do go away for the holidays, ask a neighbor to watch your house for suspicious activity or persons

- If you shop on the internet or through the mail, and have packages shipped to your home, make arrangements to have those items delivered to a neighbor or your place of employment. During the holiday season, criminals will oftentimes follow postal workers in an effort to locate and steal packages that are left on doorsteps

Most importantly, if you see suspicious activity, immediately call the Downey Police Department at (562) 861-0771.



## Que viva Cuba libre

Death of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro leaves American-Cubans hopeful about country's future.

By Mario Guerra

**DOWNEY** – Today we celebrate the end of tyranny, of oppression of an absolute ruler that caused so much harm to the very people he claimed to want to help.

I was born in Holguin, Cuba in March 1959 (Castro came into power on January 1, 1959), so I've only known one side of this ruler my entire life. I've been blessed and we escaped in 1965 on one of the first Viaje de Libertad (freedom flights).

I remember as a little boy in Cuba hiding in the closet in terror of being found as the military drove by during home- schooling by our non-communist neighbor. I remember the fear and yet jubilation of my parents as we were processed at the Cuban Refugee Center – today known as The Freedom Tower in Miami. We were welcomed by this amazing country that has allowed me to breathe free air to this day.

I understand to a lesser degree the suffering by millions of people at the hands of this dictatorship. I am one of the lucky ones who were able to come to a great country like America that welcomed us and gave us the opportunity to pursue happiness and self-worth. I am very proud to be an American-Cuban.

While I cannot proclaim happiness at somebody's death, today I feel a sense of relief. Yes, of joy for those who are suffering to this day in a homeland and culture I represent by my roots. His legacy is well documented, of starving his countrymen both literally, economically and without human rights. He will be remembered for staying in power for 57 years, the iron fist suppression of communism and a dictatorship.

So no, I'm not happy about death. But I do breathe a little freer today for so many people. I rejoice for the Cuban people there. I cry for the many lives that he shattered, destroyed and killed. Today represents a new beginning, a new vision, a new future without the burdens of the past.

I think of my mom and dad and their struggles to start over and bring our family here to escape this man and what he represented. I wish they were alive to see this. I wonder what their thoughts would be at this day finally arriving.

What faces Cuba now is a political mix of a grand opportunity combined with political uncertainty. Progress towards humanitarian policies and treatment of the Cuban people at the hands of their own government is a noble and worthy goal that hopefully can continue in dialogue with the United States.

And lastly, I count my blessings for this great country and what it represents, for welcoming my family, for my amazing life of opportunities. I also smile knowing that today, we have Cuba and the Cuban people in our thoughts and hearts. Que viva Cuba libre!

I reminiscence of an old Cuban proverb: "When the sun rises, it rises for everyone."

### Downey Mayor

The death of former Cuban president Fidel Castro reverberated loudly in Downey this week, home to a sizeable Cuban population.

Mayor Alex Saab, a second generation Cuban-American, called Castro a "ruthless destructionist" and said his death offered hope for Cuba.

"Thank you to the greatest country on earth, the United States, for opening its arms to those seeking freedom including many in my family," said Saab. "Freedom and democracy are fragile, and is always one generation away from being taken away if not protected properly. Lets all learn from the past so that history doesn't repeat itself.

"The death of Castro represents the closure of a sad chapter and hope for change in Cuba soon."

**On Nov. 23, the day before Thanksgiving, Downey police officers passed out turkey dinners to less fortunate families in Downey.**

**Officers included Ralph Diaz (president of the DPOA), Corporal Gomez (and his daughters Victoria and Sophia), Detective Hernandez, and police explorers.**



## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 68°

Saturday 71°

Sunday 72°

### THINGS TO DO



**Downey Christmas Parade**  
**Sunday - Downey Avenue, 1 pm**  
The parade starts at Downey and Florence, heading south on Downey and ending at City Hall.



**Space Capsule Lighting**  
**Saturday - Columbia Memorial Space Center, 4:30 pm**  
Join Charles Phoenix as he lights up an Apollo space capsule with Christmas lights.



**Toy Drive**  
**Saturday - Stay Gallery, 7 pm**  
Bring a new, unwrapped toy worth at least \$10 and enjoy a night of local art and music.



**Belmont Shore Parade**  
**Saturday - Belmont Shore, 6 pm**  
More than 100 entries, including marching bands, floats, local dignitaries, and Santa Claus.



**Chicano Soul**  
**Saturday - Honda Center, 7:30 pm**  
Hosted by Art Laboe with performances by Tierra, Malo, Thee Midnites, Joe Bataan, and more.

### TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@CarolKearnsLA: Up goes the Christmas tree at Downey civic center. #downey #Christmas

@RealSeanAshton: Thank you to everyone who came out to today's cleanup. Over 70 volunteers today. #keepdowneybeautiful

Follow us!  
@DowneyPatriot

# Mayor's Corner: Downey's future shines bright

By Alex Saab  
Mayor of Downey

Hello Downey,

The election season is finally over and with that comes new change. A new year is upon us and the future of Downey is brighter than ever.

Thank you to all the candidates for their interest and desire to serve in our wonderful City. A big congratulations to incoming Councilmember's Rick Rodriguez and Blanca Pacheco for their victories.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the residents of Downey for reelecting me to serve you for another four years. I am looking forward to continuing the progress we have made together.

City Hall will continue to remain focused on serving our residents and businesses. As we reflect on the previous 60 years of our City and look forward to the next 60, we should be proud to know that Downey has been and continues to be the beacon of the Gateway Cities in

Southeast Los Angeles County.

Downey's values and priorities are what have always distinguished us and have set us apart from others. We have seen great growth and are always making strides to better improve our services and the quality of life of all. I look forward to working together with our residents, staff and fellow Council Members to continue our City's overarching policy goals for 2017: Fiscal Responsibility, Efficiency and Adaptability, Economic Vibrancy, Quality of Life, Neighborhoods & Infrastructure, Public Information and Engagement.

I am proud to humbly serve on the Downey City Council and look forward to another great four years.

As 2016 winds down, there are many events happening in our City. This Sunday, December 4, the Downey Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Downey Christmas Parade on Downey Ave. at 1:00 pm. This year's grand marshal will be Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. Don Knabe has served Los Angeles County honorably



Mayor Alex Saab with the Downey Lions Club at last month's Veterans Day ceremony.

and we are grateful for his service.

There will also be an inaugural 5k Elf Run. The run will be along the annual Downey Christmas Parade route in the morning. First place male and female runners will win a ride in the parade.

On Monday, December 5, the City of Downey will host our Annual Tree Lighting ceremony as well as the official 60th Birthday Celebration of the City in front of City Hall. This free event will feature entertainment from local schools, a snow play area, arts & crafts, photos with Santa Claus, a special anniversary cake and more.

The Downey Lions Club will provide free hot chocolate and candy canes. The Downey Rose Float Association will be selling food and refreshments.

Also that night, I will be naming the winners of the

Holiday Home Decoration Contest. This is a great way to get into the holiday spirit.

On Tuesday, December 6, Caltrans will be hosting a community open house to discuss the Interstate 5 (I-5) HOV/Florence Avenue Interchange project. Caltrans will reduce the Florence Avenue Bridge over the I-5 to one lane in each direction and close the I-5 Florence Avenue northbound on-ramp.

Please attend the community open house to learn about the lane reductions and alternative routes. Project representatives will provide a project overview and will be available to answer questions.

As always, I welcome your comments, concerns and questions. You can reach me at (562) 904-7274 or at asaab@downeyca.org

Mayor Alex Saab

## Tony Mendoza fined \$57,000 by ethics watchdog

**DOWNEY** – Tony Mendoza, Downey's representative in the California Senate, has been fined \$57,000 by a state ethics group for violating campaign finance laws.

The Fair Political Practices Committee levied the fine last week.

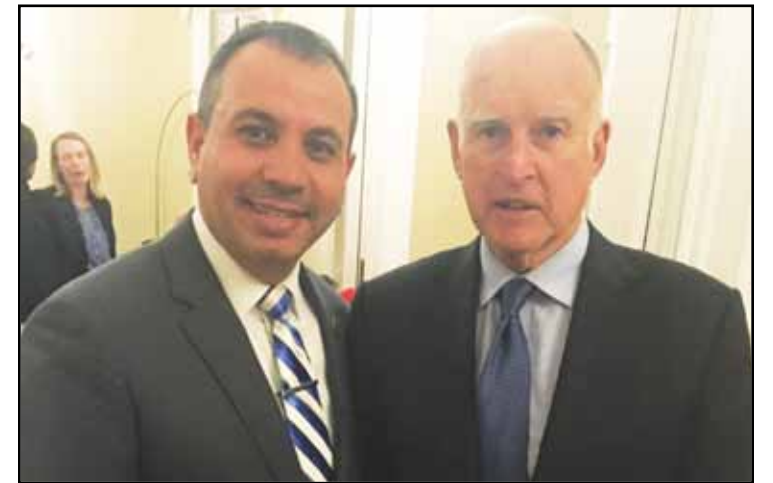
From the Sacramento Bee:

"Mendoza, an Artesia Democrat, led the caucus from December 2010 to March 2012. About a month before he resigned as chairman, the caucus voted to endorse candidates in the 2012 primary election. Former Sen. Ron Calderon, then vice chairman of the caucus, took issue with the fact that his brother, former Assemblyman Tom Calderon, didn't initially get the nod in the 58th Assembly District race against Luis Marquez, Mendoza's longtime friend, according to the documents related to the Fair Political Practices Commission's investigation.

At the time, Mendoza said he didn't want Tom Calderon to win the race because he knew Tom Calderon later intended to run against Mendoza in the 32nd Senate District, according to the FPPC. Mendoza later won the Senate seat, which covers most of southeastern Los Angeles County, in 2014."

"Following the drama over the endorsement, Mendoza heard that the Calderons, his political rivals, were planning to remove him as chairman and use money from a committee, dubbed "Yes We Can," that he formed in the early days of his leadership to fund their own political campaigns and oppose Mendoza and his allies. Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, later succeeded Mendoza as chairman of the caucus.

"Mendoza 'wanted to move the money out of Yes We Can so the Calderons could not use the money,' the FPPC said. In his final days as chairman, he moved the money through various committees before it eventually trickled down to three state candidates running for office in 2012: Rudy Bermudez, who ran against Assemblyman Ian Calderon (Ron and Tom's nephew) in the 57th Assembly District; Marquez, in the 58th Assembly District, won by Cristina Garcia; and Rudy Ramirez, who lost in the 79th Assembly District race to Shirley Weber."



State Sen. Tony Mendoza, pictured here with California Gov. Jerry Brown, was fined \$57,000 for violating campaign finance laws.

*You're Invited!*  
**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
 Advent Dec. 7th & 14th at 6:30 PM  
 Christmas Concert Dec. 10th at 7:00 PM  
 Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24th at 4:00 PM  
 Christmas Day Service Dec. 25th at 9:00 AM  
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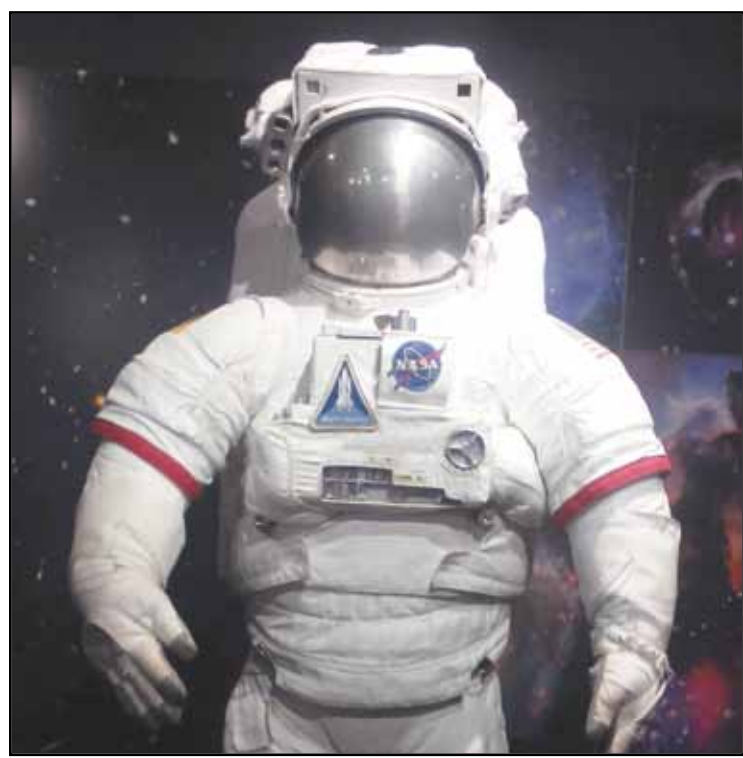
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## Gene and Donna Pemberton celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

**DOWNEY** – Eugene Charles Pemberton and Donna Lee Wall grew up in Venice, Calif. They both attended Venice High School and, not long after graduating, married on November 23, 1956.

After living in Gene's parents' camping trailer for a short time, they moved to an apartment in Venice prior to the birth of their son, Alan, in 1957. Soon after, they moved to Norwalk during which time their daughter, Diana, was born in 1962.

In 1963, they moved to Downey so Gene could be closer to work at the Pronto Market on Downey Avenue. Gene's store management job turned in to an executive career at the newly renamed company, Trader Joe's, where he worked 40 years until his retirement.

Gene was an outstanding fast-pitch softball pitcher and bowls regularly. He may be the only person to roll a 300 game both right and left handed.

Donna performed in plays at the Downey Theater, participates in dance classes, and also bowls. They were both very active with their children and members of the Downey Methodist Church, where Donna sang in the choir for many years. She is also a two-time cancer survivor.

Gene and Donna got their own trailer for family camping trips, to places like Lake Casitas, Bridgeport and Twin Lakes. Later, that trailer turned into a motorhome which they enjoyed on regular monthly outings with family and friends for decades.



Through work related trips, Gene and Donna traveled to Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, England and France. On their own, they have been on a number of cruises, the last of which was to Alaska.

As both of their children also live in Downey, Gene and Donna have been able to watch their three grandchildren Shelby, Whitney and William grow up, attending their sporting events and sharing in all of their other accomplishments.

Congratulations Gene and Donna on 60 years of marriage, and many more to come.

### Upcoming events at the Columbia Memorial Space Center

**DOWNEY** – Below is a schedule of December events at the Columbia Memorial Space Center. For more details on any of the events, visit columbiaspacecenter.org or call (562) 231-1200.

**Young Explorers Academy, Dec. 3, 11 a.m.:** Join the space center as it discovers how the calendar came to be, and why we use it (including why the analog clock is still used today to tell time).

For ages 3-5, parent participation required.

**Girl Scouts Workshop, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.:** Sign up your Girl Scout today to earn a one-of-a-kind patch that can only be earned at the space center.

**Family Game Night, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m.:** Enjoy activities, games, demonstrations, and more with the entire family.

**Teacher Workshop, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.:** Use baking ingredients to whip up a moon-like crater as a demonstration for students. This activity works in classrooms, camps and at home.

Presented by a JPL instructor, this workshop is geared for teachers in grades 1-6. Free but pre-registration is required.

**Junior Explorers Academy, Dec. 17, 11 a.m.:** Learn about some of the basic functions of the human body, like how many bones we have, how they connect, DNA and the function of lungs.

For ages 6-8, parent participation required.

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# Vikings' football season ends in second round

■ **SPORTS:** Charter Oak beats Downey, 35-21; St. John Bosco will face Mater Dei for Div. 1 championship.

By Mark Fetter  
Contributor

**DOWNEY** – The 2016 football season came to an end for Downey High School in the second round of the C.I.F. Division 4 playoffs against Charter Oak at Downey 35-21.

The playoffs have continued and have now reached championship weekend. There will be 13 championship games played this weekend and 13 C.I.F. champions will be crowned.

In Division One, Mater Dei (13-0) will play St. John Bosco (11-2) tomorrow. Mater Dei won an earlier matchup against the Braves 26-21 in Trinity League play. In Division Two, San Clemente (10-3) will play Murrieta Valley (11-2) and in Division Three La Habra (11-2) will play Edison (12-1). Both of these games will be played tonight.

In Division Four, Sierra Canyon (13-0) will play Corona del Mar (12-1), in Division Five Calabasas (13-0) will play Capistrano Valley (13-0) and in Division Six Los Altos (13-0) will play Paraclete (9-4). All three of these games will be played tonight.

In Division Seven, Norte Vista (11-2) will play San Geronimo (10-3) and in Division Eight Yorba Linda (11-2) will play Burbank (10-3). Both of these games will be played tonight.

In Division Nine, Valley Christian (12-2) will play Silverado (11-2) and in Division Ten St. Anthony (11-2) will play Aquinas (11-2). In Division 11 Quartz Hill (10-3) will play Valley View (10-3), in Division 12 Arroyo (12-1) will play Rancho Mirage (11-2) and in Division 13 Santa Ana (13-0) will play Rancho Christian (11-2). Divisions 9-13 will all be playing their championship games tomorrow.

■ The Warren High School wrestling team began their 2016-17 season last Saturday at the Spartan Season Kickoff at South Torrance High School.

Over 20 schools competed at the tournament and St. John Bosco took first place with 291 points, Mira Costa took second place with 162 points, Warren took third place

with 132 points, Yorba Linda took fourth place with 87 points and Valencia took fifth place with 80 points, respectively.

Schurr took sixth place with 76 points, South Torrance took seventh place with 76 points (criteria), Canyon Springs took eighth place with 62 points, St. John Bosco "B" took ninth place with 53 points and Santa Monica took tenth place with 53 points (criteria) to round out the top ten.

The Bears had six wrestlers place in their respective weight classes. Carlos Vasquez placed third at 106 pounds, Joshua Mendoza placed third at 120 pounds, Matthew Lopez placed second at 126 pounds, Gabriel Cabrera placed third at 152 pounds, Ismael Bautista placed third at 171 pounds and Kenneth Gonzalez placed third at 195 pounds.

Coach Brogden, his staff and wrestlers are all looking forward to the start of the 2016-17 wrestling season. Cross-town rival Downey will once again be the team to beat in San Gabriel Valley League competition.

Warren was the junior varsity league champion last season and hopes that some of those younger wrestlers will step up and fill key roles this season on the varsity team.

■ The Downey High School boys' basketball team currently has a record of 1-0. The Vikings defeated Orange County Christian on Monday at the Buena Park Coyote Classic 118-31. Downey played Tesoro of Rancho Santa Margarita Wednesday (score unavailable at press time).

Downey will play their next game on December 12th against Sonora in the North Orange County Championships and will then play Mayfair on December 15th.

The Vikings will also be competing in the Holiday Hoops Classic Tournament at Mt. Carmel over the Christmas Break. Downey will then begin San Gabriel Valley League play when they host Dominguez on January 11th. The Vikings will host cross-town rival Warren on January 18th.

Downey will be led this year by senior captains Brian Chavez and Aaron Garcia. The Vikings finished last season with an overall



Sussman Middle School's eighth grade boys volleyball championship team.

record of 20-10 and a S.G.V.L. record of 3-7. The Vikings finished in a three-way tie for fourth place in league play with Warren and Paramount, respectively. Downey was eliminated by J.W. North of Riverside at Downey 51-36 in the quarterfinal round of the C.I.F. Division 1AA playoffs.

Coach Shelton, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of the 2016-17 basketball season. Lynwood was last year's S.G.V.L. champion with an overall record of 23-7 and a S.G.V.L. record of 9-1.

■ The Lady Vikings defeated Marina 61-29 on 11/25, defeated Compton Centennial 77-15 on 11/26 and were defeated by JSerra 58-41 on 11/29. The Lady Vikings played again yesterday against an opponent that was "yet to be determined" as of Wednesday.

Downey will play Dana Hills on 12/5, North Torrance on 12/7, Los Alamitos on 12/9 and a "to be determined" opponent on 12/10 in the Ocean View Tournament. The Lady Vikings will also compete in

the Gator Classic at Green Valley High School during the Christmas Break. Downey is scheduled to play Santa Margarita on 12/27, Orosi on 12/28 and a "to be determined" opponent on 12/29 and 12/30.

Downey will open San Gabriel Valley League play when they host Dominguez on January 11th. The Lady Vikings will host cross-town rival Warren on January 18th.

This season the Lady Vikings will be led by senior captain Lynette Garcia, senior captain Danise Herrington and sophomore captain Surie Camacho. Downey finished last season with an overall record of 19-9 and were 7-3 in S.G.V.L. play. The Lady Vikings were defeated by Valencia 63-28 in the second round of the C.I.F. Division 1AA playoffs last season.

Coach Harris, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of the 2016-17 season. Lynwood was the S.G.V.L. champion last season with an overall record of 20-8 and a S.G.V.L. record of 10-0. The Lady Knights will once again be the team to beat in league play.

## Ponytail sign-ups this weekend

**DOWNEY** – Early registration will be taken this weekend for the spring 2017 Downey Ponytail season.

The league is open to girls ages 5-18 (as of Jan. 1) with games played at Independence Park.

Early registration is \$120 per player for ages 6 and younger, and \$150 for divisions 8u-14u. There is a \$20 discount for sisters.

Sign-ups will be held Dec. 3-4, Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration fees are due at sign-up.

For questions or more information, email [dponytail@verizon.net](mailto:dponytail@verizon.net) or go to [eteamz.com/downeyponytail](http://eteamz.com/downeyponytail)

## In Memory of Louise Evelyn Castillo

December 21, 1935 - November 14, 2016



A sixty year resident of Downey, Louise Evelyn Castillo at age 80 entered into eternal life on November 14, 2016. She passed peacefully in her home surrounded by her sons. Louise was born on December 21, 1935 in Santa Fe, New Mexico and shortly thereafter moved to Albuquerque where she spent her childhood until age twelve when she and her parents moved to Los Angeles, California.

In 1966, she married the love of her life, Louis Castillo, who she often referred to as "mi corazón" or my heart. This was their term of endearment for each other. She took pride in being actively involved in her children's activities, such as PTA Treasurer and Team Mom roles. As an active member of the TOPS Club (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), she served as Treasurer for her chapter, was a volunteer for City of Hope for over thirty years and was a devoted wife, mother, homemaker and grandmother. She enjoyed cooking, baking, reading, shopping, fashion and had an avid interest in soap operas and movie stars. Louise was known for being an excellent cook and was happiest seeing her family enjoy meals together. Having an outgoing personality and a generous spirit, she always had a place in her home for family in need. She had a fond love for elephants and her vast collection was acquired during her travels and mementos given to her as gifts. Louise will be remembered for her hospitality, class, being a true friend, great sense of humor, keen admiration of the holidays and deep love for her family.

Louise is preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Elsie Chavez and beloved husband, Louis Castillo. She is survived by her children, Daniel Amado (Hillary) of Huntington Beach, Michael Castillo of Venice, Ron Castillo (Angela) of Downey; step-children, Richard Castillo (Michelle) of Montebello, Janet Castillo (Lorenzo) of Silver City, New Mexico, Tony Castillo (Carol) of Whittier, Patricia Gutierrez (Rudy) of Pico Rivera, Tom Castillo of Silver City, New Mexico; 22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Louise's life was celebrated at a memorial gathering and Mass on November 21st at St. Mariana de Paredes Catholic Church. On November 22nd, she was laid to rest alongside her husband at the Riverside National Cemetery.



Warren High School band and color guard students will be caroling in Downey neighborhoods starting this weekend.

Caroling will take place the evenings of Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10. Students will wear blue or white polos with the Warren bear logo.

Donations are appreciated to support their award-winning program. Photo by Joan Anderson, Downey Daily Photos

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS** *the Moravian Trombone Choir*

The Moravian Trombone Choir will be having their 51st annual Advent Concert this Monday, December 5, at 7:30pm.

Founded in 1965 by Jeff Reynolds, the Moravian Trombone Choir of Downey is one of the most active all-trombone choirs in the world. "This concert is the perfect way to get into the Holiday spirit!" says Steven Humenski, the group's Director. The concert is free but a freewill offering will be taken.

The concert will be at the Moravian Church of Downey (10337 Old River School Road)

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# Get an IUD while you can

By **Olivia Alperstein**

As soon as the presidential election results were announced, alarm bells went off for anyone who cares about reproductive rights.

Lawmakers around the country have been moving for years to restrict abortion rights. But for millions of women who've taken proactive steps to prevent unplanned pregnancy, there's a much more direct threat: the next administration coming after their birth control.

As organizations like Planned Parenthood put out urgent calls for resources and support, ordinary women are asking: What do we do if we no longer have access to affordable birth control next year?

For many, the answer could be to get an intrauterine device, or IUD.

These tiny devices last either three or five years, depending on the model. Shaped like a small "T" with a thin string attached, they feature a variety of combinations of hormones and come with a near-perfect guarantee to prevent pregnancy.

After a short procedure, the IUD stays put for years without any muss or fuss. No hustling to take a pill at the same precise time each day, no anxiety about missing a dose, and no worries about getting a full period each month.

In short, the IUD is a great option for many women — and particularly attractive in the face of a possible near future without birth control access.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, most insurance plans are required to cover the cost of prescription birth control, including IUDs. That means no co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-pocket costs. Unfortunately, Republicans have repeatedly tried to gut the Affordable Care Act, and they'll have an ally in the next president.

If Congress dumps Obamacare, some 20 million people — including over 250,000 people who have signed up since the election — could be left without the means to access proper healthcare, including reproductive healthcare.

Meanwhile, other lawmakers are attempting to deny women the right to birth control point-blank. Laws like the proposed Russell Amendment would let doctors, pharmaceutical employees, and other health care providers claim

a religious right to refuse to provide birth control. Employers could even fire workers for using birth control on their own dime.

With their reproductive rights at stake, it's no wonder many women are hedging their bets right now and looking for a long-term birth control option.

Ninety-nine percent of women of reproductive age have used some form of birth control.

That includes women of all religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, from all walks of life, and with all sorts of life experiences. From young women with medical conditions that affect their hormones to teenagers to mothers of multiple children, we run the gamut.

It's not just cis-gender women — transgender, agender, and intersex people use birth control, too.

And we aren't about to let anyone take our access to affordable birth control away.

"The pill" has been around since the 1960s — and so, I was surprised to learn, has the IUD. We are the many, the proud, and we're not willing to go back to the time when back-alley abortions, coat hangers, and turpentine were acceptable methods of reproductive healthcare in the United States.

We're not willing to go back to a time when women didn't have control over their own bodies.

If you're considering using a long-term birth control method and have any questions, ask me — or anyone else in your community who may know the answers. Or check out [bedsider.org](http://bedsider.org), an online resource recommended by women's healthcare providers. There are millions of us out there happy to reach out.

If, on the other hand, you seek to deny us the right to choose what to do with our bodies, remember: We have a voice, and we will not be silent. History is on our side

**Olivia Alperstein is the Communications and Policy Associate of Progressive Congress.**

# Bipartisan unity in a deep red state

By **Sarah Anderson**

A couple years ago, two South Dakota men on opposite ends of the political spectrum got into a nasty fight over marriage equality. But after one offered the other an olive branch, they wound up forming a bipartisan alliance that won big this election year.

Their story offers important lessons for our divided country.

It all began with a Twitter feud between Steve Hildebrand, a gay former Obama campaign adviser, and Steve Hickey, a conservative pastor and former Republican state legislator. To defuse the tension, Hickey decided to invite Hildebrand out for coffee.

Eventually, the two men realized they had something in common: a deep concern about poverty and homelessness. They also agreed that the payday loan industry in their state was making these problems much worse.

Payday lenders give customers short-term cash advances, typically for two weeks, against their paycheck or Social Security check. But most borrowers can't pay back the loan when it comes due — which is exactly what the lenders want.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the majority of all payday loans are renewed so many times that borrowers end up paying more in fees than they originally borrowed. In South Dakota, the average interest rate on such short-term loans is 574 percent.

In a show of bipartisan unity, Hickey and Hildebrand resolved to work together to crack down on these loan sharks. They formed a coalition, South Dakotans for Responsible Lending, to take the issue of predatory lending directly to the voters. Their goal: a 36 percent interest rate cap on short-term payday

loans.

The coalition's first step was to marshal a volunteer army of all ages, income levels, and political stripes to collect almost 20,000 signatures to get the proposal on the ballot. To build support, they held prayer vigils, gave talks at churches and Rotary and Lions clubs, and wrote letters to the editors of newspapers across the state. For Halloween, they painted pumpkins with their campaign slogans.

On November 8, despite being outspent 16 to 1 by industry opponents, the coalition won a crushing victory. More than three-quarters of South Dakota voters supported the rate cap measure.

Reflecting on their success, Pastor Hickey said, "Knowing that today in America we have reached perhaps the apex of hyper-partisanship, our efforts here of working together across the party lines is really a breath of fresh air, and we believe this is the way forward."

Hickey also made clear that the coalition's fight isn't over. They're worried the loan sharks may pursue new legal tricks to keep exploiting the poor, and they're looking for ways to make credit more affordable for low-income South Dakotans. One option they're looking into is using a fraction of the state's reserves to guarantee affordable loans through credit unions.

But even though there's more work to be done, this coalition's bipartisan ballot box success is an inspiring example of how we can still make progress in our polarized nation.

**Sarah Anderson directs the Global Economy Project and co-edits Inequality.org at the Institute for Policy Studies.**

# Self-defense for whom?

By **Nia Nyamweya**

In every state in the country, the right to self-defense is considered a mitigating factor in criminal prosecutions. If you use violence to defend yourself in an extreme situation, most Americans believe, the law should treat you gently.

But not everyone gets to enjoy this right. Just ask Bresha Meadows, who was arrested earlier this year for allegedly shooting and killing her father. She was just 14.

Advocates say that prosecutors failed to account for Meadows' home situation. Her father, they argue, was a violent and abusive man who terrorized her family and threatened to kill them. "In the 17 years of our marriage," her mother wrote in a court complaint, "he has cut me, broke my ribs, fingers, the blood vessels in my hand, my mouth, blackened my eyes."

She went on to warn: "I am 100 percent sure he will kill me and the children."

More troublingly, the evidence suggests authorities had failed Bresha and

her family at earlier moments of crisis. Bresha herself cried out for help to family members and repeatedly ran away from home to escape her situation. Yet law enforcement never questioned Meadows without the presence of her father and sent her home every time she tried to escape.

Now 15 and detained in Trumbull County, Ohio, Meadows faces charges for aggravated murder. Denied pre-trial release, she's been locked up away from family, friends, and school for months. In October, she was placed on suicide watch.

Unfortunately, Meadows' case is not unique.

In fact, 84 percent of girls in juvenile detention have experienced family violence. And the number of girls in juvenile jail is rising, especially for black girls. Even as a national conversation around mass incarceration and racial profiling gains momentum, black girls like Meadows are often left out. That sends a harmful message that they aren't valued.

The Meadows case is one of many examples in a larger trend of policies that criminalize girls and leave trauma unaddressed. These systems fail young girls when they need help the most, and then punish them for the result.

"Countless black women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people face similar matrices of interpersonal violence and state violence," the advocacy group Love and Protect explained in a statement. "Many, like Bresha, are criminalized for choosing survival."

Worse still, the juvenile justice system doesn't work to rehabilitate anyone. Instead, it's often damaging and re-traumatizing, especially for people who come from violent homes. Affordable, community-based solutions that prioritize assessing family security needs over sending teens that lash out to prison would be far preferable to incarcerating traumatized children.

Each day Bresha spends in prison is a reflection that the law doesn't apply to everyone. "We should be worried about Bresha," says Mariame Kaba, the founder of Love and Protect. "With the charges they put on her, it could be 25 years to life."

Though incarceration rates are rising, violence against black girls isn't new. Our justice system has been failing them for a long time.

A petition is circulating calling for prosecutors to release Bresha Meadows and drop her charges. Like all victims of domestic and family violence, she deserves support. Meadows' release from detention would send a different message: that black girls' lives are worthy of defense.

**Nia Nyamweya is a Next Leader with the Criminalization of Poverty project at the Institute for Policy Studies.**

# Critical of Assemblymember

Dear Editor:

Please publish my letter to the Assemblymember of Downey, Cristina Garcia:

Not everyone in your district is a Democrat, but whether we like it or not, you are our Assemblymember. I am writing you in regards to your post on your official website and the article that you posted: "It's not safe to wear my hijab now that Trump will be President."

As a political leader you represent all of us and you should carry yourself in a dignified, unbiased, professional manner. Because of people like you it's not safe for anyone in the 58th District or in the State of California to wear "I Support Trump" t-shirts yet Trump supporters still pay for your salary with our hard-earned tax money.

**Patty Jackson  
Downey**

# Protesting Trump

Dear Editor:

Mike Sandoval of Downey writes "All the people that are demonstrating against the election are demonstrating against democracy."

Have you considered, Mr. Sandoval, that all of those people simply hold a higher standard for the office and this country than perhaps you?

**Tom Fray  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

In response to Mike Sandoval's letter to the editor, in which he wrote that "all the people demonstrating against the election were demonstrating against Democracy," clearly Mike does not know the definition of democracy.

Democracy is control of an organization or group by the majority of its members. Clinton received more than two million votes than president-elect Trump. Even if she had not received the majority of the votes people have the right to protest.

If you don't agree with democracy or freedom of speech that is a constitutionally right afforded by the First Amendment, you may want to consider self-deporting to a land that is more suited to your line of thinking.

**Edgar Jaime  
Downey**

# Defending Trump

Dear Editor:

I'm sure the Downey Patriot won't mind if this letter is long since most of the Opinion page was dedicated to trashing President-Elect Donald Trump, who has been condemned before he has done anything as President.

Re: the op-ed "Sorry, I Can't Give Trump a Chance" by Jill Richardson -- sorry, you don't have a choice. Ms. Richardson authored the book, "Recipe for America: Why Our Food System is Broken." Could the inept administration of President Obama be the reason it's broken? He had eight years and it is not fixed.

Was she referring to the marriage of Bill and Hillary in the marriage section? I believe it was Anito Rivero who wrote we all should get behind Hillary and give her a chance. Now is she ready to get behind Mr. Trump and see what he will do?

When Ms. Richardson says Trump does absolutely everything he can get away with, I see she has totally overlooked what Hillary has done. Can't count how many emails she has allowed to be leaked to foreign governments have hacked into them, is constantly losing papers and has "shaken down" every foreign country she visited for her foundation, even to pay for Chelsea's wedding dress out of foundation money.

I think President Obama has already wrecked our democracy -- correction, our republic. Who is going to pay the almost \$20 trillion debt? This is not counting much more in unfunded pensions.

Also, I'm sick of people calling people homophobes who do not believe in same-sex marriage, who don't believe in Biblical teachings and who believe in uni-sex bathrooms. Mr. Trump has addressed same sex marriage by saying "it is the law" (Supreme Court).

Though I don't believe in it, I'm not in the streets picketing and destroying property. I also don't like NAFTA and by now most of the nation realizes that Obamacare premiums are out of sight and it's a total failure.

Now to our humble school librarian, Julia Desalernos. Since Mr. Trump was elected, she won't salute the flag, dishonoring the brave men who have died fighting for the U.S. She will just bow her head and pray? What is her prayer? Remember the U.S. had a Democrat President for eight years. Does she pray for change? I do.

What specifically have the people done that causes shame? Was it voting in an election? Other than that, the new administration has not yet taken office. What have they done to the children? If they're in poverty, it would be the Obama administration that put them there.

Your beloved President Obama has put this country in an unmanageable debt, and in danger because of his weak approach to ISIS. He hasn't made us feel safe or supported. I'm sure many have worked hard to give all children a safe and excellent education.

Mr. Trump has not yet changed any health plan. If your neighbors don't feel safe, maybe it's because of President Obama's sanctuary cities where crimes are committed and then protected.

I, too, wonder what happened to this great nation in the past eight years.

**Elsa Van Leuven  
Downey**

Dear Editor:

God blessed and saved America on Election Night, Nov. 8, for all the world to see.

It had to be a miracle when you consider all the mighty adversarial forces aligned against one man, Donald Trump, a true American. I said so in a letter printed by the Downey Patriot, for which I am truly grateful to them for doing so.

So many members of his own Republican party, some former primary candidates, political hacks, entire Democratic party, some governors, many newspapers, radio and TV commentators, many cable TV networks, NAACP, Washington, District of Columbia, Latino organizations and leaders, hyphenated so-called Americans, President Obama, VP Joe Biden, Hollywood entertainers, and other die hards all aligned against Trump.

True common sense Americans voted with their hearts and mind to put America first, above all mob forces and power mad politicians. Trump can do no worse than has already been done to America. America has been given another chance to survive in a hostile world bent on destroying it by evil forces and people.

Let's make it worthwhile by giving him a chance and support, after all, all our lives are at stake with America's survival.

Nathan Hale said it truly, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country." Thank you, God!

**Joe Cvetko  
Bellflower**

## The Downey Patriot

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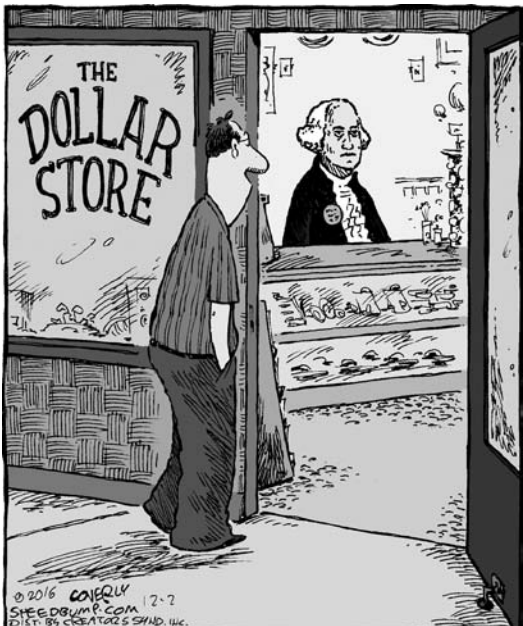
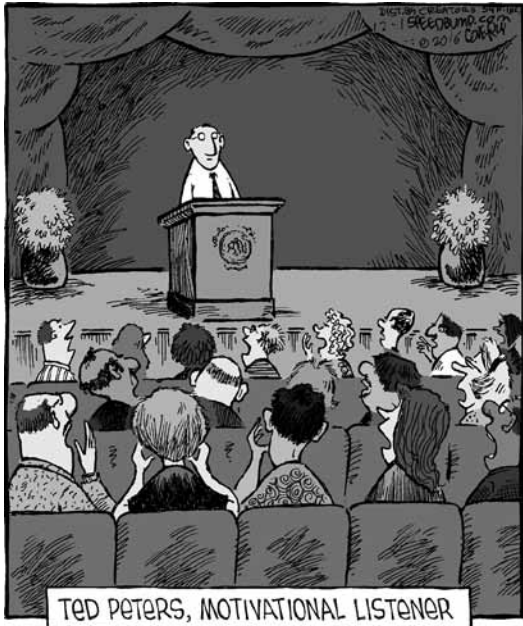
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### EVENTS FOR DECMEBER

Saturday, Dec. 3: **Apollo space capsule lighting**, Columbia Memorial Space Center, 4:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 3: **Toy Drive**, Stay Gallery, 7 p.m.  
 Sunday, Dec. 4: **Downey Christmas Parade**, Downey Avenue, 1 p.m.  
 Monday, Dec. 5: **Tree lighting ceremony**, City Hall, 6 p.m.

### CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.  
 1st Tue., 6:00pm: Emergency Preparedness Committee, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.  
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.  
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.  
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 304-3439.  
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Nancy 806-1782.  
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### TUESDAYS

9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.  
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.  
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Russell Skersick 929-3710.  
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.  
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.  
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.  
 2nd Tues., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 905-7103.  
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 pm: Sertoma Club, at Rio Hondo Event Center, call 927-6438.  
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.  
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.  
 Tues., Thurs, 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

#### WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.  
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.  
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.  
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Helen 864-7319.  
 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.  
 3rd Wed.,: Downey Dog Obedience Club, at Apollo Park, call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.  
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call (310) 604-0725.  
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Armida Lugo, (562) 715-6142.  
 3rd Wed., 6 pm: American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, call Barbara 863-2192.  
 4th Wed., 12:00 pm: Retired Federal Employees, at Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.  
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.  
 Wed.& Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

#### THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.  
 7:30 am: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.  
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.  
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.  
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.  
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.  
 1st Thurs., 12:00 pm: Downey Christian & Professional Luncheon, Sizzler's Restaurant, call James 310-1335.  
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm.: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.  
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6 pm: Lions Club, at Coco's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.  
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.  
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.  
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.  
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

#### FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.  
 3rd Fri., 8:30 am: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. 622-3785.

#### SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.  
 4th Sat., 12:00 pm: Downey Arts Coalition, email contact@downeyarts.org.

### On This Day...

**Dec. 1, 1862:** President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, which was read aloud by the Secretary of the Senate. In it, Lincoln called for the abolition of slavery, saying that "in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free."

**1963:** The Beatles' first single, "I Want to Hold Your Hand," was released in the United States.

**2000:** Vicente Fox was sworn in as president of Mexico, ending 71 years of ruling-party domination.

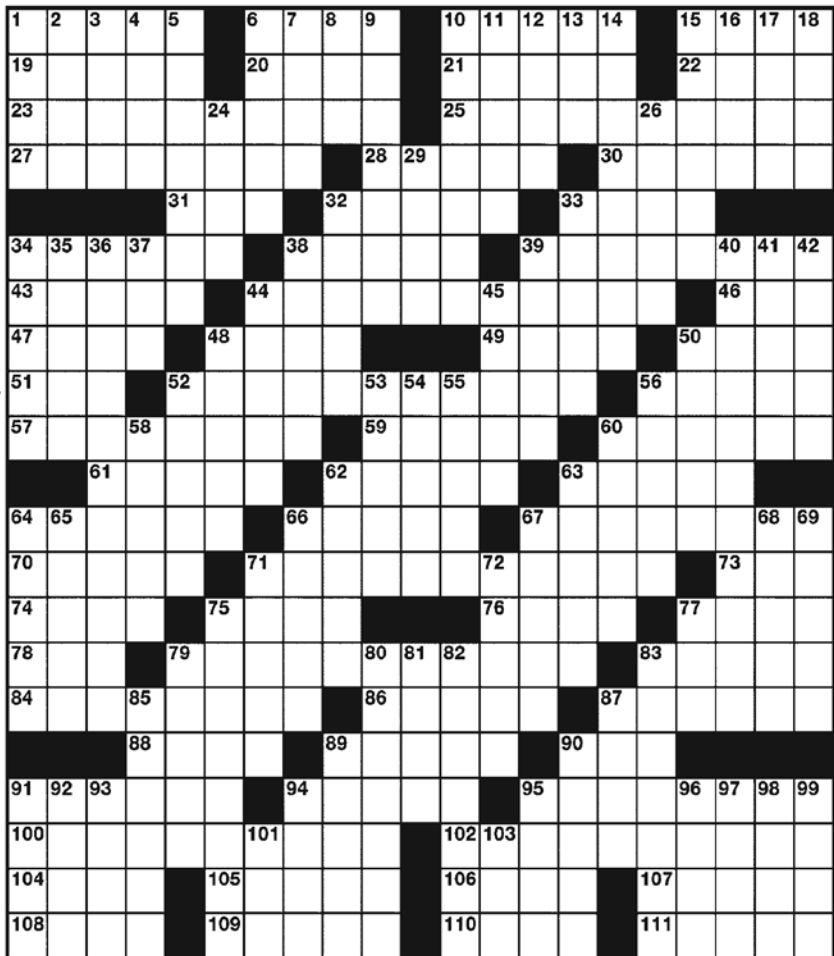
**BIRTHDAYS:** Director Woody Allen (81), singer and actress Bette Midler (71), comedian Sarah Silverman (46) and rock singer Tyler Joseph (28).

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**THEY'RE EASY: And in last place only**  
 by S.N.

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**You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.**



# Outdoor performance at Rose Hills to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

**WHITTIER** – To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, Rose Hills Memorial Park will present "Juan Diego & the Beautiful Lady," a free, bilingual outdoor theater performance at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

The play is performed by students of the Theatre Rehearsal and Performance class from Rio Hondo College's Performing Arts Department, along with students from St. Marianne de Paredes Elementary School in Pico Rivera.

The event is free with viewing areas set up at Mission Hills Plaza at Rose Hills, 3888 Workman Mill Road, Whittier. The performance will move across several stages within Mission Hills and the surrounding hillside.

A replica image bestowed upon Rose Hills by the archbishop of Mexico City, along with a stone from the original Basilica de Guadalupe

built between 1531 and 1709, will be incorporated into this year's production.

"We are excited once again to be working with Rose Hills on this special project, giving our students a great opportunity to perform in a distinctive environment," said Gabriel Carrasco, main director of the play and staff member at Rio Hondo College. "After last year's amazing experience, this new class quickly embraced the project. It resonates with so many students on a personal and cultural level, providing a wonderful learning experience."

After the play, a traditional procession will begin at Mission Hills Plaza and end at SkyRose Chapel, where the event will continue with a special blessing. Food and special Guadalupe items will be available for purchase.

"We have been fortunate to receive the replica image and original basilica stone, and it has become a tradition to share them with our communities," said Patrick Monroe, president of Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary. "Rose Hills has served the needs of Southern California families for more than 100 years by honoring their diverse cultures and religions. We are grateful for the continued partnership with Rio Hondo College and St. Marianne, as well as for their talented students that bring to life their traditions and culture for all to see."

For more information on the celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, visit [www.ourladyofguadalupeosehills.com](http://www.ourladyofguadalupeosehills.com) or call (323) 887-4837.

## The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

An elder Mexican man makes his way to Mass in the early morning twilight of December 9, 1531. He is a peasant, a simple farmer and laborer, and he has no education. Born under Aztec rule, he is a convert to Catholicism, and each step he takes this morning is a step into history.

The morning quiet is broken by a strange music that he will later describe as the beautiful sound of birds. Diverting his path to investigate the sound, Juan Diego comes face to face with a radiant apparition of the Virgin Mary.

Juan Diego is 57 years old. He has just encountered the Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill, the site of a former Aztec Temple. His wife has died two years earlier, and he lives with his elder uncle, scratching his living from the earth as a humble peasant farmer.

Our Lady calms the startled traveler, and assures him of who she is. She instructs Juan Diego to visit his bishop and ask that a temple be built on the site of her appearance, so that she will have a place to hear petitions and to heal the suffering of the Mexican people. "Now go and put forth your best effort," Our Lady instructs.

Visibly shaken, Juan Diego approaches the Bishop who is initially very skeptical of his account. What did this peasant truly want? Does he merely seek attention? Notoriety? Money? Or is he possessed by demons? Has Juan Diego been tricked by the Devil?

The Bishop patiently listens to Juan Diego's accounts and dismisses him. The humble farmer has failed.

Juan Diego begins to doubt himself. He returns to Tepeyac Hill where he hopes for some conformation of what he's experienced. Indeed, Our Lady does not disappoint, for she appears again, as radiant as before. Juan Diego tells Our Lady what she already knows, that the Bishop did not believe him. She instructs him to return the next morning and ask again.

The Bishop is beside himself. Why did this peasant insist on telling this story? How could he know if the peasant was lying or perhaps insane? At their second meeting, the Bishop asks for a sign. Juan Diego makes a promise he won't keep, saying he will return the very next morning with a sign from Our Lady.

But that evening, Juan Diego returns home to find his uncle, Juan

Bernadino, who is 68 years old, suddenly and terribly ill. The illness is known to the people there and it brings a burning fever so hot, it's almost always fatal. Juan Diego cannot leave his uncle's bedside to keep his pledge to the Bishop. He spends two days with his uncle, trying to save him. When it becomes apparent his uncle is about to die, he leaves to find a priest who can prepare him for death.

Juan Diego sets off in a great hurry, time is running out, and Juan Diego is afraid his uncle will die without a last confession. On the road, in his way, Our Lady appears for a third time. Upset and afraid, Juan explains himself. Our Lady replies, "Am I not your mother? ... Are you not in the crossing of my arms?" she asks.

Shamed by the admonishment, but emboldened by Our Lady's presence, Juan Diego asks for the sign he promised to the Bishop. Juan Diego is instructed to climb to the top of Tepeyac Hill where he will find flowers. He is to pick the flowers there, which are unlike any he has seen before, and he is to keep them hidden in his tilma until he reaches the Bishop.

Juan Diego obeys and atop the hill he finds a great number of flowering roses which he picks and hastily gathers into his cloak.

For the third time, Juan Diego is ushered in to see the Bishop. The skeptical cleric has waited for two days to see what sign Our Lady has for him. Juan opens his tilma, letting the roses cascade to the floor. But more than the roses, both men are astonished to see what is painted

on his humble tilma - an exquisite image of Our Lady.


In the image, she stands as she appeared, a native princess with high cheekbones. Her head is bowed and her hands are folded in prayer to God. On her blue cloak, the stars are arranged as they appeared in the morning darkness at the hour of her first apparition.

Under her feet, is a great crescent moon, a symbol of the old Aztec religion. The message is clear, she is more powerful than the Aztec gods, yet she herself is not God.

At the same time Our Lady is appearing to Juan Diego, and directing him to cut the flowers on Tepeyac Hill, she also appears to his uncle, Juan Bernadino who believes he is about to die. As soon as she appears, the fever stops and Juan Bernadino feels well again. She tells Juan Bernadino, she wants to be known as "Santa Maria, de Guadalupe."

Our Lady of Guadalupe did not appear again, for her mission was complete. The temple was built and remains there today, in what is now a suburb of Mexico City. Juan Diego's tilma, woven from cactus fibers, with a shelf-life of just 30 years at best, remains miraculously preserved.

On October 12, 1945, Pope Pius XII, decreed Our Lady of Guadalupe to be "Patroness of all the Americas." Her feast day is December 12, and it is a Holy Day of Obligation in Mexico.



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**Metro Briefs**


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**Measure M Passes**  
On November 8, 2016, LA County voters authorized The Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan called Measure M. Funding raised through the measure will help us tackle the traffic, congestion and air pollution that are expected to get worse with more growth. With your support, we will create a brighter future for us all. Learn more about Metro's Plan at [metro.net/theplan](http://metro.net/theplan).

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**Airport Metro Connector Final EIR Complete**  
Another significant milestone has been reached toward connecting the regional transit system to LAX. The final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project is now complete. Please visit [metro.net/laxconnector](http://metro.net/laxconnector) for more information.

**Metro Launches Off Peak Podcast**  
Off Peak celebrates the true tales and secret stories that happen between Point A and Point B in Southern California and beyond. Challenging the traditional car-centric narrative of Los Angeles, Off Peak explores the rich history and future of rail, bus, cycling, walking and all modes of getting around in LA. Listen to episodes of the podcast at [metro.net/offpeak](http://metro.net/offpeak).



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The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will host its annual Christmas luncheon this Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center. For details, call Linda Malme at (562) 869-6491.



Justin Kraivanger, the younger brother of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School teacher Miss Kraivanger, visited the campus Monday. From the school's Facebook page:

"The OLPH school community prayed heavily for Justin as he fought for his life after being diagnosed with heart failure in June of 2015. He came to thank the children for their prayers.

"He truly believes the power of prayer gave him the strength to keep going after 3 months in the ICU and 8 heart and lung surgeries. Way to go OLPH!"

"Brigitte," a 4-year-old spayed, female Chihuahua mix, is SEACA's Pet of the Week.

Brigitte (ID No. 17-10387) is eager to please, but even more eager to jump in your lap to keep you warm. She is ready for a home this holiday season.

Visit Brigitte during animal viewing hours, Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia is again hosting her "There Ought To Be a Law" contest.

The winning entry suggestion will be introduced as a bill in the next legislative session. The winner(s) will be flown to Sacramento, have a complimentary lunch and testify in support of their bill idea at the State Capitol.

To submit an entry, go to Garcia's official website.



The OC Fair made its first show announcement for its 2017 season with a night of country by The Band Perry with special guest Alice Wallace on Aug. 2.

The OC Fair also announced a Pink Floyd tribute show for July 15.

The Band Perry, composed of siblings Kimberly Perry (lead vocals, guitar, piano), Reid Perry (bass guitar, background vocals) and Neil Perry (mandolin, drums, accordion, background vocals), released their self-titled debut album in 2010.

From this album, "If I Die Young" reached number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot Country Songs and Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks charts and has been certified quadruple platinum.

Their second album, "Pioneer," was released in 2013 and produced two more number one singles, "Better Dig Two" and "Done," plus the top 10 hits "Don't Let Me Be Lonely" and "Chainsaw."

Tickets for both concerts go on sale Dec. 3 via Ticketmaster or the OC Fair box office.

Tickets to see The Band Perry and Alice Wallace start at \$47.50, while tickets for the Pink Floyd tribute show are \$17.50. Tickets include admission to the fair.

## Downey Library's December silent auction items

**DOWNEY** – The Friends of the Downey City Library holds monthly silent auctions to raise money for library programs. The November and December auctions are combined and include:

"**Van Gogh**" (art historian Frank Milner introduces 60 of Van Gogh's most characteristic works, showing clearly the gradual unfolding of his genius);

"**A to Z of the Ancient World**" (a very concise treatment of the ancient world with text and 52 DVD's);

"**A Treasury of Christmas**" (a charming collection of Christmas stories, poems, and carols);

"**The Purpose of Christmas**" (Rick Warren tells you why, regardless of your background, religion, problems, or circumstances, Christmas really is the best news you could get);

"**The West-An Illustrated History**" (a gripping journey through the American west that begins with the first Europeans and ends well into the 20th century);

"**A Charlie Brown Christmas-The Making of a Tradition**" (the story of a tradition that includes insider views, scripts, music sheets and more);

"**Holy Bible-Old and New Testament**" (a family Bible-King James version-with illustrations by Norman Rockwell);

"**Jimi Hendrix-A Brother's Story**" and "**Hendrix-Setting the Record Straight**" (two books that give a lot of insight into the life of one of the greatest guitarists ever to take the stage);

"**Nighttime**" (a pop-up book that treats you to the sounds of the forest, the swamp and the shady woodland);

"**The Tale of Beedle the Bard**" (an autographed collection of tales by J.K. Rowling);

"**The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Chocolate**" (everything you could ever want to know about chocolate with more than 200 step by step recipes);

"**Automobiles of the 50's**" and three sets of music CD's of the 50's and 60's;

Books have opening bids from \$6-\$8 and are on display in the library lobby. Bids can be made through noon, Saturday, December 17th, on cards in the Friend's Bookstore located in the young adult section of the library.

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## Q&A: 12 rounds with Jermall Charlo

It's not that Jermall Charlo is an introvert or someone who can't articulate his thoughts. It's just that being a vociferous, look-at-me showman isn't part of the 154-pound champion's makeup.

Because of that, few people aside from twin brother (and fellow 154-pound titleholder) Jermell Charlo are aware that Jermall Charlo is a well-read, budding music producer/engineer who loves a fine steak and can sign his name with either hand.

We learned all this and more when we recently sat down with Jermall Charlo ahead of his December 10 title defense against top-ranked contender Julian Williams at the Galen Center in Los Angeles (SHOWTIME, 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT).

### Who is your boxing hero?

Tommy Hearn is one of my favorite fighters. He was always trying to disprove his doubters, and I respect everything he's been through. My life and Tommy Hearn's life are similar. We're both tall, and he had a legendary trainer in Emanuel Steward, and I have one, too, in Ronnie Shields.

Tommy had a good job and was a rangy fighter. A lot of boxers think it's easy to go to the body on tall fighters to break us down. But it's a different story when they get in there with Tommy, so that has made me relate to him in that way.

### Of all the boxers in history, who do you wish you could've fought, and how would the fight have played out?

Being in the welterweight and junior middleweight range, I would want to see how my style would match up against a guy like Sugar Ray Leonard. I know he fought Tommy Hearn, but I think I possess some different qualities, and I would

like to see how I would do against [Leonard] at his best.

I don't want to say that I would have beat Sugar Ray Leonard, because he's a great fighter and I wouldn't want to disrespect him. But out of anybody I could have fought, I would love to match my style against Sugar Ray's.

I would of course borrow from the Tommy Hearn fight with Sugar Ray Leonard. Every time I watch that classic fight, I picture myself being Hearn.

### What's the hardest you've ever been hit, and how did you deal with it?

You know what's crazy? It wasn't even by a punch; it was by a headbutt, and it was actually in my last fight against Austin Trout. Somewhere in those middle rounds, we clashed heads, and his head landed right on I believe the left side of my chin and ear.

I haven't been hit that hard by any punch or anything, because I do a good job with keeping my hands up and with head movement and stuff like that. But against Trout, he threw a jab, and I stepped over and his head came crashing into my jawline.

### When training for a fight, what's the one meal you miss the most?

It would have to be steak. I'm a filet mignon type of guy. But I have to give that up during training, because it's one of those red meats that slows me down.

### You're known for being a gym rat. Do you have a favorite exercise?

I like all exercises—anything that's challenging. But if I had to choose one, my favorite would be working the body bag with [trainer] Creed Fountain. I've watched Creed Fountain do the body bag with Evander Holyfield and a lot of other

champions, so it's kind of become one of my favorite exercises.

### What about a favorite punch to throw?

One of my favorites is my left hook. It's not necessarily to the body, but it's one of the punches that I grew up throwing and always felt was one of my most challenging shots. I'm very comfortable throwing it, being that I'm right-handed and left-handed.

### You mean you're ambidextrous?

Yes. I actually can write with both hands. I really never knew what my dominant hand was, being that I was strong with both hands. I throw a football and shoot a basketball with my right hand.

In a fight, I can switch to either side. I grew up in a southpaw stance and feeling more comfortable as a left-hander, but then I started fighting from the right-handed side and feeling more comfortable as a right-hander.

### Finish this sentence: If not for boxing, I would ...

... probably be an educated businessman somewhere making moves in whichever industry I chose. But boxing has saved my life.

### What's the public's biggest misconception about boxers?

That we're all big, angry guys who spend their money wildly and aren't educated. But they're all wrong.

### Do you have a favorite boxing movie?

I generally don't like boxing movies because of the fake punches. But one movie I really did like was Hands of Stone. I grew up watching the Rocky series, so I liked that, too. But Hands of Stone is one of my

favorites.

I like when [the plots of boxing films] get into the lifestyle. When Micky Ward did his movie, The Fighter, a lot of things came out about him that people don't know. That's how I am. There are a lot of things that people don't know about me. Maybe that will change once there is a movie written about the Charlo twins.

### Well, what if Hollywood made a movie about you and your brother, Jermell—what actors would you want playing you two?

Good question. First off, we'd have to find some twins with athletic ability. They'd have to be identical. My twin brother and I look alike, but don't act alike. Right now, it would be hard to find a good actor to portray both of us.

### Who is the one artist on your playlist that would surprise fight fans?

I always go back and reminisce about the old days and the old-school music. I was listening to some Al Green and Johnnie Taylor today.

### Finish this sentence: People would be surprised to know that...

I've been playing instruments and creating beats and engineering and producing since before I even became a boxer. I have a full recording studio inside my house. I



Leo Williams, Premier Boxing Champions

Jermall Charlo will face top-ranked contender Julian Williams on Dec. 10 at the Galen Center.

play piano and guitar. I'm really into electronic music.

### If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

That's a hard question, because there is so much that I would change. I guess I would want everyone to be equal. There would be no levels or one person being better than the next person—no matter the color of your skin.

### What's on your bucket list?

You know what I really want to

do? That survival thing where you go into the wilderness and survive for 21 days. Like on that Naked and Afraid show. I just want to get dropped off in the wilderness and go and survive like those guys do, creating my own fire and seeing what that's like. I think I could do it. I can last out there. I can survive anything.

I don't like snakes and I don't like mosquitos, but I'm not afraid of them. They could drop me off anywhere and I could survive.

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Beverly Hills Board Certified Plastic Surgeon with over 30 years experience.  
Consultant: Miriam  
Free consultation. Interest free financing. Se habla español.  
Call today for a new you.  
**(562) 714-1190**

### SERVICES

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

### COMPUTER SOLUTION

Desktop & Notebook Repair. Senior computer help & printer setup. Virus Removal  
**Call Larry Latimer (562) 714-9876**

### PLANS, PERMITS CONSTRUCTION

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

### SERVICES

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

### FULL SERVICE PLUMBING

Licensed, bonded & insured, 24/7, senior discount  
**McKinnon & Sons Plumbing of Downey (562) 904-3616**

### APPLIANCE REPAIR

Domestic washer, dryer, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers, A/C, heaters.  
All major brands.  
**Joaquin (562) 866-4291 (310) 251-3018**

### SERVICES

**JAMISON HEATING AND COOLING**  
Furnace tune up & system diagnostic \$49 Lic 1015395  
**(562) 755-9526**

### FINE ROOFING, INC.

Roof Repair & Leaks  
Free Estimate-Quality Service  
Senior Discount. Lic 976823  
**(562) 879-4987**

### YARD SALE

**ONE DAY YARD SALE!**  
**10618 Clancey Ave., Downey**  
8am to 2pm 12/4  
Questions? Email [jenn24346@gmail.com](mailto:jenn24346@gmail.com)

### BIG YARD SALE

Sat Dec. 3rd Start @ 7am  
**7737 Arnett Street, Downey**

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016277149**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **EMPOWER STAFFING, 8639 BOWEN AVENUE, SOUTH GATE CA 90280, LA COUNTY, 6639 SAM MARCUS STREET, PARAMOUNT CA 90723**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) ELIUD OSORIO ORTEGA, 6639 SAM MARCUS STREET, PARAMOUNT CA 90723  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/16  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ ELIUD OSORIO ORTEGA, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 14, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016274309**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ALLIANCE, 7136 PACIFIC BLVD SUITE 230, HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255, LA COUNTY, POBOX 910, HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CARMEN VETTE ARCE, 7136 PACIFIC BOULEVARD SUITE 230, HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/16  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ HILDI DELAROSA, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 9, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016278914**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **ROSAS Y FLORES, 10308 CHANEY AVE., DOWNEY CA 90241, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) HEIDY DELAROSA, 10308 CHANEY AVE., DOWNEY CA 90241  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/16  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ HEIDY DELAROSA, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 16, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016277881**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **ROXY FLOWERS, 8674 RHEEM AV, SOUTH GATE CA 90280, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A

**12/1/16, 12/8/16, 12/15/16, 12/22/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016268483**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **BENEMOON, 8024 TELEGRAPH RD, DOWNEY CA 90240, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) JUAN PEDRO GOMEZ, 8024 TELEGRAPH RD, DOWNEY CA 90240  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ JUAN PEDRO GOMEZ, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 2, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016284911**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **GASLO & CO, 3642 E FLORENCE AVE, HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) KARIN LOPEZ GASTELUM, 3642 E FLORENCE AVE, HUNTINGTON PARK CA 90255  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/16  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ KARIN LOPEZ GASTELUM, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 22, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16, 12/15/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016271760**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **DE LA PENA MFG. CO, 1920 HILLHURST AVE, #931, LOS ANGELES CA 90027, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CHRISTOPHER J. DE LA PENA, 1920 HILLHURST AVENUE UNIT #931, LOS ANGELES CA 90027  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/20/16  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ HAROLD POPPIN, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 7, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/10/16, 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016277881**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **ROXY FLOWERS, 8674 RHEEM AV, SOUTH GATE CA 90280, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A

REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MADRILYS ROXANDRA CHACON MENDEZ, 5450 N PARAMOUNT BLVD # 68, LONG BEACH CA 90805 (2) NERY RENIE MORENO, 450 N PARAMOUNT BLVD #68, LONG BEACH CA 90805  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by a General Partnership  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ MADRILYS ROXANDRA CHACON MENDEZ, GENERAL PARTNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 15, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16, 12/15/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016277036**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **ASOC. DE FUTBOL DE VET SUR DE CALIFORNIA, 15028 ALBURTIS AVE, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) RAFAEL MENDOZA PLAFOX, 15028 ALBURTIS AVE, NORWALK CA 90650 (2) MONICO GOMEZ VILLALBA, 15028 ALBURTIS AVE, NORWALK CA 90650  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by a General Partnership  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ RAFAEL MENDOZA PLAFOX, GENERAL PARTNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 14, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

**File Number 2016278905**  
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) **LUXURY PLANTS, 14646 BINNEY ST., HACIENDA HEIGHTS CA 91745, LA COUNTY**  
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) HAROLD POPPIN, 14646 BINNEY ST., HACIENDA HEIGHTS CA 91745  
State of Incorporation: (1) N/A  
This business is conducted by an Individual  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A  
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)  
S/ HAROLD POPPIN, OWNER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 16, 2016

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 Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### LIEN SALES

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700 - 21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, CA Commercial

Code Section 2328, Section 1812.600 - 1812.609 and Section 1988 of CA Civil Code, 353 of the Penal Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on **Wednesday the 14th day of December, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.**, on the premises where said property including: household goods, tools, electronics, and personal effects, have been stored and which are located at **Paramount Self Storage, 8160 E. Rosecrans Ave, Paramount, County of Los Angeles, State of California**, the following:

Customer Name	Unit#
Dynicia L. Braxton	1233
Patricia Aguilar	1259
Janet Alexander	1537
Claudia Avila	1541
Draw Fishbein	2079
Wakebia Dunn	2333
Jorge Molina	2360
Cruz Ocampo	2455
Anthony Logan	2531
Kenya Oladinni	2650
Ricardo Alvarez	2926
Alejandro Gutierrez	2960

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is and must be removed at the time of sale. **Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.**

Dated this **30th Day of November 2016** and **7th day of November 2016**.  
Self Storage Management Co. Bond #: **WL11254152**

**The Downey Patriot 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

### NOTICES

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

**CASE NUMBER: VS029584**  
**CASE NUMBER: VS029525**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Shalva Gagulashvili filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name (1) Shalva Gagulashvili to Proposed name (1) Gabriela Alexander  
**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: December 23, 2016, Time: 8:30 am, Department K, Room: A203**  
**The address of the court is 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90404**

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**

October 28, 2016  
Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**Shalva Gagulashvili 144 N Hamilton Drive Apt. A Beverly Hills, CA 90211 (323) 428-0618**

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

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

**CASE NUMBER: VS029597**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Andre Gonzalez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name (1) Danielle Paola Gonzalez to Proposed name (1) Daniela Paola Gonzalez  
**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: December 28, 2016, Time: 1:30 pm, Department C, 3rd Floor**  
**The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, California 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**  
October 28, 2016  
Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**Hector Gonzalez 7724 Cecilia St Downey, CA 90241 (562) 927-0935**

**The Downey Patriot 11/10/16, 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16**

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

**CASE NUMBER: VS029583**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Andre Khatami filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name (1) Andre Auram Khatami to Proposed name (1) Andre Auram Khatami El  
**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that

includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**Date: January 4, 2017, Time: 1:30 pm, 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**  
October 26, 2016  
Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**Nancy Khatami 1298 Sycamore Village Dr. Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 688-1197**

**The Downey Patriot 11/17/16, 11/24/16, 12/1/16, 12/8/16**

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

**CASE NUMBER: VS029525**  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Elida Polanco filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name (1) Abraham Espada-Polanco to Proposed name (1) Abraham Alberto Castro  
**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons

## Floats announced for Rose Parade

**PASADENA** – The Pasadena Tournament of Roses has announced the 40 float entries that will participate in the 128th Rose Parade, themed “Echoes of Success.”

The floats, listed with the builder are:

- 24 Hour Fitness AES
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation Fiesta
- American Armenian Rose Float Association Phoenix
- American Honda Motor Co. Phoenix
- BDK, a Singpoli Affiliate Paradise
- Burbank Tournament of Roses Association Self-Built
- Cal Poly Universities Self-Built
- California Milk Advisory Board Fiesta
- China Airlines AES
- City of Alhambra, CA Phoenix
- City of Hope Phoenix
- City of Los Angeles Fiesta
- Dole Packaged Foods Fiesta
- Donate Life Paradise
- Downey Rose Float Association Self-Built
- Farmers Insurance Phoenix
- Kaiser Permanente Fiesta
- Kiwanis International Phoenix
- La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association Self-Built
- Lions Clubs International Phoenix
- Lucy Pet Fiesta
- Lutheran Laymen’s League Phoenix
- Miracle-Gro Fiesta
- National Hockey League (NHL) Phoenix
- Netflix AES
- Northwestern Mutual Fiesta
- Occupational Therapy Association of California Fiesta
- Odd Fellows Rebekahs Rose Float Phoenix
- RAGÚ Paradise
- Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee, Inc. Phoenix
- Shriners Hospitals for Children Phoenix
- Sierra Madre Float Association Self-Built
- South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association Self-Built
- The Bachelor Fiesta
- The UPS Store, Inc. Paradise
- Torrance Rose Float Association Fiesta
- Trader Joe’s Phoenix
- Union Bank and the American Heart Association Western States Affiliate Phoenix
- United Sikh Mission Phoenix
- Western Asset Management Company Phoenix

## Carpenter Elementary chosen to receive grant from author James Patterson

**DOWNEY** – Carpenter Elementary School received a \$4,000 grant last week from bestselling author James Patterson to support its school library.

In addition, Scholastic Reading Club will match each dollar of Patterson’s donation with “bonus points” that teachers can use to acquire books and other materials for their classrooms.

Carpenter Elementary was selected among thousands of applications for funding grants.

James Patterson and Scholastic Reading Club announced in March 2016 that Patterson would donate \$1.75 million to save school libraries nationwide in the second installment of his School Library Campaign.

As part of an ongoing effort to keep books and reading a number one priority in the United States, selected school libraries will be receiving grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Since the grant program’s launch in 2015, Patterson has donated \$3.5 million to school libraries nationwide, with all funds are being personally donated by Patterson.

“I’ve made it my mission to underscore the vital role reading plays in children’s lives and the need to sustain school libraries is at the heart of that mission,” says Patterson.

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to administer funding applications to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers.

“The funds from the grant will be used to bolster our book collection at Carpenter, purchase reading furniture for the library and support book-related prizes for Carpenter’s new club; Book Club O-Rama,” expressed Karen Beliakoff, grant applicant and Carpenter Elementary teacher. “Our goal is to share our love of reading and to help everyone at Carpenter find their inner bookworm!”

Schools entering were asked to share the story of their school library, including past efforts to make improvements and “great ideas to help create a brighter future.” Patterson personally read and selected the winning recipients of the grants.

“Last year’s ‘Patterson Pledge’ showed communities nationwide how important school libraries are, but also how gravely desperate they are for books to fill their shelves in the midst of steep budget cuts,” said Judy Newman, President of Scholastic Reading Club.

“The amazing outpouring from schools combined with the continued generosity of James Patterson helped us solidify a second year of grants to help more children have access to high-quality books and, ultimately, revive school libraries. We are proud to announce this year’s new grant recipients and thank James Patterson for his continued personal commitment to save school libraries.”

Based on past winners, school libraries across the country have been using this funding to purchase new books, add bookshelves, make improvements to their catalog systems, and expand their programming

The full list of grant recipients is available online at <http://www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership/recipients>.

## In Lynwood, students band together in wake of Trump’s presidential victory

**LYNWOOD** – Students at both Lynwood Unified high school campuses hugged and held hands during special rallies last week as students shared their fears and hopes following the Nov. 8 election of Donald Trump as president.

The Lynwood High campus was covered in purple on Nov. 16 as the Knights gathered during lunchtime for their U-Knight rally, voicing their concerns and signing a pledge wall to create the change they wish to see.

“A lot of students are talking about how their families didn’t vote and they’re having a hard time dealing with the thought of Trump as president,” Lynwood High junior Dajahn Outland said. “Every vote matters. We have to push forward as a country, no matter who our president is.”

In addition to the pledge wall, LHS students initiated a safety pin movement in which everyone on campus wore safety pins to show their steadfast support for one another.

“The results of the presidential election concern many of our students, but we wanted to show them there are other outlets to make their voices heard,” Superintendent Paul Gothold said. “I hope these forums helped them discover a more productive way of appealing to the government on issues that concern them.”

Firebaugh High Falcons held a unity rally on Nov. 18 in its Falcon Square courtyard, vowing to “protect the nest” and help students cope with the election results through an open forum.

“We need to hope for the best and work toward a better future,” Firebaugh High senior Cristal Hernandez said. “There’s no reason to walk out of school, it’s important that we stay united and support our peers through events like these rallies.”



**Firebaugh High freshmen (from left) Kassandra Ortiz, Deirra Hickson and Leslie Macias stamp their handprints upon a map of the United States during a Nov. 18 unity rally in Falcon Square.**

While also participating in a safety pin movement, Firebaugh High students painted their hands in red and blue and stamped them upon a map of the United States with a statement below reading, “No walls, just love.”

“I am very impressed with how our students have been handling the constant overflow of information that has been coming their way, especially over the last couple weeks,” LUSD Board President Alma-Delia Renteria said. “It’s great to see everyone expressing their concerns in a supportive way, opening up a much-needed dialogue to voice their beliefs.”

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## Sheriff’s deputies sentenced for beating jail inmate

**LOS ANGELES** – Two former deputies with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department were ordered on Monday to serve time in federal prison for violating the civil rights of a mentally ill jail inmate who was beaten, kicked and pepper sprayed after showing disrespect to a jail employee at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

Bryan Brunsting, 32, and Jason Branum (also known as Jason Johnson), 36, were sentenced Monday morning by United States District Judge George W. Wu. Brunsting received a 21-month prison term, while Branum was sentenced to five months in custody.

Brunsting and Branum each were found guilty in May of three felony counts related to the unprovoked attack on the inmate on March 22, 2010, and subsequent cover-up. Following the trial, federal prosecutors reached an agreement with Brunsting in which he admitted his role in another use-of-force incident on Aug. 20, 2009 at Twin Towers.

Brunsting and Branum assaulted the victim in the 2010 incident after the inmate verbally showed disrespect to a civilian Sheriff’s Department employee. Brunsting, who was a training officer assigned to a rookie deputy who had just started working at the jail, told his trainee that they were going to “teach him a lesson.”

Brunsting and Branum then beat the victim with fists, kicked him in the genitals and sprayed him in the eyes with pepper spray. After the beating, Brunsting, Branum and the rookie deputy met to coordinate and falsify their stories.

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# SHARED STORIES: My Beloved Brother

Sadly, there are many who can relate to the story of a family member suffering from addiction. Yolanda Reyna shares a loving tribute to her sibling Gilbert. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns.

**By Yolanda Reyna**

My brother Gilbert was taken away from my mother when he was a young teen. My mother had six children from my father, three boys and three girls.

We called ourselves the Brady Bunch, after the sitcom on TV. So, I guess I was Jan Brady and my brother was Peter Brady. We were the middle children. I felt a connection with Jan. I'm not sure if Gilbert felt a connection with Peter. I thought each one of the Brady children reminded me of my siblings.

My brother was a happy child; we were all happy children. Sure, we were disciplined, and that meant getting yelled at a lot and getting the belt to our butts.

My mother had so many children that when she called out to one of us, she'd say every name except the one she was calling. We'd laugh as she called out the names. We'd wonder which one she was calling.

We knew that one of us either had to take out some trash or run to the store to get something she needed for dinner. That was a daily routine in our family.

One day my father and mother got into an argument, but that was not the first time. They had had many arguments. I never knew what they were arguing about because they spoke to each other in Spanish. So whatever this one was about, it was big!

My father left the home and took my brother Gilbert with him. To this day, I never knew why my dad took him. I do know that he favored Gilbert. They were gone for a very long time. I remember missing my father, not that I didn't miss my brother, but I really

missed my father.

They went to live with my grandmother in Watts. My brother Louie even ran away to be with them. But my father told him to go back home. I didn't know at the time how long they were gone but I believe it was a year. That is a very long time.

When my father finally brought Gilbert back home we noticed a change in him. He was very rebellious, hanging out with the wrong crowd, and drinking alcohol. Rumor had it that my father had brainwashed him.

When Gilbert was seventeen, he wanted to join the air force. Because he was a minor, he needed the consent of our parents. I believe my parents were separated at the time, and I guess, they gave their consent, for whatever reason. Maybe they thought it would give him some structure in his life. Somehow they weren't having any success.

When he was given leave from the air force, Gilbert would visit our family. I remember being so proud of him, and he was proud of himself too. I thought he looked so handsome in his uniform.

Everyone made a big to-do when he visited the family. There were a lot of hugs and kisses! My mother cried a lot. She also cooked a lot of homemade meals. That's what he looked forward to - homemade enchiladas! He was basically treated like a king!

After Gilbert served in the air force, he attended mechanics school. He then met a girl named Rita. She wasn't Hispanic, she was a white girl. That's how my father referred to her.

Rita's culture was very different, but in other ways, she was like us. She was very outspoken and she fit in well with our family. They soon got married and had a very nice wedding. I was a bridesmaid! It was a wonderful day for both of them. They had two sons, Gilbert III and David.

My brother decided to live in Arizona, so we didn't see him as often as we wanted to. But, he did visit during the holidays.

I knew my brother drank alcohol, but I never knew it was a problem. Often times Rita would call my mother

to let her know that my brother was being very abusive toward her and the boys, and that he was spending his hard-earned money on booze. He was a mechanic and earned very good money.

My mother occasionally sent Rita money to ease the burden. The years went by, and Rita continued her calls to my mother.

Finally, Rita could not put up with him anymore. She told Gilbert to leave their home. My mother sent Gilbert a plane ticket to come back to Los Angeles. Only then did we realize and see what Rita was talking about.

Gilbert lived with my mother and he stayed in the garage. I lived with my sister Ophelia at the time. Gilbert was out of control. He lost his job, was drinking every day and was mistreating my mother. He could be like a roaring lion waiting for his prey.

The only thing my mother could do for him was pray. He started to roam the streets and was often spotted panhandling.

But there were days when he was sober. When he was sober, he was caring and funny. He loved Bugs Bunny, and he'd go on and on, talking about the cartoon character. It was amazing to me what joy he found in that cartoon character.

He had a lot of favorite TV shows. The Rockford Files was one of them. He was also extremely intelligent, using words that I didn't understand. He quoted scripture from the bible. That was impressive!

When my car needed fixing, he was always there to service it. He taught me how to change the oil. He was my mechanic back in the day.

When I wanted to visit my mother and my father, I'd call to see if he was around and drinking. When I knew he was sober, I would sit in the garage with him. He would be so quiet and

reserved. I could not comprehend the two personalities!

He'd sit there and smoke cigarettes and watch TV. When I think about it now, it breaks my heart, but for some reason, my brother had this inner torment. He used to say, when he was drunk, "I can't get this monkey off my back."

One day my mother called me and asked if I could get him out of the house. I went to pick him up. I said to him, "Come on, Brother, let's go for a ride!" The first thing I noticed was that he was very drunk, and his demeanor was overbearing.

There were two things my brother demanded respect for - the Los Angeles Rams and the name Reyna, which was our last name. When he was fueled with alcohol, he would remind you of those two things.

So when he said to me, "What's your name?" I said, "Yolanda."

"Yolanda what?" he snarled.

I said, "Yolanda Reyna." And with a furrowed brow and tightened lips, he'd answer, "That's right, and don't you forget it!"

I just could not comprehend the two personalities, and I was torn between the two of them. But that is what alcohol does to a person.

I saw him slowly deteriorate from being very handsome to looking bloated, very dark-skinned, and meaner by the day.

## POETRY MATTERS

**PROUD RIDERS**

**We rode hard, and brought the cattle from brushy springs,  
From heavy dying thickets, leaves wet as snow;  
From high places, white-grassed and dry in the wind;  
Draws where the quaken-asps were yellow and white,  
And the leaves spun and spun like money spinning.  
We poured them on to the trail, and rode for town.**

**Men in the fields leaned forward in the wind,  
Stood in the stubble and watched the cattle passing.  
The wind bowed all, the stubble shook like a shirt.  
We threw the reins by the yellow and black fields, and rode,  
And came, riding together, into the town  
Which is by the gray bridge, where the alders are,  
The white-barked alder trees dropping big leaves  
Yellow and black, into the cold black water.  
Children, little cold boys, watched after us—  
The freezing wind flapped their clothes like windmill  
paddles.  
Down the flat frosty road we crowded the herd:  
High stepped the horses for us, proud riders in  
autumn.**

--H.L. Davis

In his intensely lyrical, spirited poems Davis writes realistically of the Oregon landscape. The cowboys are hurrahing in the herd, refusing to let the thrust of the wind and the onset of winter rush the spectacle which the men in the fields admire and the chilled children love. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

One day I received a phone call. It was November of 1997, Thanksgiving weekend. My sister Mary called me.

She said, "Yolie, are you sitting down?"

My beloved brother Gilbert, who was so proud of his military service, is buried at Riverside National Cemetery. He was forty-one years old when he passed away.

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