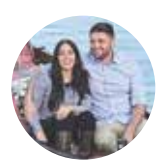




VALENTINE'S DAY
A secret romance blossoms

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The pandemic and mental health

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Leaders that inspire us

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Rent control proposal fails

■ A proposal to enact stricter rent control policies in Downey was voted down Wednesday.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - A push by Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez to bring stricter rent control policies to Downey failed to gain traction at this week's council meeting, being struck down unanimously in the early morning hours on Wednesday.

Rent control has been a hot stove item in Downey over the last few years, fueled in large part by Alvarez, who formed the Downey Tenants Union before campaigning on the platform and ultimately winning her seat on council during last year's election.

Last month, Alvarez requested a presentation to explore the possibility of bringing stricter rent controls and tenant protections to the city.

"I brought this up to you, to the city council members, and to the public because we're going through a hardship," said Alvarez. "A lot of families are going through a lot; right now they've lost their jobs."

On Tuesday, council members heard presentations from Alvarez and staff members before fielding a large volume of calls and correspondence, spending around four hours on the item and carrying them past midnight.

During her presentation, Alvarez said that the percentage of tenants in Downey was "very high."

"We have to understand that tenants are not only the ones who have a contract," she said. "There are tenants living in the living room, paying for a room or a garage."

According to her presentation, over 53% of Downey's 32,073 housing units were occupied by tenants in 2019. Alvarez argued that more than 53% of those tenants were "cost-burdened," paying 30% or more of their income towards housing costs.

Staff's presentation showed similar numbers but put the majority at slightly over 50% ownership in 2018, with similar trends in 2010 and 2000. It also highlighted a vacancy rate of 3.6% in 2020.

Much of Alvarez's argument for rent control centered around protecting low-income and vulnerable tenants - such as the disabled, veterans and elderly - from exaggerated increases in rent or no-fault evictions, and preserving tenants' rights.

Alvarez also specifically took aim at California's AB 1482, the Tenant Protection Act signed in 2019, which Downey operates under.

"Rent control is different than a rent cap. We need to understand that AB 1482 is a rent cap, it's not rent protection," said Alvarez.

AB 1482 prohibits an owner of residential property from raising rent more than 5% plus increase in cost of living or 10% (whichever is lower), and from evicting a tenant without just cause.

Unfortunately for Alvarez, other council members did not share the same enthusiasm for stricter rent controls.

Continued on page 4

Empathy For Your Community

How the Covid-19 pandemic altered my family dynamic

By Sabrina Picou
Contributor

DOWNEY - I left Los Angeles on Jan. 15 at a time when new cases of Covid-19 had continuously surpassed the 10,000 mark. More specifically, in LA county alone, cases had reached over 15,000 new cases in one day, meanwhile I was still seeing people participate in non-essential activities via social media.

The Covid-19 pandemic has altered the world in a multitude of ways and yet, people still continue to put their selfish needs before others. The night I left, I watched as my mother logged onto a Google Hangout for a group prayer she and her family were doing for her recently departed aunt who died from Covid-19. I was leaving LA and finally releasing myself from living in fear in my childhood home from people who perceived the threat of Covid-19 differently than I did, but I left fearing for the lives of my parents knowing that this virus was ravaging the city I grew up in.

Back in December, I wrote a personal essay on what it was like living in Downey with family members that took Covid-19 precautions differently than me and how that ultimately resulted in me moving 3,000 miles away back to Brooklyn. Now nearly a year into the pandemic I find myself feeling hopeless despite vaccinations being underway.

The apathy I have witnessed from people across the world acting recklessly is infuriating. There is a lack of empathy in those who continue to choose to participate in non-essential activities. Empathy for your family is also not the same as empathy for an entire community. The empathy and awareness that you could potentially contract the virus and spread it to hundreds of other people is lacking. You may contract the virus and survive, but someone else may catch it from you and may not.

However, after all the gaslighting and fighting I have been through I've become too exhausted to try to change people's minds. Rather, I am asking them to extend love and lifesaving empathy to their entire communities as they would to their loved ones.

The pandemic has brought out people's true colors and it has damaged personal relationships for many people,

not just my own. From friends who I would've never thought were selfish enough to travel across the country for birthday celebrations, to family members, who also are front-line healthcare workers, hosting parties with people in their homes unmasked. During this pandemic I've been able to weed out the good seeds from the bad in my social circles. I also routinely post COVID-19 case data daily on my social media feeds to try to keep my friends and loved ones informed about the severity of the pandemic. I've called people out for traveling and partying with friends amidst the pandemic. I've kept this up for nearly the entirety of the pandemic.

"We've gotten tested. It's okay for us to gather," some say.

"We're all bound to get it sooner or later, I can't stop living my life," one family member told me.

"I can't live in fear," that same family member said.

But you should live in fear, fear is good. Growing up, my dad used to always say, "Fear keeps you alive." Fear will keep you out of trouble. It's fear of dying that keeps me from jumping out into the street without looking both ways. Maybe if we all were a little more fearful and stopped acting invincible then maybe just maybe we could've kicked this pandemic's ass a long time ago. But who knows, because I've also grown too tired of living in the "shoulda, woulda, coulda" and am trying to actively be present in the now.

Living with my family during the majority of the pandemic and being gaslit by them over my concerns of contracting the virus proved to me what I have felt my entire life. My parents don't show that they respect or value my opinion or think I have any credibility despite saying the opposite. If they truly did then they wouldn't say they agree with me, then turn around and allow my sister's boyfriend who travels for work and for non-essential reasons



like skydiving - yes skydiving - during a global pandemic to come over despite me begging them not to. Although I may not be at home, I still fear for their well being. As long as my sister lives in their home their risk of exposure is significantly greater due to her and her boyfriend's carelessness of seeing others outside of my parent's home. My parents who still work in-person at the manufacturing company they own, with only a handful of full-time employees, are still at risk, yet with my sister's lack of empathy and concern, their increased exposure is unnecessary. In reality, she could stay at her boyfriend's place if she wants to participate in non-essential activity without risking my parent's lives.

I wish they wouldn't see my concerns and pleas for them to not allow this behavior in their home as a personal vendetta against my sister's boyfriend. I mean, it's not because I don't like him - I don't - but this is bigger than them. My dad is a cancer survivor of nearly 10 years and is now on a waitlist for hip replacement surgery as he can barely walk. He cannot afford to contract Covid-19 - I mean no one can - but much less while they are on a waiting list to be able to get surgery that will allow them to walk pain-free again.

People need to remove their personal feelings when it comes to precautionary measures. It isn't about me or you, it's about the vulnerability of people who won't survive if they catch this monstrous virus. It isn't about justifying reckless behavior or who's right or who's wrong.

The science and data are there, and they aren't just

numbers - those are people. As of this writing, 17,360 people have died from Covid-19 in LA county alone, and 466,465 people in the U.S. have died from Covid-19.

I still sanitize my groceries, stay home as much as possible, wear double masks with a surgical mask beneath my cloth mask, and socially distant see my friends while wearing my masks. I haven't seen some of my closest friends in nearly a year, but knowing them and their families are healthy and alive is better than any bottomless mimosa brunch we could have right now.

My relationship with my parents has improved since moving back to Brooklyn, where I still continue to advise them on the latest precautions they can take to keep safe. I send my dad vaccine updates so that he can prepare to make his appointment as soon as he's eligible.

My sister and I, however, may not be able to repair our relationship after the pandemic is through - if it ever is through - and I've learned that siblings are also just people who you grew up with, and sometimes you grow apart due to a difference in ethics and moral values.

The biggest lesson however, has been this: empathy over apathy always, and the golden rule still holds up too.

Sabrina Picou (she/her) is a journalism student in her final semester at The New School in New York City covering news, local events, opinions, and arts and culture.

DUSD temporarily waives graduation requirements for eligible students

DOWNEY - It was unanimously decided during Wednesday night's Downey Unified Board of Education meeting that the school district would temporarily place an exception within the current local graduation requirements to support those students who have been most affected by the pandemic.

This exception would create a waiver process that could only be utilized based on a school counselor's recommendation with an administrator's approval.

This graduation waiver is temporary and only applies to this year's senior students who have experienced "significant difficulties" as a result of the pandemic.

Any student who is identified and recommended by their counselor as having been negatively impacted by the pandemic would have to navigate a process with their counselor to access this graduation waiver.

Students who have experienced extreme hardship should work with their respective school administrators and counselor to explore this option and any other options to support their path to graduation.

Mayor's Champion Award



In recognition of his extensive work in the Downey community, Hector Sosa was recently awarded the Mayor's Champion Award by Mayor Claudia M. Frometa. Sosa is president of Gangs Out of Downey and vice president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis. He is pictured with his wife, Daisy (left), and Mayor Frometa.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 67°

Saturday 66°

Sunday 70°

ON THIS DAY FEBRUARY 11

1847: Thomas Alva Edison, the prolific inventor whose more than 1,000 patents included the light bulb and the gramophone, was born.

1858: A French girl, Bernadette Soubirous, claimed to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary near Lourdes.

1861: During the Civil War, Congress unanimously passed a resolution guaranteeing noninterference with slavery in any state.

1937: A sit-down strike against General Motors ended with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

1975: Margaret Thatcher became the first woman to head a major party in Britain when she was elected leader of opposition Conservative Party.

1990: South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

1990: Heavyweight boxer Buster Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson in one of the biggest upsets in sports history.



2008: The Defense Department charged Khalid Sheikh Mohammed with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks.

2013: The Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI would resign the papacy as a result of his advanced age.

2017: North Korea test fired a ballistic missile across the Sea of Japan.

Birthdays

"Gilligan's Island" actress **Tina Louise** (87), former Florida governor **Jeb Bush** (68), folk singer **Sheryl Crow** (58), former Alaskan governor **Sarah Palin** (57), wrestler and MMA fighter **Ken Shamrock** (57), "Friends" actress **Jennifer Aniston** (52), R&B singer Brandy (42), pop singer **Kelly Rowland** (40), pop singer **Aubrey O'Day** (37), "Twilight" actor **Taylor Lautner** (28), R&B singer **Khaled** (22).

Deaths

In 2012, singer **Whitney Houston** was found dead in a hotel room in Beverly Hills at age 48. (Her death was later ruled an accidental drowning, with heart disease and cocaine use as contributing factors.)

Sylvia Plath, one of the most dynamic and admired poets of the 20th century, died in 1963 after taking her own life. She was 30.

Pop and big band singer **Vic Damone**, who reached commercial success in the 1940s and 50s, died in 2018 at age 89.

The secret romance of Luis and Ana Mendoza

By Alex Dominguez



DOWNEY — It's a love story that began in the small town of Santa Ana, Ecuador.

A young Luis Mendoza would first see Ana in passing. She would see him too.

In those brief moments, both would leave an impression on one another; it might even be described as love at first sight.

"My mother used to see my dad walk on the road," said daughter Rosa Montelongo. "She liked the way he used to dress; he always looked fine and clean.

"My dad also liked her the first time he saw her."

Unfortunately, the courting process would not be easy. Ana's mom was extremely strict, meaning their budding romance would need to be kept secret, at least initially.

The couple was forced to be creative.

"That's when the love letters came along," said Montelongo.

Luis would write the first in what would become a long train of passionate correspondence, often hidden under the rose bushes and amongst other plants and trees. Many times, their friends would serve as cupid, helping the couple hide and deliver each note.

"My mother says that every letter he would write, he would always say that he loved her, and he wanted to marry her," said Montelongo.

They would become an official couple about a year later.

Luis and Ana would spend every moment that they could together, attending fairs and dances, all while careful to not be caught hand in hand by Ana's mother.

Then in 1957 — four years later — the 26-year-old Luis and nearly 18-year-old Ana would wed; their first kiss as a husband and wife being placed tenderly on Ana's forehead.

Their first child would be born soon after in 1958. They would have six in total.

They came to the United States in 1974, and — seeking the best education possible for their children — settled in Downey in January of 1989.

Now age 89 and 80, Luis and Ana have been married for 63 years.

Their family has expanded over time, now including 11 grandchildren and three great granddaughters, with another great grandbaby on the way.

The secret to their success?

It could be how Ana continues to get lost in Luis's hazel eyes, or Luis's fondness for Ana's cooking.

Montelongo says that her parents have maintained mutual respect and communication throughout their relationship.

They have no plans for Valentine's Day. In truth, they don't even really celebrate anniversaries.

And they may not need to anyways, as their love is evident in its story.

To: Adrian Valladares
From: Jaime Valladares
Happy Valentine's Day to the best husband and "Dada" ever. Look what a beautiful life our love has made. XOXO

Be My Valentine

To: Gus and Little Gus
From: Mayra Palmas
Just wanted to let you both know how much I love you! You both are worth every grey hair and I wouldn't have it any other way. I will always love my son and his Daddy! Always in my heart.

Love, Mom

Be My Valentine

To: Lee Christin
From: Adam Christin
My life became alive when I met you. You are the girl of my dreams. You are cute, sweet, caring, giving and very loving. With every day that passes by, I love you more and more. You are, and always will be, My Valentine. I will love you until my last breath

Be My Valentine

To: Jonathan Fox
From: Shannon Aline Wilson
If I had all my life to show you how much I love you and how grateful I am for you, it still wouldn't be enough time. You have been a true partner to me. You are the only person I want to spend my life with. I love you my hero.

Be My Valentine

To: G-Mom
From: Grasshopper, Sophia, Savanna, Baby, Killer, Piglet, Calven, Sadie, Tiger, Weasel, Grumpy, Snowball, Orange x11, Sparkles & Yoda

We love you! Happy Valentine's Day

Be My Valentine

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C E L E B R A T E

Couple: Manny and Lorraine Valenzuela

How they met: At a Cinco de Mayo party, when Lorraine crossed the street to complain about the noise.
Time together: Married since 1996
Valentine's Day Plans: Heart shaped pizzas and small gifts with their daughters
Who's more romantic?
 Lorraine: "Manny."
 Manny: "Definitely agree."
Who's the most stubborn?
 Manny: "Lorraine."
 Lorraine: "Yeah, guilty."
Who said "I love you first?"
 Lorraine: "Me. He took some convincing. I think it was because we were young, he still had some game to play. But as he likes to tell people, I got my meat hooks into him; basically, that's what happened."
Who spends more money?
 Lorraine: "Manny."
 Manny: "As evidenced by the brand-new RV in our driveway."
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Lorraine: "Oh my gosh, me!"
 Manny: "Definitely."
Who's the messiest?
 Manny: "Lorraine. Definitely."
 Lorraine: "I mean, I have my moments."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Manny: "Lorraine, definitely."
 Lorraine: "I mean when I'm right, I'm right."
Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry after an argument?"
 Manny: "Me."
 Lorraine: "I don't know if I agree with that one."
 Manny: "Always! Because she starts the argument and I have to end it. Whether it was my fault or not, I have to say sorry to get moving."
 Lorraine: "He's right."
Who's "The Boss?"
 Manny: "Definitely Lorraine. I could suggest all I want, but if it doesn't get approved..."
 Lorraine: "Yeah, me. It's not fair for him anyways because I have two daughters and they tend to take my side."



Couple: Tyler and Melissa Shelton

How they met: Confirmation classes in high school at St. Raymond's.
Time together: Married in 2018
Valentine's Day Plans: A glass of wine "after the boys go to bed"
Who's more romantic?
 Tyler: "I think I am."
 Melissa: "Yeah, Tyler."
Who's the most stubborn?
 Melissa: "It's a tie."
 Tyler: "Yeah."
 Melissa: "We're both stubborn in our own way."
 Tyler: "And it's not good for anybody."
Who said "I love you first?"
 Tyler: "I did."
 Melissa: "Tyler did."
Who spends more money?
 Melissa: "...Melissa."
Who's the messiest?
 Tyler: "Ooh, Tyler is. I'm not good at cleaning up afterwards."
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Tyler: "Melissa."
 Melissa: "Melissa."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Tyler: "Ooh, that's a good one. I think Melissa."
 Melissa: "Melissa, but Tyler causes it. Melissa starts the argument because of the cause that is Tyler."
 Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry after an argument?"
 Tyler: "Yeah babe. Who's the more likely to say I'm sorry?"
 Melissa: "I don't know, we're both stubborn. I don't think either of us says sorry."
 Tyler: "Yeah, that part of the argument doesn't happen. Uh, I say I'm sorry..."
 Melissa: "Because you're the cause."
 Tyler: "Because I don't feel like arguing all week."
 Melissa: "We'll say Tyler."
 Tyler: "I think I find my way to have done things differently, being more open minded and considerate, I guess."
Who's "The Boss?"
 Tyler: "Melissa."
 Melissa: "Melissa."



Will you marry me?



A pair of Downey residents announced their engagement this week in front of family and friends in a romantic gondola ride in Naples.

Hans Fritz, owner of HKF Consulting and campaign manager for many local political races, proposed to Adriana Valdez, owner of La Chula restaurant at the Downey Gateway, in perfect time for an early Valentine's Day gift.

Couple: Eric and Maria Arencibia

How they met: Through volunteering around town
Time together: Married 2018
Valentine's Day Plans: The Olive
Who's more romantic?
 Eric: "Me."
 Maria: "I am! I plan everything"
 Eric: "Oh, yeah. She plans everything."
Who's the most stubborn?
 Eric: "Oh! My wife! 100%"
 Maria: "I agree. I'm not going to argue that one."
Who said "I love you first?"
 Eric: "I think we both did at the same time. I don't know."
 Maria: "That's a tough one. You did."
 Eric: "I did."
Who spends more money?
 Eric: "You?"
 Maria: "I would say you do."
 Eric: "Why do you say that?"
 Maria: "Whatever I ask for."
Who's the messiest?
 Maria: "Eric."
 Eric: "Probably me."
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Maria: "Me."
 Eric: "Hmm. Yeah."
 Maria: "It just took you five minutes to answer yes."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Eric: "My wife."
 Maria: "I'm pleading the fifth on that one. We will talk later."
 Eric: "I think it's both."
Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry after an argument?"
 Maria: "Eric, because I'm never wrong."
Who's "The Boss?"
 Maria: "I want Eric to answer this one."
 Eric: "I'll let her take that one."
 Maria: "Oh, you'll let me? Okay."
 Eric: "She's stubborn. She gets what she wants."
 Maria: "I'm the boss."



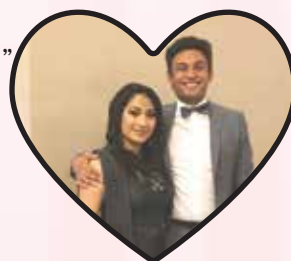
Couple: David Lopez and Jessica Rojas

How they met: In the Warren High School Band
Time together: March 9, 2016
Valentine's Day Plans: A cliffside / beach picnic
Who's more romantic?
 David: "Me!"
 Jessica: "I'm going to give him this one; he's definitely the more romantic one."
Who's the most stubborn?
 David: "It depends. Sometimes it's you, and sometimes it's me."
 Jessica: "I honestly have no answer for this, because you have your days. I'll never admit that I'm wrong, or I do after a little bit."
 David: "Let's just go with you."
 Jessica: "You think I'm more stubborn than you?"
 David: "I used to be the more stubborn one. Now it's starting to be a little more you."
 Jessica: "But I feel... okay, yeah, fine."
Who said "I love you first?"
 Jessica: "You! You blurted it out."
 David: "Me!"
Who spends more money?
 David: "Me."
 Jessica: "Oh my gosh, yeah."
Who's the messiest?
 Jessica: "You!"
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Jessica: "That's David."
 David: "Me."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Jessica: "I feel like that's pretty much me. It's not that I start the argument, but I feel like I always have to talk stuff out."
Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry" after an argument?
 David: "Me."
 Jessica: "Me."
 David: "Oh..."
 Jessica: "Even when I'm upset with you, I say I'm sorry."
 David: "But whenever you bring up something, I'll listen to you and say I'm sorry."
 Jessica: "But if you're really upset with me, and I'm really upset with you, then I can't go that long without talking to you. I will definitely come to you first. You can hold out a little bit longer."
Who's "The Boss?"
 David: "That one switches."
 Jessica: "Me."
 David: "Oh wow, there it is."
 Jessica: "I think you're a leadership type; I respect you. I listen to a lot of what you say. But just looking at the relationship...who is the CEO? It would be me."
 David: "I'm executive chairman."



Couple: Vijay Patel and Sheetal Desai

How they met: High school sweethearts
Time together: Married 2010
Valentine's Day Plans: Take-out from Alexander's Steakhouse with daughters.
Who's more romantic?
 Sheetal: "Are either one of us romantic?"
 Vijay: "I would say initially I was romantic, but as the years went on - I'm not going to lie, my wife can attest to this - the romance kind of goes on the backside. We grew out of that I guess, but we still have our moments."
Who's the most stubborn?
 Sheetal: "Me, for sure."
 Vijay: "I would have to say my wife."
Who said "I love you first?"
 Vijay: "Me."
Who spends more money?
 Vijay: "That's me, for sure"
Who's the messiest?
 Vijay: "That's me."
 Sheetal: "Oh, Jay."
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Vijay: "That would be me."
 Sheetal: "Me."
 Vijay: "No way. I'm glued to my phone because of my work."
 Sheetal: "Actually, you are."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Vijay: "Oh, that's me. Actually, no."
 Sheetal: "I'm going to say me."
 Vijay: "I don't know."
 Sheetal: "I finish them. You start them. Is that what it is?"
 Vijay: "She's being smart."
Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry after an argument?"
 Vijay: "Ooh, I don't think anyone."
 Shital: "This is the stubborn part. I would say Jay."
 Vijay: "Over the years, I've learned that I should be the one to initiate the sorry. Save some face."
 Shital: "One because I know I'm right..."
 Vijay: "Yeah right."
Who's "The Boss?"
 Vijay: "I would say my wife. Happy wife, happy life."



Couple: Alberto Rodriguez and Helen Arevalo

How they met: Alberto frequented a restaurant Helen worked at. He courted her for four summers when he would visit on holiday
Time together: Married in 2016
Valentine's Day Plans: Water bikes and lunch at the Pike.
Who's more romantic?
 Alberto: "I think Helen."
Who's the most stubborn?
 Helen: "He is."
 Alberto: "Helen!"
Who said "I love you" first?
 Helen: "He did."
 Alberto: "Me. The first thing I do in the morning."
Who spends more money?
 Helen: "Me!"
 Alberto: "Helen, definitely"
Who's the more likely to respond to return a call or answer a text first?
 Alberto: "Helen."
Who's the messiest?
 Helen: "It would have to be me."
 Alberto: "I think me."
 Helen: "I'm pregnant right now so he's picking up after my slack."
Who's more likely to start an argument?
 Helen: "Me."
 Alberto: "Helen."
Who's more likely to say, "I'm sorry after an argument?"
 Alberto: "Me."
Who's "The Boss?"
 Helen: "You!"
 Alberto: "Me."



XOXO 

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Here's a news flash: Pandemics are stressful! Fear and anxiety about disease can be overwhelming.

Public health measures like masks, social distancing, and staying at home make us feel isolated and lead to significant loneliness. Loneliness, in turn, results in yet more stress and anxiety. The effect of the pandemic on the economy and jobs is unbalanced and unjust. Throw a higher level of drug and alcohol use into the mix, and we now face a mental health crisis.



On top of that, it appears that the physiological effects of the COVID-19 illness itself lead to mental health issues as well. Let's think of this COVID-related stress as having two sources: Psychological issues due to the pandemic, and physiological effects caused by the disease itself.

· Within 90 days of a COVID diagnosis, researchers at Oxford found that nearly 6% of adults developed a psychiatric

disorder for the first time ever. Conditions included anxiety, insomnia, depression, and post-traumatic disorder, and older adults with COVID also had two to three times the risk of developing dementia. Once ill, we have limited guidance as to how to manage the disease, lifestyle, and isolation. We experience fear about spreading a life-threatening disease to loved ones, and of course guilt should that happen. Battling the disease can be taxing and traumatic. Symptoms may persist for a very long time, resulting in a group of patients known as "long-haulers."

· COVID-19 is not only a respiratory disease, but also one that can reach other critical organs, including the brain. Patients frequently experience neurological complications, such as confusion, dizziness, delirium, and other cognitive impairments. There is no clear understanding as to the mechanism for how this happens; it's possible that the virus causes damage to the brain's blood supply, and leads to swelling of brain tissue. COVID also disturbs our circadian rhythms and

impairs sleep, which can lead to insomnia, making psychiatric symptoms even worse.

There is precedence for this impact on mental health. Other viral illnesses have been known to do this: SARS and MERS, two other life-threatening coronaviruses, have led to delirium, anxiety, depression, mania, insomnia, and memory loss. And, any virus that attacks the central nervous system can lead to hypoxic brain injury.

Conversely, those with preexisting psychiatric disorders may actually be more prone to developing COVID-19. Although there is as of yet no full explanation, being highly anxious and/or depressed could make us more susceptible to the physical illness.

This is a new disease, and we understand so little. Research is actively being conducted. In the meantime, pay close attention to both your physical and mental health. Make efforts to build a network of support for yourself, and don't hesitate to consult with your medical professionals for your physical as well as for your mental and emotional health needs.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Rent control proposal scrapped by Downey City Council

Continued from page 1

Councilman Mario Trujillo said that it was important to "distinguish between tenant's rights, affordable housing, rent control, and rent assistance," before concluding that "any additional rent control measures would be redundant and unnecessary."

"It's well known that Downey is in the higher end of the rent market for the southeast part of LA County. But when I look at the information presented to us by the staff and I find that the vacancy rate is only 3.6% in Downey, that's telling me that Downey is still very much desirable," he said.

"With all due respect to my colleague and many of the callers today, it is my opinion that Downey is still affordable. We're not having a huge displacement of our people in Downey because of our arguably high rent. It's just not happening; the figures do not support it."

He also warned against creating a "false narrative."

"In none of the calls or emails that I heard today did I hear about a bad landlord; not one," said Trujillo. "No one can show any data to show that we have the abusive landlords that the rent control movement frequently tries to portray."

"What we have found in Downey is we have landlords who are willing to work with our residents because they appreciate that these renters take care of their properties."

Mayor Claudia M. Frometa mirrored some of these thoughts.

"I have to go back to the numbers that we have," said Frometa. "When we talk about the vacancy rate in Downey vs the vacancy rate in rent-controlled cities, it leads me to believe that the numbers that we have here in the city of Downey are different."

"We cannot be swayed by a different narrative of what is

A proposal by Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez to implement rent control in Downey was defeated Wednesday.



Catherine Alvarez

happening in other cities. We need to keep our focus in Downey because this is the place that we have been elected to serve."

"Time and time again, the economic research consistently shows that rent control is not the answer to cities. Rent control does not address the underlying causes of California's housing problem."

Mayor Pro Tem Blanca Pacheco said that "the rent control measure has already come up twice."

California voters decided on rent control issues twice before, on Prop 21 in 2020 and Prop 10 in 2018. In both scenarios, Downey voters trended against the ballot measures.

"The voters voted against having any rent control statewide, but more specifically here within our city," said Pacheco. "The residents of Downey have already voiced their opinion. I'm here to do what the residents of Downey would like me to do which is represent them, and because of that... I don't feel comfortable proceeding forward with having staff look into having a rent control ordinance here in the city of Downey."

Alvarez would ultimately vote against her own measure,

joining her council colleagues in voting to not pursue any further action.

While not pursuing rent control, council members indicated they were open to exploring ways to incorporate more affordable and low-income housing into the city.

"Rent control is counterproductive to building more affordable housing," said Trujillo. "That is my opinion, but I am basing it on the facts that tell us that if you are a rent-controlled environment, developers are not going to come in because there's no incentives for them to come and build more housing, which is what we need."

Councilman Sean Ashton said that while affordable housing would not be an immediate fix, it should be done for the "long term."

"We are in a housing crunch; our city is supposed to plan for 6,650 new homes over the next eight years," said Ashton.

"I don't know where we're going to be able to find space to do that at, but it's going to be something we need to focus hard on doing what we can and finding other resources and other ways to help our residents."

BACK IN BUSINESS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

How to prevent the next pandemic

By Ryan Cirz

President Joe Biden just delivered his inaugural address, calling for unity and bipartisanship.

One area crying out for cooperation is antibiotic resistance -- a health crisis that will last long after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year, 162,000 Americans and about 700,000 people globally die from antibiotic-resistant infections. Those numbers will skyrocket as existing antibiotics continue to lose their effectiveness. Rampant overuse is partially culpable but so is increased reliance due to an aging population. Each time a patient takes an antibiotic, it kills off some bacteria, but those that survive can evolve into treatment-resistant superbugs.

These superbugs threaten to send us back to the medical dark ages. Antibiotics are crucial to preventing infections during procedures ranging from elective surgery to organ transplants to the ventilation of COVID-19 patients.

California doctors are no strangers to the impending superbug crisis. While our state generally takes pride in staying ahead of the curve, leading the country in catheter-associated urinary tract infections -- a bacterial infection that's become increasingly resistant to existing medicine -- is not the kind of recognition we're after.

Scientists have known for years that we desperately need new antibiotics capable of attacking specific drug-resistant bacteria. This pressing information has resulted in some funding for research and development, yet the present commercial market does not support novel FDA-approved antibiotics.

That's because manufacturing and selling new antibiotics is a money-losing endeavor. The revenues generated from sales are ultimately much less than the cost of entering the market.

Why? In the early period of superbug spread, the most resistant infections are rare -- perhaps only affecting tens of thousands of patients per year. Additionally, antibiotics provide a rapid cure -- often healing patients in 7 days or less.

And while there isn't a formal price cap for a novel antibiotic, the U.S. reimbursement system essentially functions as one. For many serious infections, antibiotics are prescribed intravenously in a hospital, which makes the hospital -- not a private insurer or Medicare -- responsible for the cost.

Hospitals lose money unless they choose older, less expensive

drugs over more appropriate -- but more expensive -- treatments.

Put plainly, any company that invents a new antibiotic will only sell a limited number of doses at too low a price, which dooms the products to fail. At least four antibiotic start-ups have recently shuttered their doors, despite medical breakthroughs.

The company I cofounded in 2004, Achaogen, was chief amongst them. Our California-based biotech firm spent 15 years and \$1 billion developing an antibiotic to fight the superbug CRE, or carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae. But even after we won FDA approval and secured a spot on the World Health Organization's essential medicines list, the broken market made it impossible for us to sustain our ongoing business let alone return a profit to our investors. Our stock value collapsed and we declared bankruptcy a mere 9 months after FDA approval.

Fortunately, last year, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi allocated \$500 million towards antibiotic development in a Covid-19 emergency stimulus bill that passed in the House.

It was a step in the right direction. But in the long term, we need policies that transform the incentive structure for developing new antibiotics, and also encourage responsible stewardship.

The bipartisan Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act fits the bill. The measure would alter Medicare's reimbursement formula to let it pay hospitals more for using the newest antibiotics when medically appropriate. By helping hospitals afford cutting-edge antibiotics, it would encourage biotech companies to invest more in research and development.

Including the DISARM Act in any upcoming COVID relief bill or health policy legislation would help fundamentally fix the broken market -- and stave off a doomsday scenario.

The option stands to take no further action against antibiotic resistance. But we'd have to be comfortable with the ensuing deaths of 10 million people worldwide, each year, by 2050. And, as we've learned the hard way from COVID, these are not abstract figures -- these could be our family members, our friends, our neighbors.

The onus is on lawmakers to work together and spur the innovation that will save lives.

Ryan Cirz is a microbiologist and a founder of Achaogen Inc. and Revagenix Inc.

Addressing racial health disparities

By Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.

I've spent my career fighting for vulnerable patients, especially people of color. So I was ecstatic to hear about a new initiative from dozens of biotech companies.

These firms pledged to enroll more people of color in "clinical trials" -- years-long tests that show whether experimental drugs are safe and effective. Boosting diversity will tangibly improve the health of minority Americans.

White Americans are drastically overrepresented in clinical trials. Non-Hispanic whites account for 60% of the U.S. population, but roughly 86% of clinical trial participants. By contrast, Black Americans comprise 13% of the U.S. population but only 5% of clinical trial volunteers. Latino Americans account for 18% of the U.S. population but make up a measly 1% of trial participants.

Underrepresentation is a big problem for minority patients on an individual level. Clinical trial participants get lifesaving treatments years before those medicines become available to the public. That early access can -- and does -- save lives. When minorities aren't asked to participate in trials, or simply decline to do so, they lose out on these opportunities.

Underrepresentation hurts minority communities as a whole, too. That's because medications can affect various ethnic groups differently. For instance, Black Americans might experience a side effect that only rarely afflicts whites.

These disparate reactions are surprisingly common. About 20% of all new drugs approved between 2008 and 2013 caused "differences in exposure and/or response" based on patients' ethnicity.

If minorities frequently had a chance to participate in clinical trials, researchers could detect these disparate reactions early. But when trials include too few patients from various ethnic groups, it's easy to miss these disparities -- with tragic results.

Take the Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool, which was created to estimate a woman's breast cancer risk and developed in 1989 using data from a majority-white study group. Due to its failure to account for differences between certain demographics, the Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool underestimated the risk to Black women, who report higher rates of breast cancer at younger ages.

It wasn't until 2015 that the tool was explicitly modified to account for Black women's unique circumstances. It's impossible to know how many preventable deaths occurred before this adjustment was made.

Clinical trial diversity would also reduce the disproportionately high rate of chronic illnesses in minority communities. As a longtime advocate for Black, LGBT+ and HIV-positive communities, it's disturbing to see these groups underrepresented in HIV clinical trials.

Between 2002 and 2016, nearly 75% of all new HIV cases in the United States occurred in minorities. However, only about 17% of clinical trial participants were Black or Latino. In many instances, Blacks and Latinos living with HIV reported they had not even been

approached about participating.

African Americans also die from cancer at higher rates than white Americans. And Hispanics are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Yet in clinical trials from 2008 to 2018, only 3% of oncology clinical trial participants were Black, and 6% were Hispanic.

As minority groups are more likely to be impacted by these illnesses, it's only right researchers keep them front of mind when developing new treatments. After all, they'll likely be seeking those very drugs. And yet, clinical trials continue to exclude them.

The biopharmaceutical industry's recently published principles on clinical trial diversity are a step in the right direction. Let's hope those firms to live up to these commitments.

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. is president and CEO of the Center for Black Equity. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times.

Guilty without facts

Dear Editor:

Several years ago, I was part of a jury to determine if the defendant was guilty of a hit and run with his vehicle.

All appearances, at first glance, seemed to indicate yes. The defendant was at the scene, and the driver of the hit vehicle eye-witnessed him as the driver who hit him.

But after hearing all the evidence, it was determined that the defendant was in the car that caused the accident but not the owner or driver of the car. The driver dropped the defendant off at the crime scene, and then drove off. The only thing the defendant was guilty of was being very intoxicated.

Seven of us jurors listened to the evidence, reviewed the facts, and determined that the defendant was only guilty of being drunk. Two jurors would not even listen to the facts. They stated, "Of course he's guilty. He was at the scene of the crime and why else would he be in court if he wasn't guilty?"

There was absolutely no reasoning with these two jurors. At least the drunk had a defense lawyer that supported his case.

Does any of this seem similar to what is happening in DC? With only two hours of deliberation in the House, President Trump was declared guilty of being the driver that incited the thugs to break into the Capitol, vandalize, and terrorize those inside simply because he was nearby and speaking in front of a peaceful group of people encouraging them to "peacefully and patriotically march to the Capitol to let your voices be heard."

President Trump had no defense lawyer representing him unlike the drunk, nor were any facts presented to the House members. President Trump was in the area when the Capitol building was invaded so he is guilty. Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard, Linda Sanchez, Liz Cheney and all Democrats, Republicans and opinionated people writing in the Downey Patriot should be ashamed of themselves for being the judge and jury over President Trump before he has had any representation by his lawyers and before any facts are presented.

Martha Morrissey
Downey

Our new republic

Dear Editor:

I am starting to relax.

I am relieved that the president is working on methods to eliminate the coronavirus as opposed to waiting for "herd immunity" to take effect and that Congress is working on a way to effectively distribute relief for people and businesses.

I am relieved that pundits are being held accountable for their lies about the last election.

I am relieved that insurrectionists and traitorous conspirators are losing their antisocial platforms.

I am relieved that the president is looking out for the middle 50% as opposed to the top 1%.

Thom Tankiewicz
Downey

Warren High teacher to resign

Dear Editor:

This is in response to the slanderous article against DUSD Teacher of the Year, Warren High School's long-time band director David Neimeyer. I have been following this case closely and I feel strongly that the spin this article took on the situation was biased and inaccurate.

The result of biased, click-bait reporting such as this is that sure, it probably got the Patriot some extra clicks that day, but it greatly harms the reputation of a good man and his family, a family that has served our community and been some of our beloved neighbors for a long time. If you read the facebook comments when this article was posted, they clearly showed people only read this one article-- or worse, just the headline--and were not fully informed about the situation.

Allow me to share a bit of what I know as I have been following this case. The first allegations against Mr. Neimeyer occurred over the summer. He was immediately put on paid administrative leave while the district hired an outside firm to investigate. The investigation was very thorough, and took many months. His accuser was interviewed along with a great number of others who worked with Mr. Neimeyer during the years in question.

The results of the investigation--as your article briefly states if anyone read more than the headline-- were that his actions never met the legal standard of sexual harassment, nor even that of a hostile work environment. These are parameters outlined by the law. I wonder how many readers have recently completed sexual harassment training at their job? Probably many have, and if so then they would know that the bar for this legal definition is reasonably strict and takes into account anything an employer or employee says, even in passing or as a joke. But Mr. Neimeyer's actions did not meet that bar.

As for the findings that some of his actions or words were "unprofessional," I defy you to find any faculty or staff of which this could not be said if they were under similar scrutiny. Teenagers have a lot of their own jargon for things. If a teacher tells a student to "tweak a sentence to make it readable," the whole class might laugh at the drug-related joke and years later might testify that the teacher made drug references in class. Let a single 4-letter word slip out and you can be called unprofessional. These things might truly be unprofessional, but they are definitely no reason to throw a good teacher under the bus.

I wasn't there in the classroom, but those who testified in the investigation were and the investigation cleared his name. Not only that, but Ms. Gonzalez went on to willfully be employed after high school in the band boosters. Between that and the findings of the investigation, it doesn't seem to me that Mr. Neimeyer is worthy of the slander that is currently being spread. He sounds like an excellent teacher who built good rapport with his students and their parents.

We have lost a treasured member of our community. While it is good to see that DUSD takes student accusations seriously, they have also not been upfront with the community on the findings of this investigation-- that nothing illegal happened and they are losing a damn fine teacher. And I am saddened that the Downey Patriot is going for click-bait instead of emphasizing in your reporting the bigger deal of this investigation-- that nothing illegal happened and that our children are actually safe.

Lana Wahlquist
Downey

Dear Editor:

It is maddening that Downey Unified School District is allowing a teacher to resign after he was found to have made inappropriate, sexualized comments to students. He should have been fired on the spot.

Instead, the teacher will continue to earn a salary and pension through the end of the school year. Worse, he will be allowed to teach at other schools and be near other students.

Shame on Downey Unified for failing to put the wellbeing of its students first.

Melody Gutierrez
Downey

Dear Editor:

Hopefully the Downey Unified School District will learn to take students' complaints seriously and not merely dismiss them because they are kids.

Speak to former DUSD students and many will tell you there is a pervasive culture among teachers and staff that makes students feel extremely uncomfortable. This ranges from inappropriate jokes and flirtatious comments, to comments about girls' appearances. It's not ok and it needs to stop.

When Downey High teacher Brandon Hitchcock was arrested in 2016 for sleeping with a student, that was bound to happen due to the culture that exists.

Bravo to the students for speaking up and demanding change.

Leslie Torres
Downey

Get vaccinated

Dear Editor:

In my letter to the editor of Oct 22, 2020, I expressed misgivings about the Covid-19 vaccines.

Today I received the second shot of the Moderna vaccine at the VA Hospital in Long Beach.

I am not a hypocrite. My decision of getting vaccinated was based on solid research about the development, efficacy and safety of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that differ only in their delivery system.

Corona viruses have been infecting humans for about eight centuries. Dr. Barney S. Graham is Chief of The Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory and Translational Science Care of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. His experience includes work on viruses that include Ebola, Zika and Influenza. He was also at the forefront of research that figured out that HIV was a virus. At the vaccine evaluation clinic of the National Institute of Health he focused on vaccines for three categories of respiratory viruses: influenza, corona virus and respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV). This experience played a key role in the development of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Moderna had encoded a modified protein on strips of genetic material known as Messenger RNA, a very potent platform. After the Chinese posted the genomic sequence of the Covid-19 virus. Dr. Graham and his associates started developing a vaccine. It took them six weeks to go from formulating a vaccine to making a product ready to be tested, a process that typically takes years to accomplish. He is the chief architect of the first covid vaccines manufactured by Moderna and Pfizer. For this reason, Dr Anthony Fauci says that Dr Graham understands vaccinology better than anybody I know.

The vaccines have been tested in thousands of volunteers which expedited their development and tests for efficacy and safety.

We have great scientists in this country and their development of the Covid-19 vaccine is one more proof that we are a great country capable of meeting any scientific challenge. I urge all citizens of Downey to get in line to get vaccinated as soon as the protocols allow it.

Some of the above paragraphs are paraphrased from a recent issue of The New Yorker magazine.

Jorge Montero
Downey

The Downey Patriot STAFF

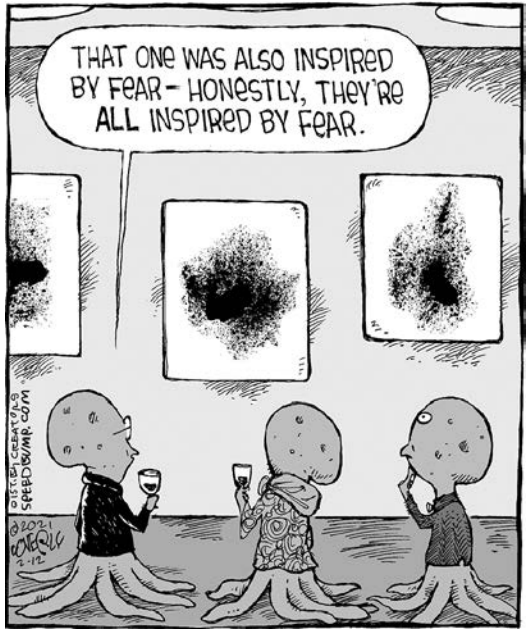
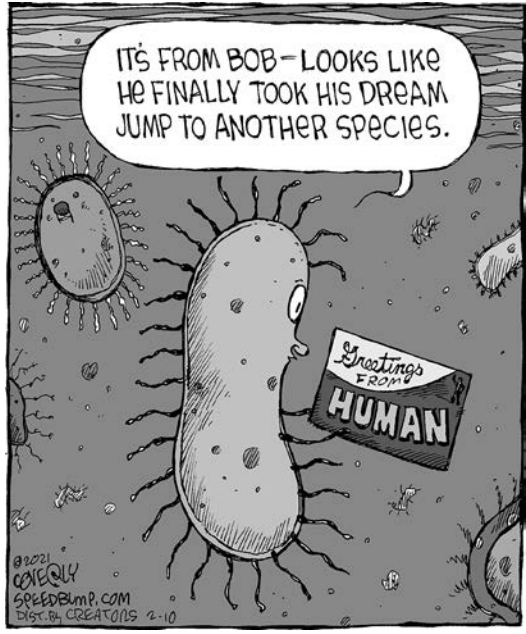
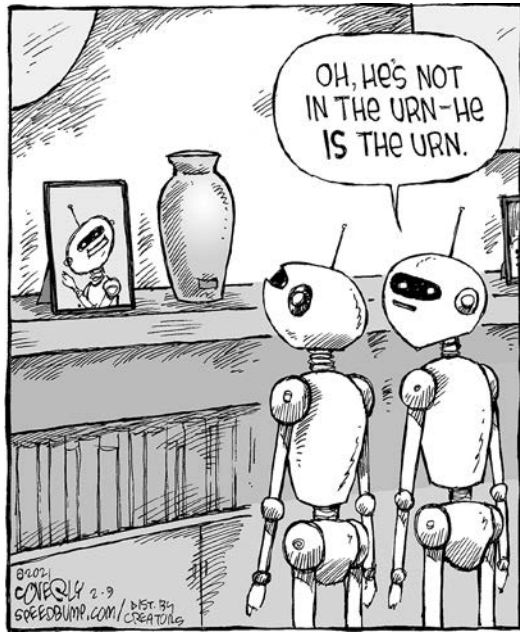
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THE DOWNEY PATRIOT.COM | ADJUDICATION #BS124251

The Downey Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.
Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies are printed.
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

CITY MEETINGS

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 310-386-8112.
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call William Medina 413-3447.
 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., 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, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
 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 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806-3102.
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 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, will resume meeting online in January, call 562-500-5093.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 1st Thurs.: People of Faith Ministries, Schroder Piano, call John Veiga 562-412-7192.
 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., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 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.

The **DOWNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER** Report graffiti to this number. **923-4484**

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
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 by Greg Johnson

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120 Somber poem	
121 Calls upon	

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

The marchers in the first MACY'S Thanksgiving parade (5 Across) in 1924 included store employees and animals loaned from the Central Park Zoo. Also known as the Chinese gooseberry, the KIWI (66 Across) was given its name by New Zealand exporters of the fruit in the 1960s. Not confirmed until 2014, the most distant source of the Amazon (117 Across) is the Mantaro River of central PERU.

Black Leaders that Inspire Us



Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris is an award-winning physician, researcher and advocate dedicated to changing the way our society responds to one of the most serious, expensive and widespread public health crises of our time: childhood trauma. She was appointed as California's first-ever Surgeon General by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019.

Dr. Burke Harris' career has been dedicated to serving vulnerable communities and combating the root causes of health disparities. After completing her residency at Stanford, she founded a clinic in one of San Francisco's most underserved communities, Bayview Hunters Point. It was there that Burke Harris observed that, despite the implementation of national best-practices for immunizations, asthma, obesity treatment and other preventive health measures, her patients still faced outsized risks for poor health, development and behavioral outcomes.

Drawing on research from the CDC and Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Burke Harris identified Adverse Childhood Experiences as a major risk factor affecting the health of her patients. In 2011, she founded the Center for Youth Wellness and subsequently grew the organization to be a national leader in the effort to advance pediatric medicine, raise public awareness, and transform the way society responds to children exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. She also founded and led the Bay Area Research Consortium on Toxic Stress and Health, to advance scientific screening and treatment of toxic stress.

Her work has been profiled in best-selling books including "How Children Succeed" by Paul Tough and "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance as well as in Jamie Redford's feature film, "Resilience".

Ruby Bridges was six when she became the first African American child to integrate a white Southern elementary school. On November 14, 1960, she was escorted to class by her mother and U.S. marshals due to violent mobs. Bridges' brave act was a milestone in the civil rights movement, and she's shared her story with future generations in educational forums.

The fact that Bridges was born the same year that the Supreme Court handed down its Brown v. Board of Education decision desegregating schools is a notable coincidence in her early journey into civil rights activism.

When Bridges was in kindergarten, she was one of many African American students in New Orleans who were chosen to take a test determining whether or not she could attend a white school. It is said the test was written to be especially difficult so that students would have a hard time passing. The idea was that if all the African American children failed the test, New Orleans schools might be able to stay segregated for a while longer.

Bridges lived a mere five blocks from an all-white school, but she attended kindergarten several miles away, at an all-Black segregated school. Bridges' father was averse to his daughter taking the test, believing that if she passed and was allowed to go to the white school, there would be trouble. However, her mother, Lucille, pressed the issue, believing that Bridges would get a better education at a white school. She was eventually able to convince Bridges' father to let her take

the test.

In 1960, Bridges' parents were informed by officials from the NAACP that she was one of only six African American students to pass the test. Bridges would be the only African American student to attend the William Frantz School, near her home, and the first Black child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South.

On the morning of November 14, 1960, federal marshals drove Bridges and her mother five blocks to her new school. While in the car, one of the men explained that when they arrived at the school, two marshals would walk in front of Bridges and two would be behind her.

When Bridges and the federal marshals arrived at the school, large crowds of people were gathered in front yelling and throwing objects. There were barricades set up, and policemen were everywhere.

Only one teacher, Barbara Henry, agreed to teach Bridges. Bridges was the only student in Henry's class because parents pulled or threatened to pull their children from Bridges' class and send them to other schools. For a full year, Henry and Bridges sat side by side at two desks, working on Bridges' lessons.

Indisputably the most acclaimed rap artist of his generation, Kendrick Lamar is one of those rare MCs who has achieved critical and commercial success while earning the respect and support of those

who inspired him.

After several years of development, Lamar hit his creative and chart-topping stride in the 2010s. "Good Kid," "M.A.A.D City" (2012), the Grammy-winning "To Pimp a Butterfly" (2015), and the Grammy- and Pulitzer Prize-winning "DAMN" (2017), his three proper major-label albums, have displayed an unmatched mix of inventive wordplay and compelling conceptual narratives, examining internal conflict, flaunting success, and uplifting his community.

The screenplay-level detail of Lamar's writing has been enriched by a collective of producers, instrumentalists, singers, and rappers, a high percentage of whom -- including inspirations and contemporaries Sounwave and -- represent Lamar's native Los Angeles. Lamar's cinematic and collaborative inclinations inevitably attracted the mainstream film industry. "Black Panther: The Album" (2018) was the source of three of Lamar's Top Ten pop hits.

Compton native Kendrick Lamar Duckworth grew up immersed in hip-hop culture and surrounded by gang activity. As a youngster, he gradually discovered an aptitude for writing stories, poems, and lyrics, which naturally led to rapping. He made a name for himself as K. Dot. At the age of 16 in 2003, he issued his debut mixtape, "The Hub City Threat: Minor of the Year." While it

merely hinted at the potential of the then teenager, it was impressive enough to catch the attention of and led to a long-term association with the label that steadily propelled his career.

Mae C. Jemison is an American astronaut and physician who, on June 4, 1987, became the first African American woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program. On September 12, 1992, Jemison finally flew into space with six other astronauts aboard the Endeavour on mission STS47, becoming the first African American woman in space. In recognition of her accomplishments, Jemison has received several awards and honorary doctorates.

Throughout her early school years, Jemison's parents were supportive and encouraging of her talents and abilities, and she spent a considerable amount of time in her school library reading about all aspects of science, especially astronomy.

During her time at Morgan Park High School in Chicago, she became convinced she wanted to pursue a career in biomedical engineering. When she graduated in 1973 as a consistent honor student, she entered Stanford University on a National Achievement Scholarship.

After Jemison obtained her M.D. in 1981, she interned at Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center and later worked as a general practitioner. For the next two and a half years, she was the area Peace Corps medical officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia where she also taught and did medical research.

Following her return to the United States in 1985, Jemison made a career change and decided to follow a dream she had nurtured for a long time: In October, she applied for admission to NASA's astronaut training program. The Challenger disaster of January 1986 delayed the selection process, but when she reapplied a year later, Jemison was one of

the 15 candidates chosen from a field of about 2,000.

After more than a year of training, she became the first African American woman astronaut, earning the title of science mission specialist -- a job that would make her responsible for conducting crew-related scientific experiments on the space shuttle.

When Jemison finally flew into space on September 12, 1992, with six other astronauts aboard the Endeavour on mission STS47, she became the first African American woman in space.

During her eight days in space, Jemison conducted experiments on weightlessness and motion sickness on the crew and herself. In all, she spent more than 190 hours in space before returning to Earth on September 20, 1992. Following her historic flight, Jemison noted that society should recognize how much both women and members of other minority groups can contribute if given the opportunity.

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In Memory of

Ralph John Brooks

June 8, 1929 - February 3, 2021



Ralph John Brooks of Downey, passed away early Wednesday morning, February 3rd at the age of 91. His strong Christian faith gave him courage to endure serious medical issues over these past few years.

Ralph was born on June 8, 1929 in Niagara Falls, Ontario to Roland and Eva Brooks. Working alongside his father from an early age, Ralph learned farming and carpentry. He was a foreman on the construction of the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls and Superintendent on several churches in upstate New York. He started Signal Construction in Long Beach in the late 70s and continued to work in construction until his retirement. Ralph also volunteered for church mission trips to Africa, using his construction skills to build a hospital and Guatemala City to help build a student's residence for a seminary.

Ralph was a longtime member of Downey First Baptist Church. He loved all kinds of music and was known for his booming bass voice. He sang in several choirs and quartets over the years, but enjoyed Southern Gospel music the most, even forming his own quartet in the 90s.

He is survived by his wife Olivia, brother Ken, and children Richard and Deborah Brooks of Menifee, Peter Brooks of Menifee, Brian and April Brooks of Orange, Josh and Salita Elizalde of Anaheim, and Miriam and Todd Lomelino of Paso Robles, and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

POETRY MATTERS

Song to Celia

Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup,
And I'll not look for wine.
The thirst that from the soul doth rise
Doth ask a drink divine;
But might I of Jove's nectar sup,
I would not change for thine.

I sent thee late a rosy wreath,
Not so much honoring thee
As giving it a hope that there
It could not withered be.
But thou thereon didst only breathe,
And sent'st it back to me;
Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,
Not of itself but thee.

Ben Jonson

Little February has nine holidays: my birthday and my mother's; Lincoln's and Washington's and a President's Day Monday. Then there's Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year and Mardi Gras. Which one to spotlight with a poem? Here's a Valentine that current heartthrob Johnny Flynn sings in the 2020 version of the movie Emma. O rare Ben Jonson. Not bad for a four hundred year old ditty. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

**Music in Therapy:
Rancho Los Amigos
partners with LA
Opera Connects**

■ The Downey hospital launched its new Music in Therapy program to help improve inpatients' wellbeing.

**By Zachary Deere
Rancho Los Amigos Foundation**



Mezzo-soprano opera singer Nandani Sinha is among those interacting with Rancho patients.

DOWNEY – As an innovator and premier provider of rehabilitation and acute medical and surgical services for more than 125 years, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center understands that therapy and the healing process isn't just physical.

All too often depression, hopelessness and mental fatigue can be a hindrance to a successful recovery. On January 13, the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation launched their new Music In Therapy program with its partner LA Opera Connects, to bring the joy and hope of music to improve their inpatient's wellbeing.

Spearheaded by Rancho's Speech Therapy Department, therapists identify three patients every two weeks to work with the LA Opera team.

As music transcends generations and social backgrounds, any and all patients, regardless of their degree of injury (spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, etc.) are eligible to participate in the program.

Wendy Burton, Chief of Communication Disorders said, "It's great to see the patients faces light up and how appreciative they are. Patients feel like this is an escape from the pain of their injury or illness and the loneliness of being in the hospital. Through this interaction, they are transported to a time filled with happier memories."

Patients are given a list of songs and asked to share their favorite ones with their speech therapist prior to the session, so that they can receive a one

of a kind and personalized experience.

Through Zoom, the LA Opera Connects team then performs songs for the patient while encouraging conversation and a sing along to assist in the patient's speech therapy regiment.

LA Opera Connects has paired the talented Nandani Sinha, a mezzo-soprano opera singer and Charlie Kim, vocalist, pianist, and conductor with Rancho's patients for this very special interactive experience.

Burton shared that "Nandani and Charlie are both so exuberant and kind. They choose songs and stories that are inspirational and uplifting for the patients."

She summarized the benefits of the program best, "These patients are going through a trauma that has turned their world upside down, on top of the Covid-19 pandemic that has left them isolated and alone.

"The importance of music and its ability to touch them emotionally and to heal is so powerful and beautiful. In fact, the majority of the patients involved so far have been moved to tears, in a very good way."

For more information about the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, please call (562) 385-7053 or visit www.RanchoFoundation.org

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ABSTAIN: Council Member: None.

Copy of the full text is available in the City Clerk's Office.

M. Alicia Duarte, CMC, City Clerk
February 11, 2021

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21

CITY OF DOWNEY NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, the City of Downey, County of Los Angeles, State of California, declares that the following monetary sums have been held and have remained unclaimed for at least three years. In accordance with Government Code Sections 50050-50056, the monetary sums listed below will become the property of the City of Downey on the twenty-fifth (25) of March, 2021, a date not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days after first publication on this Notice.

Any party of interest may, prior to the date designated herein above, file a claim with the City of Downey which includes the claimants name, address, amount of claim, the grounds on which the claim is founded and supporting documentation. Supporting documentation to confirm identity consist of copies of driver's license, social security card or taxpayer identification number and business entity records. The Treasurer may accept or reject the claim. If rejected by the Treasurer, the party submitting the claim may, within 30 days of receiving notice of rejection, file and serve on the City of Downey Treasurer a verified complaint seeking to recover all, or a designated part, of the unclaimed funds. Claim forms are available at City of Downey, City Clerk's Office, 11111 Brookshire Avenue, 3rd Floor, Downey, CA 90241, Phone (562) 904-7280.

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Notice Inviting Contractors For Inclusion on Lynwood Unified School District Qualified Bidder's List 2020-2021

The Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) is inviting all interested inclusion contractors to submit information for inclusion on (LUSD) list of pre-qualified Informal Bidders for Public and Maintenance Works Projects.

Interested contractors should email data request above to: **Pmora@mylused.org**

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21

CONVOCATORIA A AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA CIUDAD DE DOWNEY PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA EL AÑO FISCAL 2021-2022 CORRESPONDIENTE A LOS SUBSIDIOS FEDERALES CDBG Y HOME

El Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Downey convoca a la audiencia pública que celebrará el día martes 23 de febrero de 2021 a las 6:30 p. m. en la sede de su ayuntamiento, ubicada en 11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, California.

En dicha la audiencia, el Concejo escuchará comentarios del público en cuanto a los programas de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario financiados por el gobierno federal. La Municipalidad prepara la solicitud de asignación de fondos de la subvención en bloque para el desarrollo comunitario (CDBG) y de asociaciones de inversión local (HOME) que otorga el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de Estados Unidos (HUD), a cuyo fin solicita opiniones en las siguientes áreas: identificación de necesidades tanto de vivienda como de desarrollo comunitario; evaluación de programas y prioridades aprobados en el Plan quinquenal consolidado vigente y sugerencias o propuestas en cuanto a la utilización de las asignaciones de subvenciones federales con las que cuenta la Municipalidad para el Año Fiscal 2021-2022.

JOHN OSKOU
City Treasurer
City of Downey
February 4, 2021

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21

NOTICE INVITING BIDS LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lynwood Unified School District, acting by and through its Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as "District", will receive prior to 10:00 a.m. on the 4th day of March, 2021 sealed bids for the award of a Contract for the following:

BID NO. CM-212021; LYNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

EMERGENCY REFRESH CLASSROOMS/PORTABLES PROJECT
Scope of Work Overview

The Scope of Work shall include refresh of classroom interiors at 23 existing portables and permanent classroom buildings B, E, F, D, S2, Admin, and modular classroom T-58. Work includes painting, replacement of flooring, replacement of ceiling tiles, replacement of MARV Air units at portable classrooms. The Contract Time is 67 consecutive calendar days.

This Project is being let in accordance with the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act ("UPCCA") (specifically, the formal bidding procedures in Section 22032(c)).

Prequalification of Bidders

As a condition of bidding for this Project, and in accordance with California Public Contract Code section 9115, prospective bidders are required to submit to the District a completed set of prequalification documents on forms provided by the District. These documents will be the basis for determining which bidders are qualified to bid on this Project.

Bids will not be accepted if a Contractor has not been prequalified. Prequalification documents are available from Del Terra Construction Group, 13181 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 540, City of Industry, CA 91746, upon request. Prequalification documents must be submitted by February 26, 2021 at noon [not less than five days prior to bid opening date]. Contractors will be notified by telephone, fax or by mail of their prequalification rating within a reasonable period of time after submission of their prequalification documents, but not less than one day prior to the bid opening date.

The successful Bidder must be a valid and active licensed Class "B" contractor.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Job Walk on Friday, February 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**, in front of the Administration Building at Lynwood Middle School located at 12124 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA 90262. Any Contractor bidding on the Project who fails to attend the entire mandatory job walk and conference will be deemed a non-responsive bidder and will have its bid returned unopened.

A link to download bid documents will be emailed at the end of the mandatory bid walk by Del Terra.

Inquiries shall be sent in writing to: Jerry Quemada, Senior Construction Manager, Del Terra Group, 13181 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 540, City of Industry, CA 91746. Fax: 626-839-9307 or Email: jrquemada@delterra.com.

No telephone or facsimile machine will be available to bidders on the District premises at any time.

It is each bidder's sole responsibility to ensure its bid is timely delivered and received at the location designated as specified above. Any bid received at the designated location after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21, 2/18/21

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 20WCP000303
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO to Proposed name (1) RACHEL MARIE GALINDO
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: MAY 17, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT December 22, 2020
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO
9749 MYRON STREET
PICO RIVERA, CA 90660
(323) 482-7608
RACHEEBAROCIO@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00028
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alexander Avila-Renteria filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) Alexander Avila-Renteria to Proposed name (1) Alexander Avila, Jr.
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: APRIL 2, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 28, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ALEXANDER AVILA-RENERIA
10140 GROVESIDE AVE
WHITTIER, CA 90603
(562) 322-4606
ALAVILA@CHARTER.NET

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

Según lo dispuesto en la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, si usted precisa asistencia especial para participar en esta audiencia, comuníquese con la Secretaría Municipal al 562-904-7280 o con el Servicio de retransmisión de California marcando 711. Los pedidos deben realizarse al menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia a fin de que la Municipalidad pueda realizar los ajustes necesarios para el acceso. La Ciudad de Downey no discrimina por razón de discapacidad en la admisión, el acceso o la administración de sus programas, servicios o actividades. Las preguntas, inquietudes o quejas y los pedidos de más información en cuanto a la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades deben dirigirse al Coordinador de servicios especiales de la Municipalidad (ADA/Section 504 Coordinador), 11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, CA 90241, ADAcoordinador@downeyca.org, teléfono: (562) 299-6619, fax: (562) 923-6388, y al Servicio de retransmisión de California 711.

Present name (1) Alexander Avila-Renteria to Proposed name (1) Alexander Avila, Jr.
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: APRIL 2, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
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Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ALEXANDER AVILA-RENERIA
10140 GROVESIDE AVE
WHITTIER, CA 90603
(562) 322-4606
ALAVILA@CHARTER.NET

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00015
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO to Proposed name (1) ANITA VALDIVIESO
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: MARCH 1, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT DECEMBER 29, 2020

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21

LIEN SALES

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the provisions of the California Uniform Commercial Code, there being due and unpaid storage and other charges related to the storage for which DOMINGUEZ HILLS ESTATES is entitled to a lien as Warehouse on the goods hereinafter described, and due notice having been given to the parties known to claim an interest, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such charges having expired, notice is hereby given that these goods will be sold at public auction at 19009 Laurel Park Road, Space 28, Dominguez Hills, California 90220 on March 1st, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The following is a brief description of the property to be sold:
A 1980 LANCER Mobilehome, Decal numbers(s) 731QVF, Serial Number(s) A35931, B35931, HUD/Label/Insignia Number(s) Unknown, 60 feet in length, 12 feet in width.

Purchase of the mobilehome and its contents by any party will require its removal from Dominguez Hills Estates
Name of Owner: John D Webber Pamela Webber
Amount Due: \$16,575.74
Dated at Sunnyvale, California February 10, 2021
By: JUDY C. TSAI
Attorney for Dominguez Hills Estates
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 180
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 775-8848

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21, 2/18/21

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 20WCP000303
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO to Proposed name (1) RACHEL MARIE GALINDO
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: MAY 17, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT December 22, 2020
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO
9749 MYRON STREET
PICO RIVERA, CA 90660
(323) 482-7608
RACHEEBAROCIO@GMAIL.COM

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00028
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alexander Avila-Renteria filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) Alexander Avila-Renteria to Proposed name (1) Alexander Avila, Jr.
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: APRIL 2, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 28, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ALEXANDER AVILA-RENERIA
10140 GROVESIDE AVE
WHITTIER, CA 90603
(562) 322-4606
ALAVILA@CHARTER.NET

without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MARCH 19, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT JANUARY 19, 2021
Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO
19127 PIONEER BLVD, SPC 38
ARTESIA, CA 90701
(562) 441-7800
SVAL2004@YAHOO.COM

The Downey Patriot 1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 20WCP00323
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner EMELY MYRANDA BUSTAMANTE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) EMELY MYRANDA BUSTAMANTE to Proposed name (1) EMILY CANIZ
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.
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The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
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Judge Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
SUSANA MADRID
9643 PRISCILLA ST.
DOWNEY, CA 90242
(562) 405-7002
SMADRID2005@YAHOO.COM

The Downey Patriot 2/4/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21, 2/25/21

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21NWCP00015
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) ANNIE LI VALDIVIESO to Proposed name (1) ANITA VALDIVIESO
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.
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Date: MARCH 1, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BOULEVARD, NORWALK CA 90650
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The Downey Patriot 2/11/21

LIEN SALES

NOTICE OF SALE

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A 1980 LANCER Mobilehome, Decal numbers(s) 731QVF, Serial Number(s) A35931, B35931, HUD/Label/Insignia Number(s) Unknown, 60 feet in length, 12 feet in width.

Purchase of the mobilehome and its contents by any party will require its removal from Dominguez Hills Estates
Name of Owner: John D Webber Pamela Webber
Amount Due: \$16,575.74
Dated at Sunnyvale, California February 10, 2021
By: JUDY C. TSAI
Attorney for Dominguez Hills Estates
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 180
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 775-8848

The Downey Patriot 2/11/21, 2/18/21

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 20WCP000303
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) RACHEL MARIE BAROCIO to Proposed name (1) RACHEL MARIE GALINDO
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: MAY 17, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room:

County eyes expansion of Project Roomkey

■ County leaders want to include smaller motels in Project Roomkey, which houses vulnerable unhoused people.

Supervisors Hahn and Hilda Solis that directs the LA County CEO and LAHSA to report back in 15 days with opportunities for extending, renewing, or expanding county-contracted Project Roomkey sites.



The Motel 6 at 8221 S. Pioneer Blvd. in Whittier was used as a Project Roomkey site before it was purchased by the county to house vulnerable homeless. County leaders want to expand the program.

DOWNEY - After the Biden Administration announced plans to reimburse 100% of what counties and cities spend on non-congregate shelters, Supervisor Janice Hahn wants to explore expanding LA County's Project Roomkey program to use empty motel and hotel rooms to get more people indoors during the pandemic.

The motion specifies including hotels and motels with fewer than 100 rooms which had not been eligible for the program.

"Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Los Angeles County has taken many actions to reduce and prevent the spread of the virus among people experiencing homelessness, including rapidly standing up temporary housing at hotels and motels through Project Roomkey," said Solis, Supervisor to the First District.

Project Roomkey was launched in March 2020 as part of the State of California and LA County's effort to protect vulnerable residents from Covid-19.

"The program has served as a beacon of hope, enabling us to immediately bring some of our most vulnerable indoors to protect them from contracting Covid-19 and to set them on a path to permanent housing.

The program uses hotels and motels as short-term shelters for homeless residents over 65 or with serious health conditions.

"We must continue to use every resource to protect the health and safety of our unhoused neighbors. This motion seeks to do just that."

Previously, FEMA policy was to reimburse cities and counties for 75% of the costs of the program. On Jan. 21, Biden issued an executive action increasing the FEMA reimbursement rate to 100 percent.

One obstacle to taking advantage of the FEMA reimbursement is the length of

The Hahn-Solis motion also directs the county's advocates in Washington, DC to write a letter to the Biden Administration urging them to provide upfront funding for non-congregate shelters.

time the county must wait to be reimbursed.

FEMA can take a year or longer to reimburse local entities, straining local budgets.

"Master leasing hotels and motels through Project Roomkey has been one of the most effective tools we have had to combat homelessness," said Hahn. "If this new FEMA funding means we can expand this program, get more Project Roomkey sites up and running, and get more people off the streets, we absolutely should. This was the right thing for the Biden Administration to do and we should take full advantage of it."

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion authored by

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"Craig Johnson is awesome and a great guy! We are looking forward to working with him again!!" - **Thomas Carpenter**

"Lilian Lopez is an excellent agent and everything went great!!" - **Narcisa Romo**

FEATURED PROPERTY

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4 units located just minutes from USC and just south of Exposition Park and the Colosseum. All units are 1 bed & 1 bath. Back unit has 1 car garage with plenty of space on the side for parking. CALL TODAY!!!

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING Steve Roberson

TOP PRODUCTION Jim Derry

TOP SALES Lilian Lopez

Retail Shopping Center!!
Nice retail shopping center just North of the 91 Freeway. 6 units. Some units have central air and heat. Appraised at \$2,850,000. CALL TODAY!!!

This is the one!!!
This beautiful property features master bedroom and master bathroom, 2 more spacious bedrooms, and full bathroom. Homework desk in the hallway. Cozy kitchen with granite countertops and backsplash. Some cabinets with glass doors. Beautiful tile throughout the kitchen and dining room. This will not last! CALL TODAY!!!

What a Deal!!
Spacious mobile home in the Country Meadows Mobile Park. Home features an upgraded kitchen, upgraded bathrooms, laminate flooring, and a laundry room. Large carport that can accommodate up to 3 vehicles. Neighborhood offers a community swimming pool, basketball court, playground, and a clubhouse. CALL TODAY!!!

Will go Fast!!!
Beautiful 3 level condo, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths with 1,277 sq ft. It has an open floor plan and been decorated with never laminated flooring, never interior paint, and never carpet. This unit has interior laundry area on the first level with plenty of storage for convenience. The kitchen, dining area, and living room on the second level is decorated with crown molding and baseboards, all bedrooms on the third floor with walk in closets. CALL TODAY!!!

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Mobile Home!!
Mobile home in the City of Santa Ana. House features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, master bedroom with walk in closet, kitchen with center island, spacious living room. Park features swimming pool, party salon, and much more. Close to schools and shopping. House interior and exterior is in excellent condition. CALL TODAY!!!

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Angelo & Marie Picarelli
REALTOR®
562-618-0033
www.MariePicarelli.com
DRE #01933141 | DRE #00610605



Jimmy Spathos
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JUST LISTED!




More for your Money!

- Condo
- 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- 1,968 sq. ft.
- Large living room
- Dining room
- Spacious kitchen

PRICED AT: \$525,000

JUST LISTED!



Sweet and Low!

- Manufactured home located in great park in Dominguez Hills
- 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- Huge living room

PRICED AT: \$129,000

CALL TO GET A FIRST LOOK!



Located in North Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Approximately 1,500 sq. ft.
- Large lot
- Close to Rio San Gabriel Elementary and Doty Middle School
- Great location!

PRICED AT: \$795,000

YOU ARE THE HEART OF MY BUSINESS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOYALTY AND SUPPORT!

IN ESCROW!



7849 Arnett Street, Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Over 1,700 sq. ft.
- Original hardwood floors

SOLD IN LESS THAN 5 DAYS!

PREPARE YOUR LIVING TRUST!

- New clients only
- Expires 2-28-2021
- One coupon per family

\$50 DISCOUNT

Package Includes: Will, Trust, Advance health directive, Financial power of attorney and One grant deed

IN ESCROW!



Downey Investment!

- 2 homes on a lot
- Front: 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Back: 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Light fixer

PRICED AT: \$675,000

It's official! Our NEW WEBSITE has been launched!



- Detailed market analysis sent to you in less than 24 min
- Innovative home search features
- Access to our office's newest listings
- Quick links to utilities and local Downey & surrounding city info
- Plus, info on your next career

Find what you need faster! Visit our website today...
www.24Hour-RealEstate.com



Pam Lee
REALTOR®
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com
DRE #01750256

IN ESCROW!



8110-12 Comolette Street, Downey

- 2 HOMES ON ONE LOT
- Front: 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Back: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2 car garage has been converted to living space (not permitted)

PRICED AT: \$795,000
CALL FOR MORE INFO!



CARMELA "CARRIE" UVA
Downey Born, Raised & Educated! Selling Downey Homes for 27 Years!
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!

SOLD!



Closed Escrow in Downey!


- 3 bedrooms
- Pool
- Call us to get your property sold for MORE MONEY!

CLOSED AT \$57,000 OVER LIST PRICE!

Zillow PREMIER AGENT
★★★★★

"Dealing with Marie on this whole process was super smooth and positive attitude through all the ups and downs. Within 3 days of listing she had booked 40 people to see the house and during those 3 days we had 10 offers. The house was purchased for \$57,000 more than we listed it for. I would definitely recommend Marie and Angelo."

SOLD!



Northridge Condo

- 2 bedrooms
- 1.5 bathrooms
- Spacious living room and dining area
- 1,026 sq. ft.

PRICED AT: \$355,000

PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!

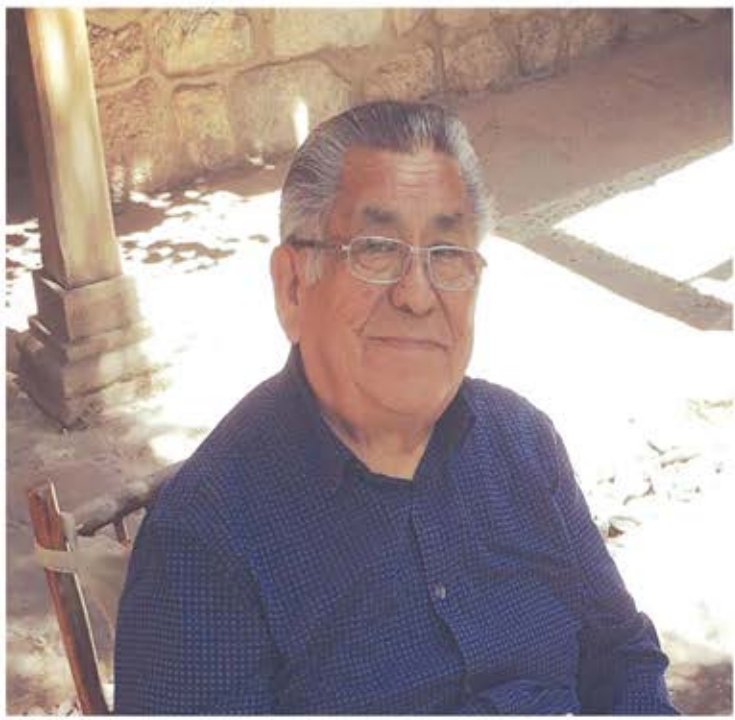


3640, 3642 & 3642 1/2 E 52nd, Maywood

- 3 separate units
- 1 unit: 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2 units: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2,810sq. ft.

SOLD FOR \$845,000
MARIO DID IT AGAIN!

MARIO PERSICO
BORN | EDUCATED | LIVES | WORSHIPS IN DOWNEY
562-533-7433
- REALTOR® SINCE 2002 -
@MARIO_PERSICO



In Loving Memory

EZEQUIEL PINAYA
MARCH 10, 1939 - FEBRUARY 4, 2021

With heavy hearts, the "24 Hour" family regrets to announce the passing of our beloved friend and colleague Ezequiel "Zeke" Pinaya. Forever in our hearts today and always. He will be truly missed.

We extend our sincere condolences to the Pinaya family.



MICHAEL BERDELIS
"THE 24 HOUR AGENT"
(562) 818-6111
MichaelBerdelis@gmail.com
DRE #01234589
REALTOR

DOWNEY'S #1 AGENT FROM 2002 TO TODAY



Stunning Custom Estate

- 6 Bedrooms | 5 Bathroom
- 4,352 sq. ft. | 14,307 sq. ft. lot
- 3 car attached garage
- Entertainer's backyard with pool & spa, large covered patio & a park-like grass area
- Master bedroom with fireplace & dual closets
- Separate guest quarters with private bathroom

Call today for a private showing
562-818-6111
LIST PRICE: \$1,799,000



Custom Built Home!

- 4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms
- 2,862 sq. ft. | 10,767 sq. ft. lot
- Swimming pool
- Living room with fireplace
- 3 car garage

LIST PRICE: \$995,000



So Much For So Little

- 4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms
- 2,315 sq. ft. living space
- 6,036 sq. ft. lot
- Remodeled kitchen
- 2 car attached garage

LIST PRICE: \$725,000



2 Homes On A Large Lot

- FRONT HOME: 5 BD, 2 BA, 3,112 sq. ft.
- BACK HOME: 2 BD, 2 BA, 1,152 sq. ft.
- 12,012 sq. ft. lot
- Property built in 1988
- Each unit has a 2 car garage

LIST PRICE: 1,299,000



Out Of This World

- 3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms
- 1,466 sq. ft. | 2,085 sq. ft. lot
- Large living room with fireplace
- Sunny kitchen
- Living room with covered patio

LIST PRICE: \$699,950



Orange Estates

- 3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathroom
- 1,501 sq. ft. | 5,750 sq. ft. lot
- Living room with fireplace
- Sunny kitchen with dining area
- Backyard with covered patio

LIST PRICE \$725,000



Townhome Near Downey Landing

- 3 bedrooms | 2.5 bathrooms
- 1,506 sq. ft. living room
- New carpet
- Laminate hardwood floors
- Laundry room

LIST PRICE: \$525,000

WWW.MICHAELBERDELIS.COM