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Customers complain after being served bad masa

DOWNEY – Amapola Deli and Market was faced with an angry mob seeking refunds for defective masa that was sold to them over the holiday weekend.

Thousands of unsettled and unsatisfied customers lined up outside of Amapola's four locations for most of the day Monday, with some waiting several hours to receive their cash back.

According to one of the customers in line, the market announced that they had run out of money sometime around 3 PM, and began handing out numbered tickets and forms to return at a later date.

"You can imagine the way everybody was pretty upset about the whole situation," said Ruben Escalante, one of the customers seeking a refund. "At the time that he told us that they had ran out of money, Carlos Galvan told us fill out the form, turn it in and you'll be given a phone call and you'll be reimbursed."

The market is currently reimbursing for the masa it sold, as well as any ingredients that went into the making of the tamales, regardless if those were purchased at different location.

According to Galvan, any other expenditure outside of that directly connected to the making of tamales will be negotiated on a customer to customer basis.

At a press conference held later that evening, Amapola SVP/ CFO Carlos Galvan Jr. apologized for the incident.

"The Galvan family and I and our extended family of over 350 employees are saddened and sorry that many of our loyal customers were disappointed with our product and had a bad holiday experience with our masa," said Galvan. "...As promised from the moment we discovered the incident, we have been taking corrective measures and will continue to provide you with a full refund of your purchase."

It is currently unclear as to what exactly caused the bad masa.

"Our company is currently engaged in a detailed investigation to find the cause that created this incident. So far we have concluded that the defective masa was sold between December 23rd and December 24th," said Galvan. "Our evidence continues to point to defective corn bought from a national provider of over 15 years. We have reached out to them to first ensure that no other store or consumer of their corn has a similar experience as ours and to join in investigating and testing the corn used to make the masa in question."

Tamales that were sold pre-made were not affected.

Customers who wish to receive a refund for their masa purchase are encouraged to visit amapolamarket.com or Amapola's Facebook page, or to visit one of Amapola's locations.

Amapola reopened Wednesday to resume issuing refunds.

—Alex Dominguez, staff writer

Downey City Council reverses decision, votes Sean Ashton mayor pro tem



By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – It's official: Council member Sean Ashton will serve as Downey's mayor pro tem for 2017.

Things have been seemingly uneasy within the city since the council's original vote to appoint Alex Saab mayor pro tem for the upcoming year during the mayoral transition ceremony that took place Dec. 13.

During the original vote, Saab – who has served as Downey's mayor over the last year - nominated himself to once again take the reigns as the upcoming mayor pro tem. Saab's motion was followed by a quick second by new council member Rick Rodriguez, who had been sworn in just moments prior.

Traditionally, the positions of mayor and mayor pro tem have rotated on a yearly basis. The mayor pro tem – who fills in for the mayor when he or she is unable to fulfill their duty for any reason – usually takes over as mayor the next year, though there have been some exceptions.

To this point council member Ashton has not had the opportunity to serve in either capacity since being elected in November of 2014.

On Dec. 13, Ashton also took the opportunity to nominate himself moments after Saab's nomination; however, this went by the wayside as there was no second to support Ashton's move.

Saab's motion passed unanimously in a 4-0-1 vote with little to no discussion – and no opportunity for public comment – with Ashton abstaining.

The decision drew some backlash from the community, as some felt that Ashton had been snubbed for reasons that the council may have been withholding.

The already tense situation only intensified in the following days, as Ashton publically announced that he had filed a complaint with the city over what he alleged were two Brown Act Violations, and threatened to sue the City of Downey.

Saab and the council quickly responded, denying any Brown Act Violations and moving to address the issue at what would become Tuesday's meeting.

Tuesday's council meeting could easily be described as awkward as council members proceeded normally with agenda items before addressing the elephant in the room.

Ashton found a host of support in the form of several community members who spoke up for the councilman during public hearing, hailing from within and outside of his district.

When it came time for council to address the Mayor Pro Tem position, Saab made the first remarks.

"I hope all of you were able to see, to have the opportunity to view the video of the events of December 13th before jumping to any conclusions," said Saab. "If you saw the video, you'll see that on numerous occasions the council was given the opportunity [to] ask questions and no motion was made..."

Saab then said that he made the motion to move the meeting along before turning his attention to Ashton's accusations.

"I do take great offense when someone makes allegations that we somehow violated the Brown Act, which I think most people don't know the gist of the Brown act; what it is.

"There was no collusion. There was no violation. It's just simply false."

However, Saab also went on to say that he would be making a motion to appoint Ashton as the next mayor pro tem, despite any prior concerns.

"There has been a concern for lack of confidence for Mr. Ashton's abilities to understand some of the basic complexities at city hall," said Saab. "I think that the mere accusation of the Brown Act against us really reflects that because it's just not true. It couldn't have been further from the truth...some of the information that's been dispelled that have been incorrect, not the greatest of ability to work with others, and there has also been some situations where I think that there was just a lack of basic understanding of some very important issues in our city which frankly I think he went the wrong way."

Saab went on to give Ashton the nomination despite his list of concerns in an attempt to move forward, saying that he hoped that Ashton does a good job because, "Obviously we're all here to further the best interest of our city."

Ashton responded, saying he appreciated Saab's comments, and that he enjoyed working with the past council and looks forward to working with the new council.

"Just to clarify where I was coming from, I don't have a problem with you passing me up...what bothered me was that no one said anything," said Ashton.

Ashton also clarified his Brown Act accusations.

"When two people on this council talk about anything that could be on the agenda, that's not a Brown Act violation. You were allowed to do that," said Ashton. "But as soon as a third person gets involved, then that becomes a Brown Act violation because then you have a majority of the council that can talk about an issue before it gets to public comment and make a decision."

Ashton went on to apologize for "bringing this up," but that he felt that "something needed to be done."

"Passing me over, that's one thing. I've got my big boy pants on, that's no big deal," said Ashton. "But the way it was done I thought was disrespectful to not me, but to the citizens of Downey...if you have issues with me being in a position that I am as far as my ability to be mayor pro tem or mayor, I would like to know what they are."

"I would love to be able to talk to you guys just to make sure that we're all on the same page, because we do need to move forward."

The motion to appoint Ashton as Mayor Pro Tem was made by Saab and seconded by council member Rodriguez, and was passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 63°

Saturday 57°

Sunday 59°

THINGS TO DO



L.A. Zoo Lights

Saturday - L.A. Zoo, 6 pm

Dinner buffet, carousel, games, DJ dance party, and live broadcast of Times Square ball drop.



Gabriel Iglesias

Friday - Microsoft Theatre, 8 pm

Fluffy Guy and his friends stop in Los Angeles as part of his #FluffyBreaksEven world tour.



WAR

Friday - Grove of Anaheim, 8 pm

Multi-platinum selling band WAR perform hits including "Lowrider," "Cisco Kid" and "The World is a Ghetto."



WWE Live

Friday - Staples Center, 7:30 pm

The WWE Holiday Tour featuring a triple main event, highlighted by Roman Reigns vs. Kevin Owens.



NYE at the Marina

Saturday - Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey, 7 pm

Live outdoor broadcast of CNN's New Year's Eve telecast, followed by a 10-minute fireworks show.

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@carmenz2u: Mom spent over \$100 on masa from #amapola spent 2hrs in line 6hrs making them all for the masa to be bad

@DowneyPolice: This Holiday Season, the Downey Police Department Is Looking For Drunk Drivers

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot

CRIME REPORT

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

At 11:35 PM, officers were dispatched to the downtown area regarding a stolen vehicle. Officers located the stolen vehicle on Firestone at Wiley Burke, occupied by a lone female driver. A traffic stop was conducted and the female was subsequently taken into custody without incident. She was booked for 487 PC, Grand Theft.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

At 11:35 PM, officers were dispatched to the Promenade regarding a stolen vehicle. Officers located the car in the Wal-Mart parking lot, unoccupied. A short time later, officers observed 2 females enter the vehicle and detained them without incident. The driver was arrested without incident.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

At 7:45 PM, officers were dispatched to a suicidal subject in the area of Luxor and Rives. The reporting party advised the subject had left his residence on foot, armed with a sword. The subject was located a short distance away and transported to a local hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

DUI, driver's license checkpoint Friday night in Downey

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department will conduct a DUI and driver's license checkpoint Friday night, Dec. 30, starting at 8 p.m. at an undisclosed location in Downey.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol or drug impairment while also checking for proper licensing.

"When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving crashes," the department said in a statement.

Two people have died in DUI collisions in Downey over the last three years, police said. There were 461 DUI collisions in total, resulting in 119 injuries.

In California, there were 1,155 deaths related to drunk driving over the same time period.

Studies of California drivers have shown that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent).

Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.

"Everyone should be mindful that if you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects," police said.

Police officials are not revealing the specific location of Friday's checkpoint but said it would be placed at a location "based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests, affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public."

SPORTS: Downey, Warren spend Christmas break practicing

HUMANS OF DOWNEY:
GEORGE REDFOX

By Mark Fetter
Contributor

DOWNEY – The Warren High School boys' basketball team currently has an overall record of 5-5 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they travel to Paramount on 1/11.

The Bears competed in the El Segundo Tournament in early December and finished with a record of 3-1. Warren is currently in Rancho Mirage competing in the Rancho Mirage Holiday Invitational.

Warren was defeated by Compton 49-48 on 12/5, defeated Palos Verdes 58-57 on 12/6, defeated El Segundo 52-39 on 12/8 and defeated Mira Costa 63-55 on 12/9. The Bears were defeated by St. Anthony at St. Anthony 56-52 on 12/16 in non-tournament play.

The Bears were defeated by Faith Lutheran in their first game 61-36 on Tuesday in the Rancho

Mirage Holiday Invitational. Warren also had games scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and today depending on the outcome of each game (scores unavailable at press time).

The Bears will continue their preseason schedule when they travel to LaSalle on 1/4, when they travel to Woodrow Wilson of Long Beach on 1/6 and when they travel to play Bemstein on 1/7 in the Cavalier Classic. Warren will begin league play when they travel to Paramount on 1/11. The Bears will host Gahr on 1/13 and will then travel to cross-town rival Downey for their much anticipated showdown on 1/18.

Coach Leflore, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of San Gabriel Valley League play. Lynwood and Dominguez will once again be the teams to beat.

■ The Downey High School boys' basketball team currently has an overall record of 8-4 and will begin S.G.V.L. play on 1/11 when they host Dominguez. The Vikings have had a busy preseason schedule thus far and that has continued over the Christmas Break.

Downey competed in the North Orange County Championship Tournament in mid-December and is currently competing in the Holiday Hoops Classic at Mount Carmel. In the NOCC Tournament, Downey defeated Mayfair 68-66 on 12/15, defeated Cerritos 67-30 on 12/16 and defeated Woodrow Wilson 60-50 on 12/17.

The Vikings were defeated by La Serna at La Serna 44-41 in overtime on 12/21 and defeated Cerritos 47-44 on 12/23 at the Staples Center in non-tournament play.

The Vikings defeated Mission Vista 72-39 in their first game on Tuesday in the Holiday Hoops Classic Tournament. More tournament games are to follow pending game results. As of now, Downey is in the winner's bracket and look to stay there.

Downey will play Murrieta Mesa at Murrieta Mesa on 1/5, will host Sunny Hills on 1/6 and will begin league play on 1/11 when they host Dominguez. The Vikings will travel to Lynwood on 1/13 and will then host cross-town rival Warren on 1/18.

The Vikings have been led this season by Brian Chavez's 14.6 points per game, Justin Reyes' 12 points per game and Aaron Garcia's 11.7 points per game. Coach Shelton, his staff and players are all looking forward to the start of San Gabriel Valley League play. Lynwood and Dominguez will once again be the teams to beat.

■ The Downey High School girls' soccer team currently has an overall record of 3-6-1 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they host the Dominguez Lady Dons on 1/10.

The Lady Vikings have had a busy preseason schedule in preparation for the start of league play. Downey is currently competing in the North Orange County Championship Tournament.

Downey was defeated by Aliso Niguel at Aliso Niguel 4-0 on 12/21 and was defeated by Lakewood 1-0 on 12/22 in non-tournament games. The Lady Vikings defeated La Serna 2-1 on 12/27 (morning game) and defeated Arcadia 3-0 on 12/27 (afternoon game) in the North Orange County Championship Tournament. The Lady Vikings will continue play in this tournament pending game results.

Downey will begin league play on 1/10 when they host Dominguez, will travel to Lynwood on 1/12 and will then travel to cross-town rival Warren on 1/17. Warren will once again present the strongest challenge for the Lady Vikings. Coach Fresquez, her staff and players are all looking forward to the start of San Gabriel Valley League play.

The Lady Vikings finished last season with an overall record of 12-7-6 and were 8-2 in S.G.V.L. play. Downey was defeated by Yorba Linda at Yorba Linda 4-1 in the first round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs.

■ The Warren High School girls' soccer team currently has an overall record of 3-6-2 and will begin S.G.V.L. play when they travel to Paramount on 1/10.

The Lady Bears have had a busy preseason schedule getting ready for the start of league play.

Warren competed in the Best of the West Tournament before the Christmas Break and are currently playing in the North Orange County Championship Tournament. The Lady Bears were defeated by Arcadia 5-0 on 12/17 in their morning game and defeated Brea-Olinda 2-1 in their afternoon game. Warren was defeated by Esperanza at Esperanza 2-1 on 12/20 and was defeated by Los Alamitos at Los Alamitos 2-0 on 12/22.

Warren was defeated by Oxnard 2-1 on Tuesday in their first game of the NOCC Tournament and were scheduled to play Woodrow Wilson of Long Beach on Wednesday (score unavailable at press time).

The Lady Bears will begin S.G.V.L. play on 1/10 when they travel to Paramount. Warren will travel to Gahr on 1/12 and will then host cross-town rival Downey on 1/17. Coach Dussan, her staff and players are all looking forward to the start of league play and defending their league title.

The Lady Bears finished last season with an overall record of 21-3-3 and were a perfect 10-0 in S.G.V.L. play. Warren was defeated in the third round of the C.I.F. Division 3 playoffs by El Dorado at El Dorado 1-0 in extra time.



Photo and interview by Steve Mansell, DowneyDailyPhotos.com

"I've been working on the Downey Rose Parade Float for over 42 years. About 15 years ago we did a float called 'Fast Food Revelation.' It was kind of a replica of the original McDonald's restaurant on Florence Avenue and it happened to win the Founder's Trophy.

"I'm kind of happy about that one because I had a lot to do with that one. I was the guy that was in charge of decoration that year. I and a team of six other people made sure the decoration got done in time. Luckily, we didn't have any glitches in the decorations that year.

"Another year, we were doing a Transformer design that had the float morph into another formation. We did this by having the left and right halves of the float fold open to reveal another design inside. But the two halves were part of the new design. The inside of the two halves had some heavy canvas that had to be covered with some living stuff that would move with the canvas. We couldn't find anything that worked well enough. It just didn't look right.

"In the city of Downey, I fight for historical preservation. I like to see old buildings, old houses restored and respected. I feel that if those walls could talk they would have great stories to tell us. I think it is a real tragedy that people don't see that in older buildings.

"I was the phone call that got the city to stop the owner of the Harvey's/Johnie's Broiler from illegally demolishing the building. It is now the Bob's Big Boy Broiler. My dad told me stories about Harvey's Broiler. He said the line used to be around the block to get into the parking lot. It was a carhop service. There were traffic cops on Firestone to direct the traffic going through. He said that at one time they even put a 15-minute time limit on parking in the lot to get food.

"So, if you think about all the people, all the lives, all the stories that have gone through those doors, it would be a travesty to tear it down. There have been voices, discussions inside. If those walls could tell you those discussions, those stories, we'd be a lot better off."

Downey Chorale plans Jan. 8 concert

DOWNEY – Celebrating the culmination of Christmastide, the Downey Master Chorale will present its seasonal concert on Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Cornerstone Christian Worship Center, 9001 Paramount in Downey.

Entitled "Epiphany," it offers old and new music to mark that great event when all the world met the new-born King through the persons of the Magi.

It will feature local composer/arranger Ruth Nix, who will accompany the chorale and will premiere her charming and uplifting work "Little Baby." Several members of the newly formed Downey Youth Chorale will join the Master Chorale in their own debut performance.

A meet and greet dessert reception will follow. For more information email info@downeymasterchorale.org or call (310) 941-3042 or (562) 927-1436

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Rancho patient chosen to ride in Rose Parade

DOWNEY – Kaitlyn Dobrow, a patient at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, has been chosen to participate in Monday's Tournament of Roses Parade.

She will be one of 12 riders on the Occupational Therapy Centennial Float.

In February 2013, Kaitlyn Dobrow woke up feeling sick and was eventually rushed to the hospital where she was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. Following 6 months of intensive care and amputations of all four limbs, Kaitlyn was seen at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center for inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.

One of Kaitlyn's main goals was to be able to put on make-up using special devices and a prosthetic arm. She is now a star on Instagram, YouTube, and other social media sites where she shares her make-up techniques and inspiring story.

Riding alongside Kaitlyn will be her Occupational Therapist who has worked at Rancho Los Amigos for over 25 years specializing in upper extremity orthopedic conditions including limb loss and prosthetic training.

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Notable deaths 2016

John Glenn, 95: An American hero of the Space Age, his flight on Friendship 7 on Feb. 20, 1962, showed the world that America was a serious contender in the space race with the Soviet Union. It also made Glenn an instant hero.

Craig Sager, 65: A member of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, Craig Sager covered a variety of sports since 1981, widely recognized for his outlandish suits. Sager, with questions as well planned as his ensembles, became a favorite of players and coaches, not to mention the fans in the seats.

Alan Thicke, 69: Canadian actor and television personality best known for his role as Jason Seaver, the father on the ABC television series Growing Pains.

Zsa Zsa Gabor, 99: Actress and socialite whose career began in 1936 when she was crowned Miss Hungary. Known for her extravagant Hollywood lifestyle, glamorous personality, and her many marriages.

Janet Reno, 78: The first woman to serve as Attorney General and the second-longest serving Attorney General in U.S. history. "Speak out against the hatred, the bigotry and the violence in this land," Reno said after the Oklahoma City bombing. "Most haters are cowards. When confronted, they back down. When we remain silent, they flourish."

George Michael, 53: English singer, songwriter, and record producer who rose to fame as a member of the music duo Wham! He is best known for his work in the 1980s and 1990s, including hit singles such as "Last Christmas" and "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go."

Carrie Fisher, 60: Actress best known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars film series. In later years, she earned praise for speaking publicly about her experiences with bipolar disorder and drug addiction.

Debbie Reynolds, 84: A Hollywood legend who continued to act and sing for more than 40 more years via film, television and the stage. She earned an Academy Award nomination for her role in the musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." The mother of Carrie Fisher, she died one day after her daughter's death.

Gwen Ifill, 61: American Peabody Award-winning journalist, television newscaster, and author. In 1999, she became the first African American woman to host a nationally televised U.S. public affairs program with Washington Week in Review.

Florence Henderson, 82: American actress and singer with a career spanning six decades. She is best remembered for her starring role as matriarch Carol Brady on the ABC sitcom The Brady Bunch from 1969 to 1974.

Fidel Castro, 90: Cuban dictator who orchestrated the Cuban Revolution and was the head of Cuba's government until 2008. Under Castro, improvements were made to health care and education, while he maintained a dictatorial control over the country and brutally persecuted or imprisoned anyone thought to be enemies of the regime. Thousands of dissidents were killed or died trying to flee the dictatorship.

Arnold Palmer, 87: Generally regarded as one of golf's greatest players in the sport's history. Dating back to 1955, he won numerous events on both the PGA Tour and the circuit now known as PGA Tour Champions. Nicknamed The King, he was one of golf's most popular stars and its most important trailblazer, the first superstar of the sport's television age, which began in the 1950s.

Jose Fenandez, 24: Cuban-born American pitcher for the Miami Marlins. He made his professional debut in 2013, winning Rookie of the Year honors and finishing third in Cy Young Award balloting.

Juan Gabriel, 66: Mexican singer known for his flamboyant style, which broke barriers within the Latin music market. Having sold over 100 million copies worldwide, Juan Gabriel is among Latin America's best-selling singer-songwriters. His nineteenth studio album, Recuerdos, Vol. II, holds the distinction of being the best-selling album of all time in Mexico, with over eight million copies sold.



Gene Wilder, 83: Iconic film and theater actor, known for his roles in "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein", and his portrayal of Willie Wonka in "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." Wilder's rule for comedy was simple: Don't try to make it funny; try to make it real. "I'm an actor, not a clown," he said more than once.

Muhammad Ali, 74: A professional boxer and activist, he was widely regarded as one of the most significant and celebrated sports figures of the 20th century. From early in his career, Ali was known as an inspiring, controversial, and polarizing figure both inside and outside the ring.

Gordie Howe, 88: Nicknamed "Mr. Hockey", Howe is considered the most complete player to ever play the game and one of the greatest ice hockey players of all time. A 23-time NHL All-Star, he held many of the sport's scoring records until they were broken in the 1980s by Wayne Gretzky. He continues to hold NHL records for most games and seasons played.

Pat Summit, 64: Women's college basketball head coach who, over the course of her career, accrued 1,098 career wins, the most in NCAA basketball history. In 2009, the Sporting News placed her at number 11 on its list of the 50 Greatest Coaches of All Time in all sports; she was the only woman on the list.

Chyna, 46: Pioneering female professional wrestler, she was the first woman to qualify for the King of the Ring Tournament and the Royal Rumble Match, and the first woman to hold the Intercontinental Championship, which she also achieved on two separate occasions.

Prince, 57: A musical innovator who was known for his eclectic work, flamboyant stage presence, extravagant dress and makeup, and wide vocal range. His music integrates a wide variety of styles, including funk, rock, R&B, new wave, soul, psychedelia, and pop. He has sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time.

Nancy Reagan, 94: The First Lady of the United States from 1981 to 1989, she championed recreational drug prevention causes by founding the "Just Say No" drug awareness campaign, which was considered her major initiative as First Lady. She had a strong influence on her husband, and played a role in a few of his personnel and diplomatic decisions.

Frank Sinatra Jr., 72: The son of singer and actor Frank Sinatra who achieved his own commercial success as a singer and conductor. Sinatra said that his famous name had opened some doors, but "a famous father means that in order to prove yourself, you have to work three times harder than the guy off the street."

Garry Shandling, 66: During his three decade career, comedian and actor Garry Shandling was nominated for nineteen Primetime Emmy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards, along with many other awards and nominations. He served as host of the Grammy Awards four times and as host of the Emmy Awards three times.

Patty Duke, 69: Actress who first became known as a teen star, winning an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress at age 16 for her role as Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker." The following year she was given her own show, "The Patty Duke Show," in which she played "identical cousins". Over the course of her career, she received ten Emmy Award nominations and three Emmy Awards, and two Golden Globe Awards.

Harper Lee, 89: Novelist widely known for "To Kill a Mockingbird," published in 1960. Immediately successful, it won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize and has become a classic of modern American literature. Though Lee had only published this single book, in 2007 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to literature.

Antonin Scalia, 79: An Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1986 until his death in 2016. Appointed to the Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, Scalia was described as the intellectual anchor for the originalist and textualist position in the Court's conservative wing.

David Bowie, 69: A figure in popular music for over five decades, regarded by critics and musicians as an innovator, particularly for his work in the 1970s. His career was marked by reinvention and visual presentation, his music and stagecraft significantly influencing popular music. During his lifetime, his record sales, estimated at 140 million worldwide, made him one of the world's best-selling music artists.

Glenn Frey, 67: A founding member of the rock band Eagles, Frey played guitar, piano, and keyboards. He sang lead vocals on songs such as "Take It Easy" and "Tequila Sunrise." After the breakup of the Eagles in 1980, Frey embarked on a successful solo career, accumulating 24 Top 40 singles.

Doris Roberts, 90: An actress whose career spanned six decades on television, she achieved continuing success for her co-starring role as Raymond Barone's mother, Marie Barone, on the long-running CBS sitcom, "Everybody Loves Raymond." She was an advocate of animal rights and animal-rights activism, supporting groups such as the United Activists for Animal Rights.

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In Memory of
Patricia Jane Swartz

April 16, 1930 - December 23, 2016



Patricia (Pat) Jane Swartz, 86, passed away December 23, 2016, at Sunrise of Playa Vista Assisted Living Community.

She was born April 16, 1930 to John Adams Swartz and Edit Grace (Gunter) in Arizona.

After the death of her father in 1940 she and her mother moved to Downey, California to live with her maternal grandfather in his home at the corner of Firestone and Brookshire.

Pat graduated from Downey High School and soon went to work for the telephone company in Downey where she became the first woman dispatcher at that location. She retired from Verizon in 1987.

She was a member of and volunteered at the First Presbyterian Church. A resident of Downey since 1940, she moved to the Vintage Assisted Living Community in 2010.

Services will be held at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel in Rose Hills on January 3, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Danny Carretta, who moved Downey from Pittsburgh in 1960, passes away

DOWNEY – Danny Carretta, the son of Italian immigrants Mauro and Lucia Carretta, was born in Chicago, April 27, 1933.

During this time, the Great Depression was having a detrimental effect on the US workforce and economy, prompting Danny (age 2) and his family to relocate to Lavello, Southern Italy. There Danny studied up to high school, worked in his parents' grocery store and sometimes helped harvest fruit and olives from his father's orchard.



By the age of 17 (1950), Danny returned to the US, and joined his brother, John, in Pittsburgh in hopes of helping him start a general contracting business. Eventually, Danny's sister and parents followed him and his brother to Pittsburgh. Initially, Danny learned the trade of construction doing brick laying, framing and cabinet making. He also worked briefly in a steel mill and even sold guardian ware, putting on cooking demonstrations with his sister, Antoinette.

In 1954, Danny was drafted into the US Army and served two years at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. It was in Puerto Rico that Danny quickly learned the Spanish language which earned him the right to say he was tri-lingual speaking, Italian, English and Spanish fluently.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Danny returned to Pittsburgh to continue working with his brother John doing general contracting. In 1959, Danny took a vacation with his parents to California and quickly realized that Pittsburgh was for the birds. In 1960, Danny left his brother John and followed his sister and parents to Downey.

He initially worked in construction but eventually landed a job at Robertshaw, a small factory in Long Beach. While working at Robertshaw, Danny became friends with an Italian man who showed him a picture of his niece, Maria Concetta, who resided in Italy. Danny began to write Maria Concetta and after about 6 months flew her to California so they could meet. Danny and Maria Concetta married in 1963 and had two sons, Robert in 1965 and Maurice in 1967.

Eventually Danny and Maria Concetta divorced after 10 years of marriage. Danny raised his two sons, Robert and Maurice, while working full time. In 1979 Danny remarried and divorced again in 1991.

Danny spent the last 20 of his working years at McDonnell Douglas and then Boeing aircraft from which he retired.

During the last 25 years, after being influenced by his son Robert, Danny made a decision to give his life to Christ and to become a born again Christian. Danny then became a member of Life Center Church in Lakewood and quickly became involved in an adult Sunday school class.

He also served in ushers ministry and the churches very active seniors group doing various outings and outreaches. Danny served for several years as secretary of treasury for AARP Downey branch as well.

Eventually Danny became ill and was no longer able to drive so he left Life Center Church and became a member of Calvary Chapel Downey, where his son, Maurice (Marites) and grandchildren attended.

Danny spent his last three years residing with his son Maurice (Marites) and grandchildren, Clarissa (17), Robert (15) and Jonathan (14).

On Dec. 8, 2016, Danny, with his family at his side, passed away.

Screen legend Debbie Reynolds dies at 84

Debbie Reynolds, the actress and singer who starred in "Singin' in the Rain" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," died Wednesday. She was 84.

Reynolds had reportedly fallen ill earlier in the day while planning funeral arrangements for her daughter, actress Carrie Fisher, who died the previous day, December 27, 2016, after suffering a heart attack.

"She's now with Carrie and we're all heartbroken," her son, Todd Fisher, told The Associated Press at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where Reynolds had been taken.

Born Mary Frances Reynolds April 1, 1932, she signed a Warner Bros. contract in 1948 at just 16 after winning a beauty contest. She won a Golden Globe Award as most promising newcomer for a part in 1950's "Three Little Words," but it was her role in "Singin' in the Rain" in 1952 that made her a star. By the end of the decade, she had appeared in more than 20 films and released a pop album called "Debbie."

Highlights from Reynolds' long career include a nomination for the Academy Award for best actress, for the title role in 1964's "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," and a nomination for a Tony Award for best lead actress in a musical, for a 1973 revival of "Irene." To another generation, she is known best for her role as Grace's mother, Bobbi, on TV's "Will & Grace."

Reynolds married actor Eddie Fisher in 1955, forming a Hollywood marriage that would end in a public scandal when Fisher divorced Reynolds in 1959 and married Elizabeth Taylor. Reynolds and Fisher were the parents of actress Carrie Fisher and her brother, Todd. Reynolds went on to marry and divorce twice more. When Carrie Fisher wrote the screenplay for the semiautobiographical 1990 film, "Postcards From the Edge," she based the character Doris Mann on Reynolds.

Reynolds continued working into her 80s and authored an autobiography, "Unsinkable: A Memoir," in 2013.

Carrie Fisher, actress who played Princess Leia, mourned

Carrie Fisher, the actress whose role as Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars" trilogy inspired millions of fans worldwide and helped George Lucas' space-fantasy epic redefine Hollywood blockbusters for a new generation of moviegoers, died Tuesday. She was 60.

A spokesman for the family confirmed that she died Tuesday morning following a heart attack Fri., Dec. 23, while in flight from London to Los Angeles.

Carrie Frances Fisher was born Oct. 21, 1956, in Beverly Hills, California. Her parents were entertainment royalty: actress Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher. She made her motion picture debut in the 1975 comedy "Shampoo," which starred Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, and Goldie Hawn.

But it was in 1977, when Lucas cast her as Princess Leia in his interplanetary swashbuckler, that she shot to stardom alongside her "Star Wars" costars Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill. Fisher was still a teenager when she filmed the movie that would change her life, catapulting her from celebrity daughter to movie icon almost overnight. She was eager to star in the movie that many Hollywood insiders at the time considered a potential disaster. In an era when moviegoers were more accustomed to gritty realistic dramas than space-laser fairy tales, Fisher found George Lucas' script "fantastic," she told Short and Sweet NYC. "I thought I would like it, but I didn't think I'd have that many people that would agree with me."

As it turned out, nearly everybody agreed with Fisher that "Star Wars" was fantastic. The movie was an immediate phenomenon, breaking box office records and making Fisher and her young costars household names. With the 1980 release of "The Empire Strikes Back," "Star Wars" became a franchise, and Fisher would ultimately appear in five of the eight-and-counting episodes in the series (including next year's forthcoming installment, already filmed).

Though she's remembered best for "Star Wars," Fisher had other notable movie roles over the years: a murderous ex-fiancée in "The Blues Brothers" (1980), an actress and caterer in "Hannah and Her Sisters" (1986), the main characters best friend in "When Harry Met Sally..." (1989).

An author as well as an actress, Fisher is known for her semiautobiographical novels including "Postcards From the Edge"; she also wrote the screenplay for the movie by the same name. She followed "Postcards" with a number of other novels, including "Surrender the Pink" and "Delusions of Grandma."

Fisher was involved in high-profile relationships of her own. Longest lasting was her relationship with musician Paul Simon, to whom she was married briefly in 1983 and 1984 but dated for years before – and after – the marriage. During a break from Simon in 1980, she was engaged to comedian Dan Aykroyd, though she broke it off before the wedding. It was with talent agent Bryan Lourd that Fisher had her one child, Billie Catherine Lourd, an actress who currently stars in TV's "Scream Queens."

Lila Mae Jackson was longtime volunteer at Downey Community Hospital

DOWNEY – Lila Mae Jackson was born Sept. 10, 1929 in Dunbar, Nebraska to John and Jennie Jackson. Lila Mae died Dec. 24 in Downey.

Her son, David, was born Jan. 6, 1959 in San Antonio, Texas. Daughter Sandra was born June 24, 1964 in Phoenix.



The family moved to Downey in 1966, where they made their permanent home. Lila Mae became very active in the Downey United Methodist Church.

Lila Mae was very supportive with her husband Harry, now deceased, and her two children, David and Sandra. She was involved with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the PTA, school activities and Jobs Daughters.

Lila Mae was a volunteer at the Downey Community Hospital where she was in charge of the "Candy Strippers". She was a member of the Downey Shrinettes, where she served one term as president, the Downey Eastern Star and the Daughters of the Nile.

Lila Mae is survived by her son, David Wehmeyer, and daughter-in-law Diane, living in Downey; her daughter Sandra Rojo, and son-in-law Thaddius living in La Mirada; her six grand children, Brian, Zachary, Austin, Trenton, Sabrina, and Scott, and her six great grandchildren, Gabrian, Nathan, Alyssa, Kaeden, Taylor, and Seth; niece Shirley living in San Antonio; and her nephew Billy Wehmeyer, also living in San Antonio.

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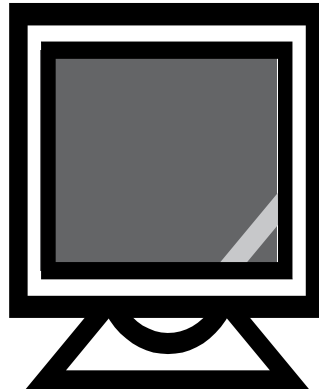


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Why I answered the call for veterans to go to Standing Rock

By Kevin Basl

I lay among friends, huddled and cold in our sleeping bags. We listened to the lashing wind and the drums and prayer chants coming from the sacred fire, and we reflected on why we, four Iraq War veterans, were here.

Police floodlights shone from the drill site of the Dakota Access Pipeline, scheduled to cross under the Missouri River, the water source for millions of people.

Members of the Standing Rock Sioux, concerned not only about polluted water but also the desecration of sacred sites, began resisting the pipeline in 2014. In mid-2016, finally, these water protectors gained major support.

Over 200 tribal nations pledged solidarity. Thousands of non-natives traveled to North Dakota to stand on the front lines. Then, as images of police violence against protectors got increasingly disturbing, some 4,000 veterans — including me — joined the resistance in early December.

Why had so many veterans taken up the cause of the Native Americans and environmentalists at Standing Rock?

My own reasons are rooted in western Pennsylvania's coal country, where I grew up. There, I rode my bicycle on trails crossing abandoned strip mines. Bulldozers had left precarious shale formations and streams ran orange with iron runoff.

When a sanitation corporation threatened to open a landfill at a reclaimed mine near homes in our community, residents finally resisted. At age 15, I joined the fight to stop the dump, gaining a deeper appreciation for the wildlife — and water — of my region.

Good jobs are scarce in my hometown, so military service is something nearly every boy — and now girl — considers. My grandfathers both served, along with several uncles.

Back home, the military is sacrosanct. But I wasn't especially proud of my five

years in the Army, two of which were spent in Iraq.

My job as a radar operator, like so many military specializations, got privatized, so I found myself tasked out for other duties. I guarded poor Iraqis while they filled thousands of sandbags for the contractor Kellogg, Brown, and Root, only to see those sandbags rot in the sun as they sat unused.

I also loaded caskets onto cargo planes — an image often hidden from the American public. And I escorted high-ranking officers on unnecessary trouble-provoking missions (how else could one earn the Combat Infantry Badge?).

Like many post-9/11 veterans, I left the military seeking redemption. Perhaps that's why, after I saw those images of police violence against water protectors, I went to Standing Rock.

There, instead of helping military contractors make money, I felt like I was finally serving the people.

While we were there, on December 4, the Army Corps of Engineers finally denied the pipeline company its permit to drill under the river. Police pulled back, and the water protectors celebrated.

The indigenous community had worked months for this ruling. They sacrificed the most. But I like to think the result was also influenced by the prospect of police tear-gassing and firing rubber bullets at unarmed veterans.

A ceremony followed where Wesley Clark Jr., key organizer of the Veterans Stand for Standing Rock campaign, offered an apology to Native Americans on behalf of the military, citing decades of broken treaties and violence. Five hundred of us went to our knees.

I hope to participate in a forgiveness ceremony one day in Iraq, in the spirit of Standing Rock.

Kevin Basl is a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War. He's also an instructor for Combat Paper NJ and Warrior Writers, two veteran-focused arts organizations.

No more holiday gifts for repressive regimes

By Medea Benjamin

While the world has been transfixed on the epic tragedy in Syria, another tragedy — a hidden one — has been consuming the children of Yemen.

Battered by the twin evils of war and hunger, every 10 minutes a child in Yemen dies from malnutrition, diarrhea, or respiratory-tract infections, UNICEF reports. And without immediate medical attention, over 400,000 kids suffering from severe acute malnutrition could die, too.

Why are so many of Yemen's children going hungry and dying?

Since 2014, Yemen has been wracked by a civil war — a war that's been exacerbated by intervention from Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally. Since 2015, the Saudis have been pounding this nation, the poorest in the Middle East, with cluster bombs and explosives.

And the U.S. has been helping, selling the Saudis advanced weapons and providing intelligence and logistical support.

This nearly two-year-old bombing campaign has killed thousands of innocent Yemenis and sparked a severe humanitarian crisis. A desert country, Yemen imports 90 percent of its food. But thanks to a Saudi naval blockade and the bombing of the country's main port, imports have dried up.

Subsequent shortages have led food prices to soar. Meanwhile, the war has left millions of people unemployed and displaced. Unable to buy the high-priced food, they're forced to depend on humanitarian aid for their survival.

UN and private relief organizations have been mobilizing to respond to the crisis, but a staggering 18.8 million people — out of a population of 25 million — need assistance. The situation is only getting worse as the war drags on and the winter cold sets in.

At the same time, the UN Refugee Agency has received less than

half the funds it needs.

The nation's health system is also on the verge of collapse. Less than a third of the country's population has access to medical care, and only half of its health facilities are functional. Diseases such as cholera and measles are spreading, taking a heavy toll on children.

The only way to end the humanitarian crisis is to end the conflict. That means pushing harder for a political solution and calling for an immediate ceasefire. Until that happens, the United States should stop its military support for the Saudi regime.

Despite the repressive nature of the Saudi regime, for decades U.S. administrations have supported the Saudi government both diplomatically and militarily. Under Obama alone, weapons sales to the Saudis reached a whopping \$115 billion.

Concerned over the high rate of civilian casualties, on December 12 the White House took the rare step of stopping the sale of 16,000 guided munition kits. This is a great step forward, but it represents only a small fraction of total U.S. weapons sales to the Saudi regime.

In fact, at the same time the White House announced it was blocking this \$350 million deal, the State Department announced plans to sell 48 Chinook cargo helicopters and other equipment worth 10 times as much.

Moreover, the coming Trump administration might well restore all sales. That's why it's important for Congress, which has the authority to block weapons sales but seldom actually does, to step forward and take a stand.

Selling weapons to a repressive regime should never be allowed. And today, when these weapons are leading to the death of a Yemeni child every 10 minutes, the sales are simply unconscionable. The time to stop them is now.

Medea Benjamin, cofounder of CODEPINK for Peace, is the author of The Kingdom of the Unjust: Behind the US-Saudi Connection.

Judge the mayor pro tem on his abilities

Dear Editor:

After listening to the public comment at the recent city council meeting, I feel compelled to address the city council members who chose to initially bypass Sean Ashton for mayor pro tem.

The pertinent question is what we as a city see as the position of mayor. Should it be a strictly honorary position where the next in line simply steps up into it? Or should it be a position where a certain level of knowledge, expertise, commitment and ability to dedicate the needed time to represent and lead our city to new and great heights is required?

Our current system has been designed for the latter. We do not, as a city at large, elect our mayor. We allow our city council to make that selection based on their best judgement. Based on what they feel is best for our community.

These members have all demonstrated tremendous dedication, commitment and professionalism over the years within our community. These are the people who know how their fellow council members interact with staff, deal with difficult and intricate city matters and the amount of time they can and have been able to dedicate. It's with this knowledge that at least two of the four council members made their initial decision. They are independent thinkers who did what they felt was right and best for the city despite the political incorrectness fallout they knew would follow.

I'm not saying that Mr. Ashton is not qualified to move to the role of mayor pro tem and eventually mayor. I don't have, nor do most citizens have, that detailed knowledge. What I believe should have happened is that if the council members who feel that bypassing a council member is indeed the best course of action for the city, that they should be fully prepared to make a strong and detailed case as to why they would take such a bold stand. I'm not sure that kind of presentation was made in an open forum either two weeks ago or last Tuesday night.

I do know that these councilmen who chose that direction are good people who have great reputations and have done nothing but terrific things for our community and that their intentions shouldn't be "villainized" into something that doesn't represent their intentions or reputations. It shows strong leadership and the willingness to take tough positions for the betterment of our community in spite of appearances.

Last Tuesday's reversal is allowing Mr. Ashton to step into the role of mayor pro-tem. Hopefully the other council members will be able to work closely with him and at the end of the year have open, honest, discussions and review of the mayor pro tem's abilities to step into the mayor's position and then make the difficult decision, based on critical thinking and actual performance, on the selection of our next mayor and share that analysis in an open forum.

This kind of unbiased, process is what we expect of our leaders and is exactly what they have demonstrated to us over their years of service. Assuming they are making that decision for their own self interest or ego, is not fair to them. It takes courage and true leadership to make tough decisions even if they sometimes appear to be politically incorrect.

Jim Rodriguez Downey (The author of this letter is a Downey planning commissioner.)

Trader Joe's

Dear Editor:

I just learned from a reliable source with a long and successful history in retail management in Downey that Trader Joes and CVS are in negotiations for the popular specialty grocer to lease the underutilized northern half of the drug store located in the shopping center at Paramount and Florence.

The city has tried for several years to persuade Trader Joes to open a store in Downey to no avail.

At the time, a former councilman was vocal in expressing his opinion that Trader Joes was not interested in Downey because the market was primarily Hispanic. Such comments had to have offended management of Trader Joes.

Let's hope this time around council members stay out of the negotiations and that CVS and Trader Joes can strike a deal.

Brian Heyman Downey

Townhomes' setback

Dear Editor:

Can someone please explain why the new townhomes being built on Paramount Boulevard are so close to the sidewalk? How is this allowed to happen?

If I pulled a permit to expand my home this close to the sidewalk, would it be approved? Of course not.

Charles Noss Downey

New anti-coal regulations an insult to Americans

Republican Congressman Steve Scalise (R-La.) issued the following statement regarding the Obama administration's eleventh-hour regulations targeting coal mining:

"It is an insult to American workers that President Obama continues waging his heartless war against coal country, especially on the eve of Christmas in the final days of his administration.

"This job-killing radical regulation has the power to crush the livelihoods and way of life of so many Americans, and it represents yet another assault on our nation's energy security. Thankfully, big changes are on the way, and I am eager to work with the Trump administration to finally end the war on American energy jobs and bring relief to the families and communities who depend on coal to heat their homes and make their living.

"Together we are going to revitalize American energy, create good-paying jobs, and make America great again."

With ban on offshore drilling, Obama takes away jobs from American families

Last week, the Obama administration issued an executive action effectively banning offshore drilling in parts of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Heritage's energy expert Nick Loris had this to say:

"Obama's executive action is taking economic opportunity away from American families and decisions away from states which have a strong incentive to ensure natural resource development happens — and happens responsibly. Just like Keystone XL, climate change regulations on power plants, moratoriums on coal leases and fracking regulations, this decision was not based on sound science but a politicized goal to keep affordable, reliable energy in the ground."

The very nature of the executive action is sure to spark legal controversy when Pres.-elect Trump takes office. John Malcolm, director of the think tank's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, had the following to say:

"It is hard to see how President Obama, by the stroke of a pen (here in the guise of two Presidential Memoranda), can permanently or indefinitely prevent a future president or Congress from approving oil and gas drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans. Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 provides that 'The President of the United States may, from time to time, withdraw from disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf.'

"While this act clearly gives President Obama the authority to withdraw leasing rights for the designated areas, it does not say he can do so permanently, thereby tying the hands of a future president or Congress. While a future president cannot unilaterally rescind a validly-enacted and clearly constitutional law, unilateral actions taken by one president, even if taken pursuant to existing law, can generally be undone by a future president. While I have no doubt that there will be lawsuits filed by environmental groups if President-elect Trump rescinds these memoranda after taking the oath of office, it is hard to see how they will succeed."

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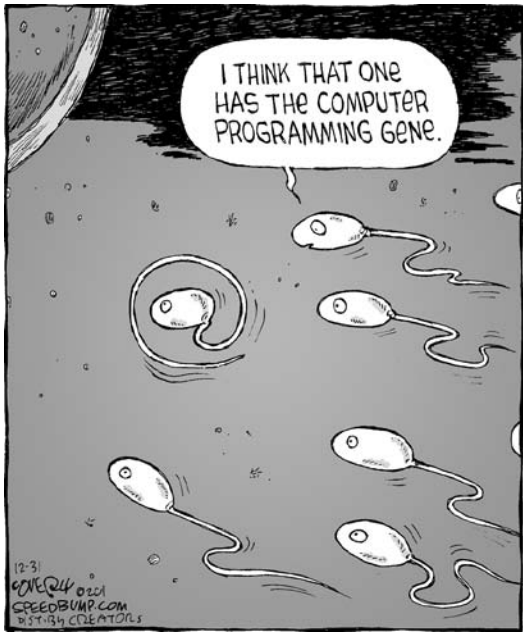
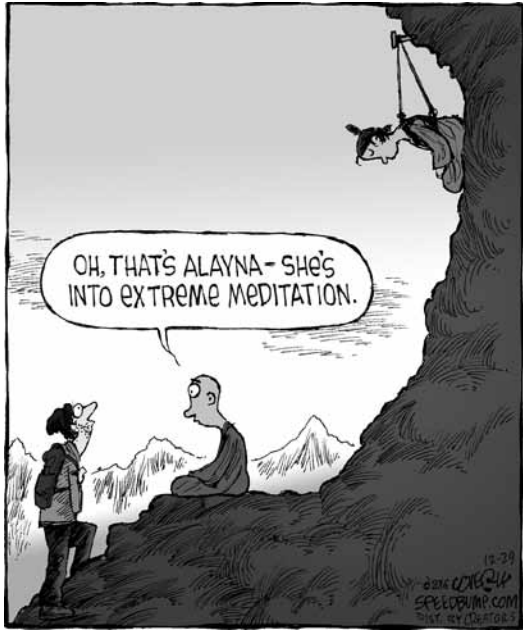
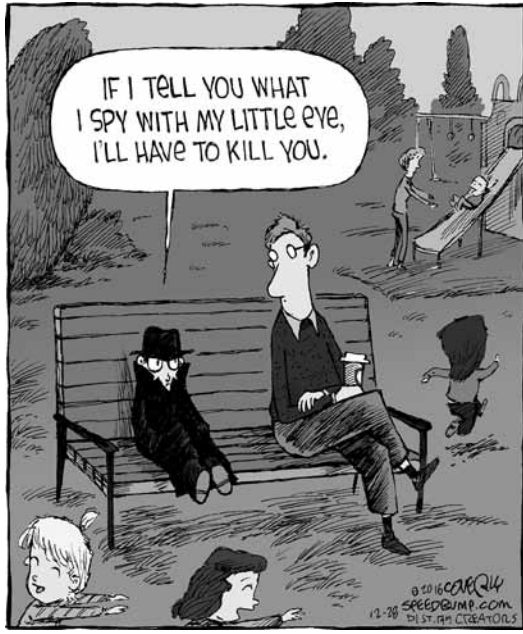
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Sunday, Jan. 8: Downey Chorale, Cornerstone Christian Worship Center, 8 a.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. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 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, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call (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 Barbara 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...

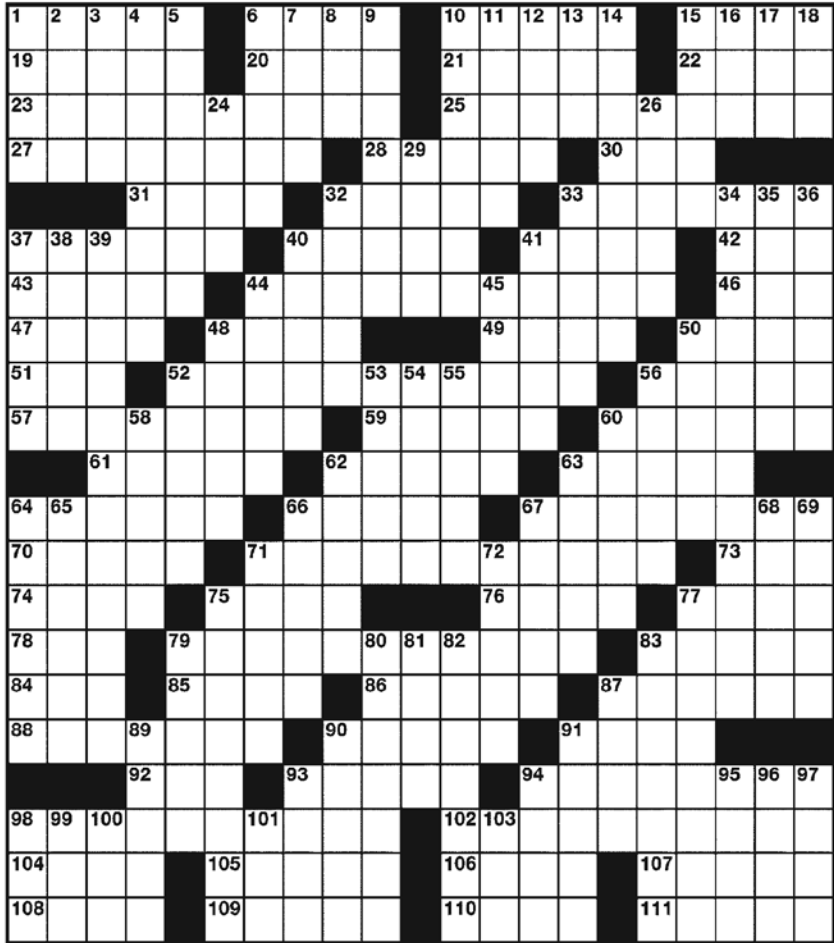
Dec. 29, 1851: The first American Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was organized, in Boston.
1890: U.S. troops killed as many as 400 Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee, S.D.
1975: A bomb exploded at New York's La Guardia Airport, killing 11 people.
2007: The New England Patriots became the first NFL team in 35 years to finish the regular season undefeated when they beat the New York Giants 38-35 to go 16-0.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
CHRISTMAS CAROLS: And Karol, Caroline, etc.
 by S.N.

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Shared Stories: Gilmore City, Here I Come

Mervin Chantland spent nearly eight years of his childhood in a full body cast because of damage done to his bones when he contracted tuberculosis at age two. When his family could no longer care for him and do all of the work required on the farm, Mervin's father arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Knoll in Gilmore City to take care of the young patient. This section is from Chapter 2 in Mervin's book. 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 Mervin Chantland

Calvin Knoll got his nickname, Prof, because he had once been a teacher, as had his wife, Lou. When Dad took me to live with Prof and Lou, I was a very confused and angry young boy. There I was, separated from my family in a strange house and unable to get up and run like I wanted.

I felt like a caged animal and could not understand why my family had abandoned me. Once when Lou leaned over me, I bit a hole in her arm! Prof told his wife, "You have to take him back." But Lou replied, "No, he needs me." That's the kind of woman she was, and I learned to love her as time went by. I have no doubt that she really cared about me.

Lou and Prof had two sons, Stanley and Sterling, although Sterling was the only one still at home when I went to live there. When World War II started, he joined the Navy, and he would always send me home something. One time it was a sailor's hat. Another package contained a record of "Popeye the Sailor Man." Sterling seemed to understand how hard it had been for me to make that adjustment to a new "home." He was really great to me.

When I was old enough to begin my education, it was arranged for a box to be hooked up by telephone line to the school. And that was how I "went to school." I could talk to the teacher and the kids in class, but it was very hard to learn that way. I believe I was able to learn as well as I did only because Lou and Prof had been teachers and were willing to put in the extra effort to help me understand.

I find myself wishing we had computers in those days. It surely would have made things much easier. I can only imagine being able to actually see my class and watch the same teacher's instructions as my classmates. It may have helped me to learn more easily and motivated me to keep up with the rest of the class. That could have made such a difference in my life.

My medical care was another area that required special arrangements. Every three months, an ambulance-type vehicle with a stretcher and seats for other people would pick me up and take me to the hospital in Iowa City for a checkup and a new cast.

The trip was over 200 miles each way, as we meandered from farm to farm to pick up other patients. I remember that we always stopped to eat on way, and I had the same thing every time - a hamburger and vanilla ice cream. That was a special treat.

Oh, spinach! How I hated it! The first time I went back to the hospital for a checkup, spinach was served with the food. I was told to eat it, but I didn't want to. I hated that stuff! So the nurse forced it into my mouth. It almost made me throw up. But I learned from that first time what to do. I got an old sock and took it to the hospital whenever I had to go back. When they brought the food with spinach and they weren't looking, I would put the spinach in the sock and stick it in a drawer in the nightstand.

They would come back later and say, "Oh, you ate it. Good boy."

When they left I had a smile on my face and thought, Yeah, right! Then I would take the sock home with me and throw that horrible green stuff away.

Another unnerving thing for me in the hospital was having an aid or nurse give me a bath. And I'm talking about a very thorough, whole-body bath. It was so embarrassing to have these strangers see me naked. Most of the time I was treated with respect, but one nurse seemed to enjoy the embarrassment it caused me. And she was mean, too. She seemed to love to dig under my fingernails until they bled.

All the children in the hospital stayed in a ward, which is a large, long room with beds. During one stay, I had been given the first bed, right next to the door. I could see down the long hall leading to the room, and once I saw this lady come in at the other end of the hall. She looked familiar, and as she got closer I realized it was my mother! Wow, was I ever excited! She was still living at the TB sanitarium, but just happened to come to the hospital for a checkup at the same time I was there.

And my mother was so thrilled to see me! It had been extremely hard on her to leave her family and give up the chance to raise the little boy that meant so much to her. She had also given birth to my sister Doris while she was in the sanitarium, and my older sisters Kay and Jeanette took the "perfectly healthy" baby girl home to raise her. My mom missed out on a lot during that time, and I don't think she ever recovered from the losses.

It was around 1938, when I had gone to the hospital for a checkup, that they phoned my dad and said I would have to have an operation on my hip. Dad told them to go ahead. Mom, who had just returned home from the sanitarium, was so upset she insisted on being there with me.

Although it was a hardship, Mom made the long trip to Iowa City. The operation resulted in an infected portion of my hip bone being removed and my hip fused. Then I was taken back to live with Lou and Prof. I still couldn't walk and had to lie in bed until I was healed up.

I don't remember the name of the doctor who operated on me, but I was told that he had come from Germany in the 1930s, just as Hitler was coming into power. After he got to America, he was well thought of and went to the Iowa City University Hospital to practice and teach.

While I was lying in bed wanting something to do, I told everyone I wanted to learn to play a guitar. So my family got me one, and I tried to learn but didn't have any luck. Maybe I didn't really want to play it, or it was just too difficult to learn. Anyway, the guitar went into the corner and just sat there. Bummer! I would like to have had that skill all these years.

I remember at Christmas time that year, I said I wanted an Erector Set so I could build things. Well, I was sure surprised to get two Erector Sets for Christmas! I started right away to build a lot of stuff, and the sets included electric motors, so I made things that moved! I felt like I could really accomplish something, even though I couldn't walk around. That was so wild!

I was about nine years old when the doctor called my Dad and told him they had a new medicine that they would like to try on me, and Dad gave his consent. About one year later, my hip seemed well enough that my cast was removed and I was given crutches to walk with. I was so happy! However, I took just one step before the crutches hit a water spot on floor. I went down on the end of my foot and broke my ankle. I was back in a cast! I had been free of a cast for only about one hour. Unbelievable!

After healing up, I had the cast taken off again. Since my right

leg was weak and a lot shorter than the other one, I was fitted with a leather and metal brace with a peg on the bottom. I was finally able to start walking around and feeling more like the other kids, but they called me "Peg Leg." That bothered me at times, but I learned to ignore them. They were just being kids. I think that kids are probably the most cruel because they aren't able to understand how much they can hurt someone with the things they say.

Back home on the farm, my brother Douglas Arthur was born, the eleventh and last child. Poor Douglas was only thirteen months old when he died from TB meningitis. Another painful loss for my family! My sister Kay wasn't able to get back for the funeral, so Mom had a picture taken of Douglas in his casket to send to her. We were each given one of those pictures. It was so hard to look at it.

When my first son was born, he was a beautiful, blond baby. As he slept in his basinet, he looked so much like little Douglas that it scared me. At night, I kept my son's basinet beside my bed with my hand in it; and I would jump awake whenever the baby moved. I was able to get over my fears eventually, but it took some time.

(This excerpt is from Chapter 2 in the book, "Can't: No Such Word," by Mervin Chantland, available on Amazon.com.)

POETRY MATTERS

THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER

On the first day of winter,
the earth awakens to the cold touch of itself.
Snow knows no other recourse except
this falling, this sudden letting go
over the small gnomed bushes, all the emptying trees.
Snow puts beauty back into the withered and malnourished,
into the death-wish of nature and the deliberate way
winter insists on nothing less than deference.
Waiting all its life, snow says, *Let me cover you.*

-- Laura Lush, The First Day of Winter (Ronsdale Press, 1997)

**"My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off."**

-- Robert Frost, from "After Apple Picking"

Lush and Frost both sense closure and completion in the winter about to come. But poems are metaphor, saying one thing and meaning another, saying one thing in terms of another. When Frost talks of sleep, he might simply mean hibernation, which leads to renewing the juices and joys of spring, the way Lush's snow offers beauty and nurture. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

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The Downey Patriot
Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015

NEWS: Downey Doodle-icious
HEALTH: Butter vs. margarine
OBITUARIES: Local Passings
SPORTS: Darrian Franklin

3 dead in apparent murder-suicide
Downey - Three people, including a toddler, were found dead inside a Downey apartment Wednesday night. Police suspect murder-suicide. Family members described the family, who had made an apartment with on the 2300 block of New Street, after first hearing from their father, 33, Mark Michael and media.

School district warns of phony solicitors
Downey - Teachers are warning on the down of local social and being about collecting donations for the family, who had made an apartment with on the 2300 block of New Street, after first hearing from their father, 33, Mark Michael and media.

Former Downey High teacher sued for sexual relationship with student
Downey - A Los Angeles law firm has filed a lawsuit against the Downey Unified School District and Downey High teacher and alleged sexual harasser, alleging the teacher had a sexual relationship with a student while teaching at Downey High.

Weekend at a Glance
Friday 82°
Saturday 81°
Sunday 86°

CRIME REPORT
FRIDAY, OCT. 9
At 12:30 a.m., Downey police officers responded to the 9000 block of California regarding a robbery that occurred. The victims had arrived home and exited their home. The robbery was reported by two male victims.

Downey Rose Float Assoc. enters home stretch with parade Monday

DOWNEY – It is officially crunch time for Downey Rose Float volunteers as the 128th Tournament of Roses looms just days away.

This year's parade theme is Echoes of Success. Downey's entry is entitled The Gold Rush, and will feature a working rollercoaster.

"The Gold Rush is basically an image of Sutter's Mill, back during the 1849 Gold Rush with an actual working roller coaster which represents a mine car," said Director and Construction Chair Kelley Roberts.

The mine car roller coaster serves as the float's center piece.

"A roller coaster in general is pretty unique in itself. A roller coaster on a moving platform has its challenges with the movement of the float," said Roberts. "Since a coaster works basically off gravity – it allows the coaster to run around the different hills and dips – while the float is moving it is very complicated to keep the coaster running in conjunction with an actual moving float..."

Challenges with the coaster began even before The Gold Rush could make its way down Colorado Boulevard, as the Downey Rose Float Association faced a lack of funding until late into the year, as well as a piece of the coaster's track being stolen.

"We had to reproduce it, and it just happened to be the most difficult and the hardest piece of track to reproduce," said Roberts.

However, despite any setbacks, volunteers are still hard at work to complete the ambitiously designed float, and have officially opened up the doors for community members to come and help decorate.

Riders of The Gold Rush will include Miss Downey Emely Lopez and her court, several Rose Float Association members, and former County Supervisor Don Knabe.

The 128th Tournament of Roses Parade will air on Monday, January 2, this year.

–Alex Dominguez, staff writer

Norwalk-La Mirada students to perform in Rose Parade

NORWALK – Eight high school students from the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District have been selected to perform in the 2016 Tournament of Roses Parade Honor Band.

The students were selected from a pool of about 500 musicians throughout Southern California and will join more than 100 Honor Band members consisting of instrumentalists, a flag pageantry and the Pasadena City College's Lancer Marching Band.

The NLMUSD students practiced their routines throughout the year, while continuing their music instruction and performing in their high school bands and other music programs.

"It's such an honor for our students to be chosen because it was a rigorous audition process," said Fabio Kayama, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified visual and performing arts teacher on special assignment. "Our students get to perform with top musicians from across Southern California and showcase their talents."

This year, the student musicians chosen from the District are:

- John Glenn High: Mya Sanchez, senior, euphonium; Giovanni Gallegos, senior, trombone;

- La Mirada High: Yasmin Lozano, junior, clarinet; Aaron Muzzicato, senior, alto saxophone; Carina Calvillo, senior, pageantry; Catrina Calvillo, senior, pageantry; Cristina Navarrette, senior, pageantry; Clarissa Soto, freshman, pageantry

La Mirada High School Director of Music Geena Biondi held clinics and workshops to prepare her students for the auditions. Biondi, a Pasadena City College alumni, performed in the Tournament of Roses Parade as a member of the Lancer Marching Band as a junior and senior in high school.

"These students are ones that are leaders in the classroom and very disciplined," Biondi said. "Their willingness to rehearse during the break shows their desire to grow into better musicians."

The students began practicing for the Rose Parade the second weekend of November, and will continue to rehearse every weekend in December and through most of winter break. They will march over 50 miles in preparation for the six-mile parade down Colorado Boulevard.

"The Tournament of Roses Honor Band prides itself in playing the entire route of the parade," John Glenn High School Band Director Frank



La Mirada High School students, from left to right, Cristina Navarrette, Catrina Calvillo, Clarisa Soto and Carina Calvillo were selected as color guard performers in the 128th Tournament of Roses Parade Honor Band on Jan. 2.

Hinojos said. "I'm very proud to have two members from our school in the ensemble."

The NLMUSD students will also perform with the Honor Band at Disneyland on Dec. 28 and for Bandfest at Pasadena City College on Dec. 30 and 31.

"I'm so proud that our students are being recognized as some of the best musicians in Southern California," Superintendent Hasmik Danielian said. "These are exemplary students who not only shine in their academics, but who now have the opportunity to demonstrate their passion and talent on a national scale."

The 128th Tournament of Roses Parade will kick off at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2.

Norwalk Library's upcoming events

NORWALK – Norwalk Library's adult coloring club, Color Us Happy, is welcoming new members for its weekly gathering

every Thursday in January from 1-2 p.m.

Supplies will be available, but members are welcome to bring

their own. Norwalk Library invites residents to also participate in Adults Create on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2-3 p.m. as attendees will make journals and scrapbooks using a four-hole book binding method. All materials will be provided.

In partnership with L.A. Law Library, the Norwalk Library is also offering free law librarian assistance on Jan. 3, 2017 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Each office hours visit includes help locating information and resources concerning legal issues and court procedures.

L.A. Law Library does not provide legal advice, but does provide legal resources and assistance with legal research as an educational service.

In addition, the library is offering a 45-minute workshop on Jan. 3 from 1-1:45 p.m. that will provide an overview of legal information search tools and techniques. This month's workshop introduces tools and resources available on the California Courts official website.

These programs are all free and open to adults. The Norwalk Library is located at 12350 Imperial Highway.

For additional information, please call (562) 868-0775 or visit the County Library website at colapublib.org.

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 Boogie Nights (1997)
 Braveheart (1995)
 Caddyshack (1980)
 Collateral Damage (2002)
 Dreamcatcher (2003)
 El Dorado (1966)
 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
 HALO Legends (2009)
 Hugo (2011)
 Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (2011)
 License to Drive (1988)
 Nancy Drew (2007)
 Ocean's Twelve (2004)
 Real Detective: Season 1 (2016)
 Superman Returns (2006)
 Superman II (1980)
 Superman III (1983)
 Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987)
 Superman: The Movie (1978)
 The Parent Trap (1961)
 The Shining (1980)
 The Perfect Physique (2015)
 The Rat Race (2012)

To Be A Miss (2016)
 Trudell (2005)
 V for Vendetta (2005)
 Vanilla Sky (2001)

January 3
 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia: Season 11 (2016)
 Jen Kirkman: Just Keep Livin'? - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

January 6
 Coin Heist - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Degraasi: Next Class: Season 3 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Growing Up Coy (2016)
 Mar de Plastico: Season 1
 One Day at a Time: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Tarzan and Jane: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

January 7
 Alpha and Omega 7 (2016)
 Miss Sharon Jones! (2015)
 Under the Shadow (2016)

January 9
 Best and Most Beautiful Things (2016)
 Ratchet and Clank (2016)

January 10
 As I Open My Eyes (2015)
 Best Friends Whenever: Season 2 (2016)
 Happily Married (2015)
 Jim Gaffigan: Cinco - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 We're Lalaloopsy: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

January 11
 Disney's Alice Through the Looking Glass (2016)

January 13
 A Series of Unfortunate Events: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Aquarius (2015)
 Casablanca: The Man Who Loved Women
 Clinical - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Historia de un clan: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 It Follows (2014)
 The Investigator: A British Crime Story: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

January 14
 Camp X-Ray (2014)
 Cardboard Boxer (2016)
 Estar O No Estar

January 15
 A Beautiful Now (2015)
 Hostage to the Devil (2016)
 Señora Acero: Season 3 (2016)
 Twisted Trunk, Big Fat Body (2015)
 Wartime Portraits: Season 1 (2014)

January 16
 Flash of Genius (2008)
 Halloween (2016)
 Rezort (2016)

January 17
 Fatima (2015)
 Neal Brennan: 3 Mics - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Roger Corman's Death Race 2050 (2016)

January 19
 Good Kids (2016)

January 20
 Frontier: Season 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Papa (2015)

Take the 10 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Voltron: Legendary Defender: Season 2 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

January 21
 Disorder (2015)
 Bates Motel: Season 4 (2016)
 Grami's Circus Show: Season 2 (2016)

January 24
 Cristela Alonzo: Lower Classy - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Gad Gone Wild - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Hieronymus Bosch: Touched by the Devil (2016)
 Kill Command (2016)

Terrace House: Aloha State: Season 1: Part 1 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

"The Shining" will be available for streaming on Netflix starting Sunday.



January 25
 Era el cielo

January 27
 Home: Adventures with Tip & Oh: Season 2 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 iBOY - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Kazoops!: Season 2 - NETFLIX ORIGINAL
 Shadows of Truth (2016)
 Sharknado: The 4th Awakens (2016)

January 28
 Ripper Street: Season 4

January 30
 Antibirth (2016)
 Swing State (2016)

January 31
 Bill Burr Stand Up Special - NETFLIX ORIGINAL

DECEMBER 29 BIRTHDAYS

Danny McBride, the actor and comedian, turns 40



Mary Tyler Moore actress 80



Jon Voight actor 78



Ted Danson actor 69



Marco Antonio Solis pop singer 57



Jude Law actor 44



Mekhi Phifer actor 42

LEAVING NETFLIX

January 1
 30 for 30: Winning Time: Reggie Miller vs. The New York Knicks; 30 for 30: No Crossover: The Trial of Allen Iverson; 30 for 30: The Day the Series Stopped; 30 for 30: Jordan Rides the Bus; 30 for 30: Without Bias; 30 for 30: Once Brothers; 30 for 30: Bernie and Ernie; 30 for 30: Requiem for the Big East; 30 for 30: The Price of Gold

Alvin and the Chipmunks Meet Frankenstein
 Alvin and the Chipmunks Meet the Wolfman
 Angry Birds Toons: Season 1
 Bewitched
 Blade 2
 Bring It On
 Bring It On: All or Nothing
 Breakfast at Tiffany's
 Coming to America
 Columbo: Seasons 1 - Season 7
 Crash

Cupcake Wars Collection: Collection 2
 Chopped Collection: Collection 2
 Dazed and Confused
 Final Destination 3
 Flip or Flop: Season 1
 Fixer Upper: Season 1 - Season 2
 Ghost Town
 Hairspray

House Hunters Collection: Collection 3
 House Hunters Collection: Collection 3
 House Hunters International
 Collection: Collection 3
 House Hunters Renovation Collection: Collection 1
 Jake and the Never Land Pirates: Season 1 - Season 3
 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: The Thirteenth Year
 Little Black Book
 Little Man
 Maid in Manhattan
 Miracle on 34th Street

Murder, She Wrote: Season 1 - Season 12
 Nanny McPhee
 Property Brothers: Season 4
 Property Brothers: Season 5
 Saved by the Bell: Seasons 1 - Season 6

South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut
 Stardust
 Superstar
 The Italian Job
 The Painted Veil
 Sixteen Candles
 Saving Private Ryan
 The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift
 The Fast and the Furious
 The Uninvited
 The Amityville Horror
 The Wicker Man
 Vanity Fair
 You Live in What?: Season 3
 Zoom: Academy for Superheroes

January 6
 The Girl Who Played with Fire
 The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

January 29
 Stephen King's A Good Marriage

BINGO

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*Not valid on Holidays or daily specials.
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The Downey Patriot
12/29/16, 1/5/17

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: VS029756
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Crystal Amelia Sanchez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) Crystal Amelia Sanchez to Proposed name (1) Crystal Amelia Araiza-Sanchez
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: February 8, 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**
December 09, 2016
Lori Ann Fournier
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per
Crystal Amelia Sanchez
7029 Flora Ave.
Bell, CA 90201
(323) 773-9413

The Downey Patriot
12/29/16, 1/5/17, 1/12/17, 1/19/17

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF TIMOTHY J. FOLARON aka TIMOTHY JOSEPH FOLARON
Case No. 16STPB06581
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of TIMOTHY J. FOLARON aka TIMOTHY JOSEPH FOLARON
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JoAnn C. Kahnen in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JoAnn C. Kahnen be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2017 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 79 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
DAVID CHON, ESQ
SBN 238274
THOMAS SLOAN, ESQ
SBN 299465
THE LEGACY LAWYERS PC
10221 SLATER AVE
STE 106
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA 92708
CN932367 BSC214273
Dec 22, 2016, Jan 5, 2017

court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
COLLEEN BARNEY, ESQ, SBN 167046
ALBRECHT & BARNEY LAW CORP
1 PARK PLZ STE 900
IRVINE CA 92614
CN931669 BSC214235
Dec 15, 22, 29, 2016

CN931669
The Downey Patriot
12/15/16, 12/22/16, 12/29/16

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WALTER G. LOHWASSER aka WALTER GEORGE LOHWASSER aka WALTER GEORGE LOHWASSER JR.
Case No. 16STPB06902

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WALTER G. LOHWASSER aka WALTER GEORGE LOHWASSER aka WALTER GEORGE LOHWASSER JR.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Jon J. Lohwasser in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Jon J. Lohwasser be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 13, 2017 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 99 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
JAMES M. KOSAREFF, ESQ
SBN 174529
SUNNY T. BOREN, ESQ
SBN 110034
COPENBARGER & COPENBARGER
18831 VON KARMAN AVE STE 150
IRVINE CA 92612
CN932373 BSC214281
Dec 29, 2016, Jan 5, 12, 2017

CN932373
The Downey Patriot
12/29/16, 1/5/17, 1/12/17

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DAVID ALLAN ROBERTSON aka DAVID A. ROBERTSON
Case No. 16STPB06711

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID ALLAN ROBERTSON aka DAVID A. ROBERTSON
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ingrid Robertson in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Ingrid Robertson be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2017 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 99 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
DAVID CHON, ESQ
SBN 238274
THOMAS SLOAN, ESQ
SBN 299465
THE LEGACY LAWYERS PC
10221 SLATER AVE
STE 106
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA 92708
CN932367 BSC214273
Dec 22, 2016, Jan 5, 2017

CN932367
The Downey Patriot
12/22/16, 12/29/16, 1/5/17

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MILDRED G. SHERRETT
Case No. 16STPB07020

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MILDRED G. SHERRETT
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Daniel Richey in the Superior Court of

California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Daniel Richey be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 18, 2017 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 29 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
JAMES M. KOSAREFF, ESQ
SBN 174529
SUNNY T. BOREN, ESQ
SBN 110034
COPENBARGER & COPENBARGER
18831 VON KARMAN AVE STE 150
IRVINE CA 92612
CN932373 BSC214281
Dec 29, 2016, Jan 5, 12, 2017

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12/15/16, 12/22/16, 12/29/16

your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
JOHN FRANK DAVIS ESQ
SBN 065593
10751 LAKEWOOD BLVD
STE A
DOWNEY CA 90241-3594
CN931666 ROBERTSON
Dec 15, 22, 29, 2016

CN931666
The Downey Patriot
12/15/16, 12/22/16, 12/29/16

TRUSTEE SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No.: 16-01322 Loan No.: *****053 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/05/2007 AND MORE FULLY DESCRIBED BELOW. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States (payable to Attorney Lender Services, Inc.) will be held by the duly appointed Trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and

now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: ANTONIO CASILLAS, A WIDOWER Trustee: ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. Recorded 11/13/2007 as Instrument No. 20072528556 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, Date of Sale: 01/05/2017 at 10:00AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$314,345.99 The purported property address is: 9611 FOSTER RD, DOWNEY, CA 90242 A.P.N.: 6282-007-002 The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county wherein the real property is located and more than three (3) months have elapsed since such recordation. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you

to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916)939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, 16-01322. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: 11/30/2016 ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. DIANE WEIFENBACH, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER 5120 E. La Palma Avenue, #209 Anaheim, CA 92807 Telephone: 714-695-6637 Sales Line: (916)939-0772 Sales Website: www.nationwideposting.com This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. NPP0297658 To: DOWNEY PATRIOT 12/15/2016, 12/22/2016, 12/29/2016

The Downey Patriot
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Los Coyotes unveils latest college and career center

NORWALK – Los Coyotes Middle School unveiled a college and career center with a Dec. 21 ribbon-cutting ceremony, giving students the opportunity to explore career and higher education pathways.

Eighth-grader Madison Garcia was excited for the opening of the college and career center.

“Having a college and career center will give me more information that I can’t find on my own,” Garcia, 14, said. “Students will learn about college and the different types of work and salaries they can have.”

The college and career center will be a guide to discovering career pathways as well as provide information about UC and CSU admission requirements, financial assistance for higher education and college degrees.

“I am so proud that we can provide our students with this valuable resource on campus,” Los Coyotes Principal Jacob Muñoz said. “It’s imperative our students learn about the direction they want to take in their academic and career paths.”

Students will have the opportunity to take career interest assessments, attend College Week Live and create a four- or six-year plan for high school. The center is open during school hours, and counselors and media clerks will help answer any questions the students may have.

Los Coyotes is the fifth Norwalk-La Mirada Unified middle school to offer a college and career center to students. It follows the opening of centers at Hutchinson and Corvallis middle schools in 2015-16, Benton Middle School in August 2016 and Waite Middle School in September 2016.

Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian launched an initiative to open centers at every middle school campus after a Corvallis Associated Student Body member advocated for one at her school.

“Norwalk-La Mirada Unified middle school students have the opportunity to prepare early for college and career,” Danielian said. “Our District is committed to providing our students with every tool and resource they need to succeed.”



Los Coyotes Middle School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil its college and career center. Pictured, left to right: NLMUSD Board Member Jesse Urquidi, Principal Jacob Muñoz and Vice President Chris Pflanzner.

Prepare for Medicare Part A and B price changes in 2017

By Nathaniel Sillin

If you’re eligible for Medicare, or will be in the coming year, there are a few changes you should know about for 2017.

An increase in the Department of Labor’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) means there’ll be an increase in Social Security benefits and Medicare Part B premiums. For most recipients the increases almost offset each other, but those who aren’t covered by the “hold harmless” provision (about 30 percent of recipients) face a larger Part B premium increase.

These changes, along with several others, will go into effect soon and you should consider how they could affect your budget.

A slight increase in your Social Security benefits. Since 1975, Social Security benefits have an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The adjustment depends on the CPI and helps keep your benefits in line with the rising cost of goods.

There wasn’t a COLA for 2016 benefits, but there is a .3 percent adjustment for next year. Meaning, you’ll get an additional \$3 per \$1,000 you receive in benefits. The estimated average monthly benefit for all retired workers is expected to increase \$5, from \$1,355 to \$1,360.

Medicare Part B premiums will also rise. The COLA also affects Medicare Part B premiums, the part of Medicare that covers some types of procedures and medical equipment. However, for about 70 percent of Medicare recipients, the Social Security Act’s “hold harmless” provision prohibits an increase to Medicare B premiums of more than the previous year’s COLA adjustment.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, held harmless recipients will pay \$109 per month, an increase of \$4.10.

If you aren’t held harmless, Part B premiums could increase

by about 10 percent. The remaining 30 percent of Social Security beneficiaries will have their Part B premium increase by about 10 percent. You could fall into the non-held-harmless group if you:

- Are a new enrollee
- Enrolled in Medicare but don’t receive Social Security benefits
- Get billed directly for Medicare Part B
- Receive Medicare and Medicaid benefits and your state Medicaid programs pay your Part B premium
- Are a high-income earner subject to an income-adjusted premium

For the non-held-harmless group, the premium depends on the recipient’s (or couple’s when filing a joint tax return) adjusted gross income (AGI).

■ The lowest monthly premium, for individuals who have an AGI of \$85,000 or less (\$170,000 for couples), will increase from \$121.80 to \$134 a month per person.

■ On the high end, for recipients with an AGI over \$214,000 (\$428,000 for couples), the monthly premium will increase from \$389.80 to \$428.60 per person.

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will also increase. Most people don’t have to pay Medicare Part A premiums, but you could still have to pay a deductible or coinsurance for some Part A benefits.

■ The deductible for inpatient hospital coverage, which helps cover the first 60 days of care, will increase from \$1,288 to \$1,316 per benefit period.

■ Daily coinsurance for the 61st through 90th day of treatment will increase from \$322 to \$329.

- Daily coinsurance for day 91 on will rise from \$644 to \$658.
- Each day past day 90 counts towards your lifetime reserve. You have a maximum of 60 lifetime reserve days; after which you could be responsible for all costs.
- Skilled nursing facility care is completely covered for your first 20 days.
- Daily coinsurance for day 21 to 100 of skilled nursing care will increase to \$164.50.
- You could be responsible for all costs beyond day 100.

The Part B annual deductible will also increase, from \$166 to \$183. Generally, after you’ve met your deductible, you’ll pay 20 percent of Medicare-approved costs for services covered by Part B.

Bottom line: Social Security benefits, Medicare Part B premiums and Part A and B deductibles and coinsurance will increase in 2017. Whether you’re held harmless or not, take steps to understand which changes could affect you and alter your budget accordingly.

Adult basketball league prepares for new season

DOWNEY – CABA Adult Basketball returns for its exciting winter season in mid January.

Get in on the action today and learn what CABA’s all about. New teams now forming. CABA celebrates its 3-year anniversary this coming April.

For details, visit their Facebook page at CABA basketball league or email CABAbasketball@gmail.com

The Downey Patriot



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Top 6 reasons for NOT buying a home -- debunked

You? Buy a home? If that prospect sounds as unlikely as your becoming the next U.S. president—well, this campaign season has shown us that anything can happen.

Sure, amassing the funds and slogging through the necessary paperwork for your own piece of the real estate pie can be daunting, especially if you're a less-than-stellar loan candidate. Still, if you just assume there's no way you could buy a home, without doing any research, you could be missing out.

Here are some oft-cited reasons people don't buy a home, and the reality checks showing why they shouldn't give up hope.

Reason No. 1: 'I don't have enough money for a down payment'

This is probably the most common justification for not making the leap into homeownership. After all, few people have a huge chunk of cash lying around—and you need 20% down to buy a home, right? Wrong.

"Needing a 20% down payment has lingered as a myth for years and causes many potential home buyers, including those in the millennial generation, to miss out on getting into a home," says Christina Bartning with National MI, a private mortgage insurer in Emeryville, CA.

AJ Smith, a personal finance expert at SmartAsset, points out that with a loan backed by the Federal Housing Administration or Department of Veterans Affairs, you can usually get by with a down payment of 3% to 5%.

In addition, "grants are an excellent way for young buyers with good credit and stable employment to subsidize their down payment," says Realtor® Mike Murray of the Murray Home Team at Coldwell Banker in Annapolis, MD. "These can typically be obtained by taking homeownership courses or purchasing in designated community development areas."

However, if you do put down less, keep in mind you'll need private mortgage insurance until you pay down the loan to the 20% threshold.

Reason No. 2: 'I can't afford a mortgage payment'

"Some people don't realize the amount they pay in rent is more than if they had a mortgage," says Realtor Kenneth Cagan of the Cagan Team in Coral Springs, FL. "Landlords are trying to recoup their taxes, insurance, maintenance fees and still make a profit. When you buy, you're investing in yourself."

To find out if renting or buying makes more sense in your neighborhood, try realtor.com's Rent vs. Buy Calculator.

Reason No. 3: 'I don't have good enough credit history to get a mortgage'

So you've made some late payments, or have other skeletons in your past that have dinged your credit score. That doesn't put a mortgage out of reach.

"If you've paid down your credit cards and kept a steady job, your application may be approved," says SmartAsset's Smith. "Potential home buyers with bad credit can also explore options like lease-to-buy programs, financing through the seller, and loans from private lenders."

Get this: Some private mortgage insurance programs allow for credit scores as low as 620, Smith says.

Meanwhile, you can slowly improve your credit score by paying your bills on time and keeping your balances and inquiries low, says Murray. A licensed loan officer should be able to set up a one-year outline to get your credit on track.

But there's one substantial caveat: Typically, mortgages for people with a lower credit score do come with a higher mortgage rate. And a very low score may require a higher down payment.

Reason No. 4: 'I don't have any credit history at all'

Even without a credit card, there are ways to build credit history, says Anne Postic of Mortgages.com.

"If you're a renter, ask your landlord about reporting your payments to establish a history. Experian makes it easy for your landlord to report your payments, or for you to do it yourself."

Reason No. 5: 'I haven't been at my job long enough'

"Work history is important," says Jeremy David Schachter with Pinnacle Capital Mortgage in Phoenix AZ. "But even if you recently changed jobs and have only been there for a month, you can get qualified depending on your income and field." A letter from your boss or place of employment will go a long way, so be sure to ask if you fear your relatively brief employment history might be an issue.

Reason No. 6: 'I can't find a home I like in my price range'

"People often think they have to buy their last home first," says Fort Myers, FL, Realtor Angeline Sackett. But making a dream home a reality takes time. After all, they call first homes "starters" for a reason, right?

Courtesy Realtor.com

Carrie Uva named Top Producer

DOWNEY – Carrie Uva was named Top Producing agent for the month of September, announced Mel and Rita Berdeis, owners of 24 Hour Real Estate.

"Carrie is the second agent we hired nearly 24 years ago; we are proud to have her as part of our team," they said. "She provides excellent service to her clients and really cares about making sure everything is perfect."

Carrie has been busy this summer, also earning the Bronze Top Producer award from the Downey Association of Realtors for closing seven transactions for the third quarter of 2016.

"I really enjoy what I do and helping clients achieve their dreams is so rewarding," she said.

To reach Carrie Uva, call (562) 382-1252.

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 "Maria Zuloaga did a fabulous job & was always helpful!" - Maria De Jesus
 "Maria Lilley was kind & patient. Maria answered all my questions and was very attentive." - Luz Maria Guerrero

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- * 7837 8th St. Downey * 26847 Sun City Blvd., Menifee * 9724 Richeon Ave., Downey * 7957 Irvinggrove, Downey * 10415 Otis St., South Gate
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Thank You for YOU!

I look forward to our new adventures in 2017

Ben & Stephanie
"The Father-Daughter Team"
562-217-8384
TheFatherDaughterTeam@gmail.com

Happy New Year!!

Pam Lee
Realtor
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com



Happy New Year from the **Persico Family**

We are THRILLED... Preston will be a big brother in April 2017!!

Although many of you started off as clients, you have become our cherished friends & extended family. We are so incredibly blessed and thankful for all of you. We wish you a wonderful 2017 and THANK YOU for making us your real estate team.

Thank YOU!

CELEBRATING MY CLIENTS FROM 2016: The Villa's, D Searcy, The Nikolas', The Hong's, G Macchia, The Melendez', D Vizcarra, DAOR, C Escandon & M Velasquez, The Derbyshire's, The Chin's, The Barnhouse's, J Rodgers, The Rodriguez's, A Ramirez, The McKeever's, P Shurtleff and L Bruno.

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THANK YOU to all our clients for a wonderful 2016!

We hope to continue to serve the Downey community in 2017!

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Cheers to a happy new year!

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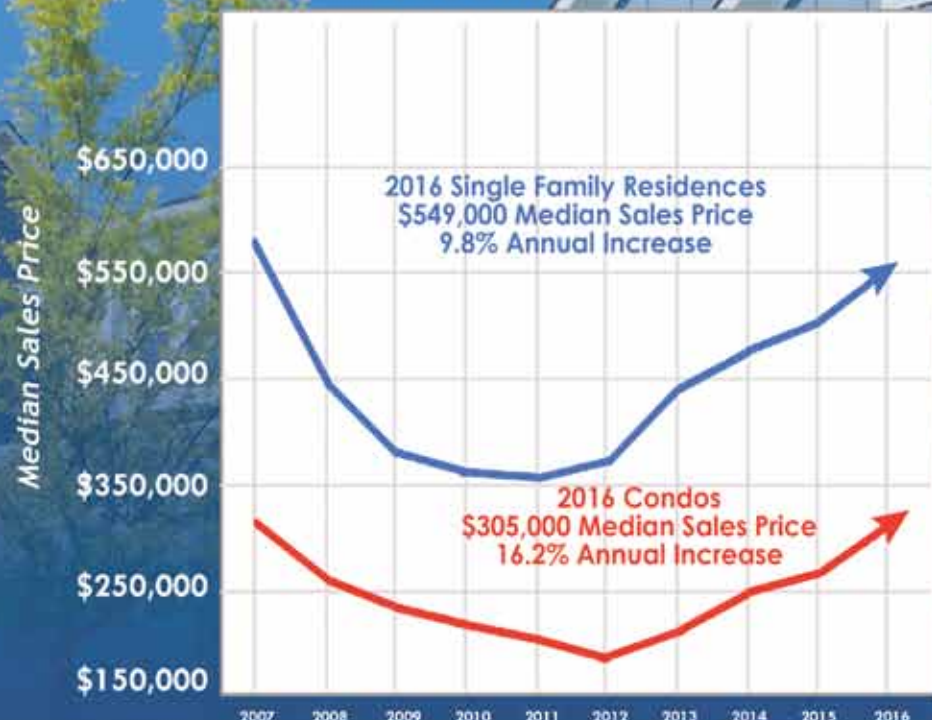
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MICHAEL'S 2016 YEAR-END MARKET UPDATE

Median Sales Price in Southern California 2015 vs 2016



Downey Home Prices 2007-2016



Prices have increased throughout Downey & Southern California

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SOLD FOR \$1,275,000 9229 Rives Ave., Downey	SOLD FOR \$645,000 8067 Otto St, Downey	SOLD FOR \$460,000 9639 Belcher St., Downey	SOLD FOR \$465,000 9015 Parrot, Downey



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