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Michael Calvert: Marathon Man

■ With nearly 90 marathons under his belt, including all L.A. Marathons, Michael Calvert is in rare company.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

You're probably already somewhat familiar with Michael Calvert. As executive director of Downey's Chamber of Commerce, he's often found busy around the city.

But when he's not aiding businesses, helping cut ribbons or coordinating parades, you might find him doing something just as intensive – training for a marathon.

In fact, Calvert, 68, is counted among a select few individuals with the distinction of having run every Los Angeles Marathon to date.

It didn't start in LA though.

He started his running career in his early 30s when a coworker asked him to help her train for the Palos Verdes Marathon.

"I was in a really bad work situation – just a horrible boss and everything – and one of the women I worked with, her husband had run the PV Marathon before," said Calvert. "She says, 'I really wanna do it, will you train with me?'"

"She said it would be something fun, and we could gripe about our jobs, so I said okay."

It would be Calvert's first marathon. He says he joined the race "not realizing that the PV Marathon was the second hardest course in the country at the time."

Then came the 1984 Summer

Olympics, where Calvert sat in the Coliseum and watched the "dramatic" finish of the first women's marathon.

"I want to say it's a woman from Switzerland that came in staggering and wavering back and forth, and people were trying to help her and realized they couldn't help her because they could get disqualified," said Calvert. "She finally made it to the finish line and I kind of thought, 'Well, that's for me!'"

Well, maybe not the staggering and the wavering; Calvert has never had any illusions of winning a marathon.

"I was thinking I could understand the challenge of the event; that was something I'd like to try," said Calvert. "That wasn't my goal, to stagger into the Coliseum."

LA would start its own marathon shortly thereafter.

"I thought, 'Okay, I will run this,'" said Calvert.

And he did. Then he did again. And again. And again.

Calvert has run in all 36 LA Marathons so far. It's an accomplishment that has earned him the distinction of being called a "legacy runner."

According to Calvert, there are 127 legacy runners.

He added that "at this point, it's really hard to quit."

"My oldest son and I were talking the other day and he says, 'Have you ever thought about what you might do about not doing it,'" said Calvert.

"At that particular time, the course of the marathon ended in Downtown LA, so there were a lot of people on the streets when you get to the finish."

"I told him what I thought I would do which would be dramatic and have little bit of a romance to it is...I think I'll just go off into the crowd and not finish the race."

Unfortunately, that time may be nearing for Calvert.

"I have been really fortunate, I've run a lot of other marathons," said Calvert. "I'm diabetic, and I'd say almost two years ago I was doing the Honolulu marathon and ended up having a low sugar at about mile 24 and got very woozy and had issues."

"Fortunately, a very dear friend of mine was running with me and got me to the [medical] tent, and he went ahead and finished, but I had to be taken off the course."

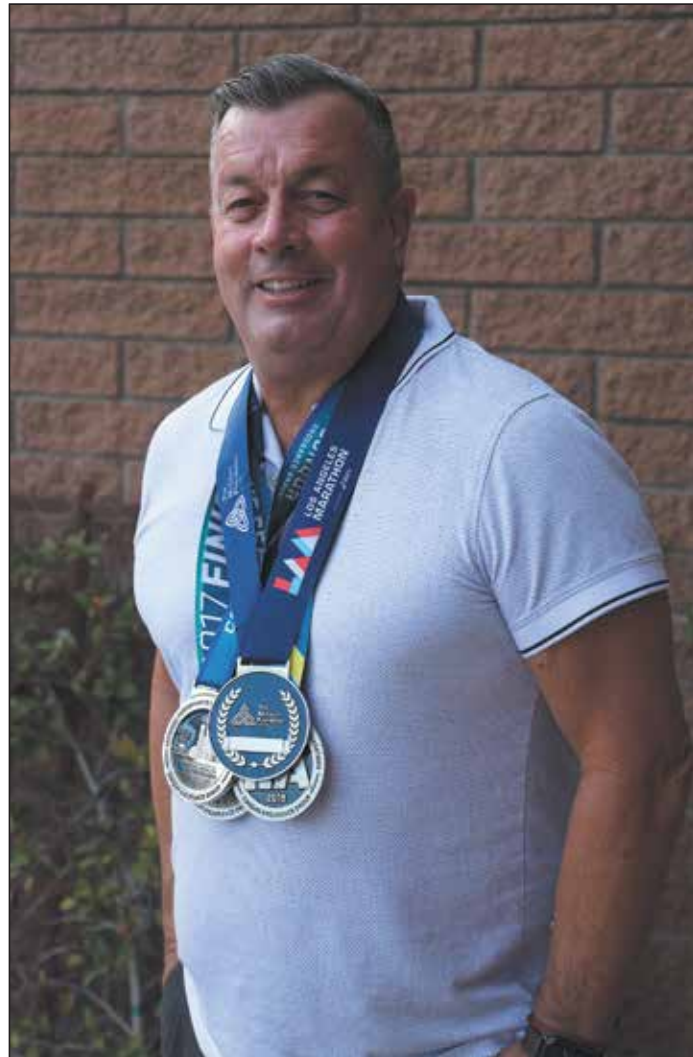
Out of the around 90 marathons Calvert has run, it's the only one he has never finished.

After that episode, Calvert says he was "very cognizant" of his sugar levels, making sure to have sugar with him just in case. Still, he says that he needs to "wrap his head and spirit around that he may not be able to finish one."

"There's not a lot of people in my age group that continue to run," said Calvert. "I had a lot of friends that we were the same age and running all the time together, and they don't run with me anymore."

Calvert still runs daily, anywhere from three to five miles during the week and seven to eight on weekends.

He has no real goal about how long he intends to maintain his legacy status. Instead, his continuing to run is more of an opportunity to "check in."



Michael Calvert has run every L.A. Marathon since its 1984 inception. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

"It's such an individual sport, and yes, it's nice to be a part of that group, but for me I keep thinking, 'How big of a deal could it be, 'cause I can do it,'" said Calvert. "I look at it now, it's kind of like checking in. 'I did 26.2 miles today, I guess I'm

okay."

Calvert's marathon days may (or may not) be approaching the finish line. Then again, he's still planning on running number 37.

From middle school side hustle to candy business

■ An entrepreneur since middle school, David Villa now owns a growing gummy worm business.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – What started as a secret middle school side hustle has grown into a sweet treat in over 140 stores across So Cal.

David Villa, 20, was a student at West Middle School when his path to entrepreneurship began. His first job was working in the school cafeteria.

The goal was simple: earn enough money to buy a skateboard.

"As a young middle-schooler, it's really hard to make your own purchases," said Villa. "I didn't really want to ask my parents for money."

"I found that job, and I want to really say that gave me the awakening to entrepreneurship because I had seen the trade-off

of me giving up my free time during snack and lunch to really put the hours in to get a check on a weekly basis."

While Villa says that job "put money in his pocket," he continued to look for ways to earn revenue. That's when he remembered that his older brother and sister used to sell sweets.

"Sure enough, I started selling Mexican candy," said Villa. "We would go to Downtown LA, and started buying them in bulk."

It was a rough start for Villa, who admitted to being shy and not wanting to approach potential buyers at first. Business would eventually pick up though.

"Over time, I started making sales on the daily here and there," said Villa. "It was cool, I started getting some money flowing."

Profits weren't huge, as Villa only sold around \$10 a day.

Eventually, he did buy his skateboard. It's while skating at Independence Park where he would get his next idea.

Worms. Flavored gummy worms.

There was already a small market for gummy worms coated in powdered flavors and syrups. Villa says he took the idea and "reverse engineered it," giving it his own spin.

"It comes down to the quality of the product; the quality of the product and the taste and the flavor that they're able to get from that product," said Villa. "Basically, what I did is I got product A and product B, and then turned it into a premium product."

Imagine gummy worms coated in the explosive, sweet, fruity flavors of cool-aid.

Villa called his Dirty Wormss. "In middle school, these kids had never tasted anything like it," said Villa. "The moment I brought it to the market, it was crazy."

Villa's \$10 profit doubled quickly. Eventually, his business would grow to a point where he'd need to produce more product and enlist the help of friends to sell.

"They got their cut, and I got my cut," said Villa. "I was making anything from \$90 a day."

Dirty Wormss eventually grew enough to catch the attention of school staff, who promptly shut Villa's operation down.

"They pulled us out of class. Me and my buddy were like, 'Yo, I think they're cracking down on us,'" said Villa. "Sure enough, we went into the office and they told us we had to put a stop to it."

Villa was told that the candy was causing issues in the restrooms, leaving behind sticky messes behind.

Villa took a hiatus after that. He would sell after school somewhat, but says it "wasn't the same."

"From that point to high



school, it became something of a side hustle. Whenever I needed some quick cash, I already knew the system," said Villa.

Going into his senior year, Villa wanted to start planning for his future, but didn't see himself working for somebody at a normal 9-to-5 job.

That's when he was given an idea: catering.

"My mom came home from this party she was at. She came in and was just boasting about how this raspado guy was selling ice cream and selling his products to the party, and how he was making a killing," said Villa. "She was like, 'You should sell your gummy worms to the parties.'"

Dirty Wormss only briefly went in the catering direction, as Villa would soon have a bit of a realization.

"It was this click in my head, this vision that I had," said Villa. "I had this thought: If kids go into the gas station after school to be able to get their hands on some gummy worms, that would be crazy."

Villa offers five flavors: Fruit Punch, Raspberry, Lemon Blast, Grape Explosion, and Chamoy x Tajin.

His first "store" was a hair salon owned by one of his father's clients. While they sold, the gummies were held back in



LOOK Dine-In Cinemas installed its digital signage on Monday. The movie theater company took over the former Studio Movie Grill in Downtown Downey earlier this year. (Photo by Eric Pierce)

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 79°

Saturday 78°

Sunday 79°

THINGS TO DO



Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" All Weekend
La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts

This must-see classic tells the story of a song-and-dance team that falls for a stunning sister act in the process of putting on a show in a magical Vermont inn. \$30+

ON THIS DAY NOVEMBER 25

1783

The British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States, during the Revolutionary War.

1914

Baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, Calif.

1947

Movie studio executives agreed to blacklist the Hollywood 10, who were jailed a day earlier for contempt of Congress for failing to cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee.

1963

President John F. Kennedy was buried at Arlington National Cemetery

1986

The Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

1987

Chicago Mayor Harold Washington died after suffering a heart attack in his City Hall office.

1999

Six-year-old Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida.



2002

President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

2008

Football player Michael Vick pleaded guilty to a Virginia dogfighting charge and received a three-year suspended sentence.

Birthdays

Game show host **Ben Stein** (77), UCLA football coach **Chip Kelly** (58), "Married with Children" star **Christina Applegate** (50), retired NFL quarterback **Donovan McNabb** (45), competitive eater **Joey Chestnut** (38), and twins **Barbara and Jenna Bush** (40).

DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Selena Tribute, 9 pm. Mona Grey hosts this tribute to Selena. Plus Latin hits, reggaeton, cumbias, Top 40, and a midnight drag show. 21 and older. Baja's Grill, 7929 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

"Show Me the Father," 5 pm. A free screening of "Show Me the Father," a documentary about the roles of fathers in today's society. Desert Reign Church, 11610 Lakewood Blvd.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Grand Opening, 12-2 pm. Excellence Real Estate celebrates the grand opening of its new Downey office. Music, lunch, prizes and drinks provided. 11600 Paramount Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Networking Breakfast, 7:30-9:30 am. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater to this networking breakfast presented by the Downey, Paramount and Santa Fe Springs chambers of commerce. \$15 for chamber members, \$25 non-members. Embassy Suites, 8425 Firestone Blvd.

Book and a Movie, 11 am. Read a book and then watch the movie inspired by it. Discuss the storyline, symbolism and parallels between the literature and cinematography. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Downey Dance Day, 9 am to 3 pm. Presented by Downey High School's dance team, the youth dance clinic from 9 am to noon is for ages pre-school through eighth grade (no experience necessary). Two hip-hop master classes from 12-3 pm are for grades 6 through

college (beginning, intermediate and advanced level classes available). Registration details to be released soon. Downey High, 11040 Brookshire Ave.

Christmas Boutique, 10 am to 4 pm. Shop candles, vintage items, Papparazzi jewelry, doTERRA, Scentsy, Lipsense, and more. Knights of Columbus, 11231 Rives Ave.

Tree Lighting, 2:30-6:30 pm. Holiday photos, kids activities, DJ, free food, and a tree lighting ceremony. Tree lighting is at 6:30 pm. Downey Promenade, 12214 Lakewood Blvd.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

OLPH Christmas Gala, 11 am to 3 pm. OLPH Women's Guild hosts its annual Christmas gala featuring a lunch buffet, mimosas, photo booth, and music by Christine Pohlen. \$45 adults, \$30 kids. RSVP and payment due by Nov. 19. For reservations, call Linda Malme (562) 869-6491. Azar Event Center, 12215 Slauson Ave. in Santa Fe Springs

Downey Christmas Parade, 1 pm. Downey's annual Christmas Parade returns, presented by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Downey Avenue, from Florence to 3rd Street.

Downey Christmas Festival, 3-7 pm. A free community event featuring train rides, hot chocolate, Candy Cane Lane, and more. Legacy Church, 8333 2nd St.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-8:30 pm. Join the city of Downey as it lights its Christmas tree outside City Hall. Featuring live entertainment from local schools, snow play area, arts and crafts, refreshments sold by the Downey Rose Float Association, and photos with Santa Claus. Actual tree lighting will occur at 6:30 pm.

Family Story Night, 6-8 pm. Enjoy family fun with stories, music, crafts and more. All ages. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Historical Society Presentation, 11:30 am. Bob Thompson, president of the Downey Historical Society, or Bobbie Bruce, vice president, will show memorable Downey Christmases and history. They will be introduced by past vice-president Marilyn Madru. Sizzler, 10315 Lakewood Blvd.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Santa Claus Visits, 6 pm. Santa Claus visits with children at the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave. Free, bring your own cameras.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Food and Toy Giveaway, 10 am to 2 pm. Receive a free box of food along with gifts for children ages 3-16 (kids must be present). Pre-registration is required on EventBrite.com event page. For questions, email rida.hamida@asm.ca.gov or call (562) 861-5803. LA County Library Headquarters, 7400 Imperial Hwy.

Toy Giveaway, 10 am to 12 pm. Free toys for children ages 1-12. RSVP by calling (626) 587-5010. 7830 Quill Dr.

Legal Clinic, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Free legal consultations with licensed attorneys regarding immigration law, tenants law, family law, criminal defense, and personal injury. Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

The Edwards Twins, 7:30 pm. Anthony and Eddie Edwards use state of the art make-up to look and sound like the superstars of today and yesterday, including Cher, Elton John, Dolly Parton and Barbra Streisand. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

TUESDAY SPECIAL

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. The Downey Symphony Orchestra performs Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni, George Walker's Lyric for Strings, and Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, plus a special performance of Beethoven's Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C Major with Carolyn Osborn on violin, Dane Little on Cello, and an artist to be announced on piano. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Kiwanis Meeting, 6 pm. Larry Cunningham (Downey High School class of 2003) speaks about his career as a professional basketball player and being inducted into the UC Riverside Hall of Fame. Cost is \$22. Hosted by Downey Kiwanis at Frantone's Pizza, 9148 Telegraph Rd.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Arc Walk for Independence, 8 am. After a one-year hiatus, the Arc Walk returns to raise money for The Arc Los Angeles & Orange Counties. Register at www.thearcloac.org or call Yolanda Chavez at (626) 862-3915.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Beauty & the Beast Sing-Along, 2 pm. This interactive presentation of Disney's favorite classic has been customized with on-screen lyrics for all the songs so that audiences can sing along. Your hosts will introduce each performance and in addition, goody bags are available for purchase and audience members are encouraged to participate. Add to the fun by dressing up as a favorite character from the film. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Willy Chirino, 8 pm. Combining the musical traditions of Cuba with American rock and jazz, Cuba-born and South Florida-based vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped to create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. The composer of more than 100 songs, Chirino's material has been covered by a lengthy list of artists. First of two concerts. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

City of STEM Kick-Off Festival. City of STEM returns in-person, starting with this kick-off festival featuring booths, activities, performances, and panels provided by STEM organizations

throughout the Los Angeles area, including colleges and universities, museums, learning centers, libraries, science clubs, and many more. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

Willy Chirino, 8 pm. Combining the musical traditions of Cuba with American rock and jazz, Cuba-born and South Florida-based vocalist and bandleader Willy Chirino helped to create the "Miami sound" of salsa music. The composer of more than 100 songs, Chirino's material has been covered by a lengthy list of artists. Second of two concerts. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. The Downey Symphony Orchestra performs Bernstein's Overture to Candide, Pinar Toprak's "Open World" from Captain Marvel, Ives' Variations on "America," and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story. Plus a percussion concerto with Wesley Sumpter. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Grease Sing-Along, 7 pm. Hand jive in the aisles, enjoy specialty treats and drinks and get ready to fall in love with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John all over again as you sing along to "You're the One That I Want," "Beauty School Dropout," "Summer Nights" and all of the film's big hits. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Mariachi Los Camperos, 4 pm. Two-Time Grammy award winner Mariachi Los Camperos originated in 1961 and played a fundamental role in the development of Mariachi music in the United States and was the first to take the Mariachi performances out of customary locations such as cantinas and into concert halls. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Carpenters Legacy Concert, 8 pm. A recreation of The Carpenters' 1976 UK tour, starring Sally Olson and Ned Mills. Plus a special tribute to Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Children invited to toy giveaway

DOWNEY - Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living in Downey is hosting a toy giveaway Saturday, Dec. 18, from 10 am to 12 pm.

Toys will be available for children ages 1-12.

Parents must RSVP by Dec. 13 by calling (626) 587-5010. Children must be present to receive a toy.

The giveaway will take place at Southern California Resource Services' offices at 7830 Quill Dr., suite D.

Lakewood man arrested for threats

LAKEWOOD - A Lakewood man was arrested on a federal criminal complaint alleging he threatened to bomb Small Business Administration (SBA) offices and then, the following year, assault SBA employees in response to his inability to obtain COVID-19 emergency business loans.

Christopher Joseph Antoun, 29, was arrested Saturday.

On May 3, 2020, after he failed to receive approval for a Covid relief loan or an advance from the SBA, Antoun allegedly sent an email to an SBA-monitored email account and wrote, in part, "IT GOES INTO MY BANK ACCOUNT TONIGHT OR I START BOMBING EVERY LOCATION OWNED BY THE SBA."

This past summer, Antoun again attempted to obtain SBA-backed loans but was denied again. On Nov. 19, he allegedly sent an email to several SBA employees.

In that email, Antoun threatened to walk into the SBA's Los Angeles district office "with my nice shiny bat" and "start beating the skulls of SBA staff in."

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Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Is chocolate good for us? There is actually quite a lot of literature on this subject! In case you're in a hurry to grab some right now, the bottom line is: YES. And, while the nutrients and benefits of chocolate could, of course, be found in more healthful foods, they are not nearly as much fun.

It is important to make the distinction here between dark chocolate, and other types: milk chocolate and white chocolate. Studies uniformly attribute the most benefits to my own personal favorite, dark chocolate.

It is nutritious. A 3.5-ounce bar of dark chocolate with 70-85% cocoa contains 11 grams of fiber, 67% of the RDA (recommended daily allowance) for iron, 58% of the RDA for magnesium, 59% of the RDA for copper, and 98% of the RDA for manganese. It has plenty of potassium, phosphorus, zinc and selenium.

The fatty acid profile of cocoa and dark chocolate is also good; mostly consisting of oleic acid (a heart healthy fat also found in olive oil), and palmitic acid. (Palmitic acid can raise cholesterol levels, but it makes up only one-third of the total fat calories.) Dark chocolate

also contains stimulants like caffeine and theobromine, but in very small amounts when compared to coffee or tea.

Please keep in mind that 3.5 ounces of chocolate represents a fairly large amount, and is not a daily recommendation. That quantity would be accompanied by 600 calories and a decent amount of sugar. For that reason, let's practice moderation.

- Raw unprocessed cocoa beans are loaded with antioxidants. Chocolate's organic compounds include polyphenols, flavanols and catechins. Some studies have found that it contains higher levels of antioxidants than do blueberries.

- The flavonoids in dark chocolate may improve blood flow and lower blood pressure. Many controlled studies support this; the effects are usually mild but nonetheless statistically significant.

- Dark chocolate appears to be protective against heart disease. It decreases LDL (bad cholesterol) and raises HDL (good cholesterol). Flavanols improve insulin sensitivity, which helps to control fasting blood sugar. It can lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of clotting, and increase circulation.

- Dark chocolate may protect the skin from the sun. Flavanols help to increase skin

density and hydration, and to improve blood flow to the skin.

- Dark chocolate may aid brain function. Flavanols can improve blood flow to the brain, which can lead to an improvement in cognitive function in the elderly with existing impairment. (Its stimulants, like caffeine and theobromine, also likely explain the improvement in brain function.)

- Dark chocolate may lower the risk of stroke. One major study showed that regular consumption of small amounts reduced the risk of getting a stroke as well as dying from one. Higher amounts resulted in greater reductions.

- Eating dark chocolate may improve athletic performance. Studies show that eating a little dark chocolate nightly could boost oxygen availability (perhaps because flavanols enhance the release of nitric oxide).

- It's even possible that eating dark chocolate daily during pregnancy might benefit fetal growth and development. (That's certainly convenient!)

Do remember that most candy bars do not consist of only cocoa. They can also be loaded with considerable amounts of sugars and fats. Darker chocolate usually comes with a lower sugar content, but there are, obviously, better ways to consume nutrients. But, yes, there is considerable evidence that cocoa, and in particular, dark chocolate, can provide clear health benefits.

Next time you eat a piece of chocolate, don't feel too guilty!

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.



Rancho families need adopting

DOWNY – This holiday season, give the gift of joy and compassion by “adopting” a Rancho patient and their family.

Each year the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, in collaboration with Rancho's Volunteer Service and Social Work Departments, facilitates their annual Adopt-A-Family efforts to support Rancho patients and their families during what can be a difficult holiday season.

Last year, through a partnership with Bank of America, Veritiv, Pushrim, Global Paratransit, and various Rancho staff members and their departments, the Foundation was able to provide gift cards for home essentials, food, and presents to more than 50 patients and their families.

Carlos Benavides, former Rancho patient and longtime advocate for the disabled community has witnessed first-hand the impact the Foundation's Adopt-A-Family program has made over the years. Carlos shared, “most of Rancho's patients are on extremely fixed incomes. For many of them, just knowing that they'll be receiving food and gift cards for other essentials needed makes all the difference in keeping their hope alive.”

Rancho's Social Work Department identifies patients with the greatest level of need and interviews them to understand their immediate family unit and their current hardships. In addition, Rancho's Volunteer Services Department organizes a campus-wide drive for non-perishable foods to give to the adopted families. This year, the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation is seeking the support of the Downey community to help expand their Adopt-A-Family program.

For every patient family adopted, the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation will give that family a gift card for food. With more families in need than ever before, this is the time to consider partnering with the Foundation.

To adopt a family, simply visit www.RanchoFoundation.org/AdoptAFamily. Your generosity will go a long way towards ensuring no family is left behind during this holiday season.

For more information on the adopt-a-family or other programs and services funded by the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation, call (562) 385-7053 or go to www.RanchoFoundation.org.

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California deserves school choice

By Sarah Nagle

The California public school system is currently sinking like the Titanic. A couple of decades ago California public schools were some of the best in the country. But those days are long gone. The last two years have been a wake up call for parents, and a disaster for children. In Sacramento when politicians talk about school choice, they are usually talking about money. But when parents talk about school choice, they are talking about something far more personal and far more important than tax dollars. Inherently, citizens understand that school choice is about giving kids and parents a choice, a voice and a future. The landmark Educational Freedom Act would bring true school choice to all K-12 students in the state who choose to opt in to the proposed program.

By any metric, our public education system is failing too many kids. Back in 2019, the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that only 32% of California’s public school fourth graders were “proficient” readers. Overall, according to the California Reading Coalition, currently more than half the children enrolled in schools in over 300 public school districts can’t read at grade level. Parents have a legitimate fear that their children aren’t being adequately educated by the public K-12 system. Wealthy families are sending their kids to private schools in record numbers. Parents of every ethnicity, educational and economic background are exploring homeschooling. However, too many families simply don’t have the financial means to escape a system that is systemically failing their children.

The Educational Freedom Act is designed to give parents and kids the freedom to choose without costing Californians more money. Currently the state is spending an average of \$21,152 per year for every child enrolled in the public K-12 school system. Considering that, according to “Private School Review”, the average cost of a private elementary school in the state of California is only about \$14,411 per year, we are spending a shocking amount of money on a public system that can’t even guarantee most of the kids can read at grade level.

Sadly, most of the students currently enrolled in public schools in California have very few choices regarding where they can attend school. As a result, kids get trapped in failing schools and the parents end up footing the bill.

The Educational Freedom Act is designed to permit a portion of the Prop. 98 funding to follow the child to any accredited school in the state of California. Currently California public schools are funded through a combination of bonds, parcel taxes, donations, Federal Funds and Prop. 98 funding. As a result of Prop. 98, most public schools in California get most of their money based on student enrollment.

The Act treats all K-12 California students equally. An Educational Savings Account (“ESA”) will be established for each K-12 child in California on request. Each ESA will receive \$14,000.00 per year. ESA funds can be used to pay for tuition at any accredited public, private or parochial school. Any unspent funds will accrue in a low-risk portfolio. Parents would never have direct access to the money. However, homeschool students can also enroll in an ESA and use ESA funds to pay for qualified educational expenses if they enroll in an accredited private school independent study program. Because funds can accrue, families would be able to save the extra money in their accounts for students to use at an accredited college or vocational school up until the student turns 30.

The Educational Freedom Act has the potential to offer practical, workable educational options to millions of California kids. Our current system just isn’t working. We need to offer the 6.6 million school aged kids in California more options. We need to offer families of the future a choice and a voice.

The California Attorney General’s Office has issued the official title and summary for the Educational Freedom Act Initiative. Signature gathering has already begun. Volunteers represent a cross section of Californians. Yesterday I met a math teacher who is enthusiastically volunteering to gather signatures for the initiative because he thinks

layers of administrative bloat have distracted schools from the core mission of teaching kids. He thinks educational choice will refocus schools on teaching. Parents are volunteering to gather signatures because they want schools that listen to the needs of families.

Grandparents are gathering signatures because they want their grandchildren to grow up in a world where we don’t accept failure as the new normal.

I’m volunteering to gather signatures for school choice because I was the beneficiary of school choice. I was a homeschool kid when homeschool kids were considered kind of kooky. The public perception of homeschool kids was that we were all the children of religious conservatives, or angora goat raising hippies. The reality is that most of us were the children of parents desperate to give their kids the best education they could. And that is what every parent wants. That is what every volunteer wants. What every teacher, and grandparent and concerned citizen wants. We all want the kids to get the best education we can provide.

In order for the Educational Freedom Act to become a reality we need to gather 997,139 valid signatures to qualify for the November 2022 ballot. This means that in reality we need to gather 1.2 million signatures. We need your signature and eventually your vote. We’d love it if you would like to help volunteer. We have some money, we’ve had a few generous donations, but inherently this is a grassroots effort. We’re in this for the kids. We believe California kids and families deserve school choice.

For more information, we have a website californiaschoolchoice.org. There is a calendar of events on the website where you can find out how to sign the initiative. If you would like to help gather signatures or sign up to volunteer you can email us at info@californiaschoolchoice.org. Please help us make a difference.

Sarah Nagle is senior advisor for Californians for School Choice.

Cheney’s ouster reflects badly on Republicans

By Steve Chapman

The Republican Party of Wyoming has formally banished Rep. Liz Cheney from its ranks. This decision calls to mind Evelyn Waugh’s remark when told that Winston Churchill’s son, a politician and journalist, had undergone surgery for a benign tumor: “A typical triumph of modern science to find the only part of Randolph that was not malignant and remove it.”

Saying she is not a Republican is like saying Kim is not a Kardashian. Cheney is the daughter of two proud, prominent stalwarts of the GOP. Father Dick served in four Republican administrations, the last as vice president. Mother Lynne chaired the National Endowment for the Humanities under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and gained fame for championing conservative cultural values.

Liz was a senior official in President George W. Bush’s State Department and has been elected to Wyoming’s sole House seat three times. She was a member of the House Republican leadership.

She lines up on the right on almost every significant issue of public policy — celebrating the Second Amendment, pushing for oil and gas production, opposing abortion rights and more. She voted 93% of the time with former President Donald Trump. Last year, she got a rating of 96% from the ultra-conservative group Heritage Action — and 2% from the tree-hugging League of Conservation Voters.

But history and devotion to the cause don’t matter in today’s GOP. The only thing that matters is loyalty to Trump. Cheney took such offense at Trump’s role in the Capitol riot, which was aimed at overturning a democratic election — oh, and, by the way, put her life in jeopardy — that she voted to impeach him.

That vote and her persistent criticism of the Madman of Mar-a-Lago got her removed from her House leadership position. Following her conscience has made her radioactive even among the Wyoming Republicans who once rallied behind her.

Two things about today’s GOP are striking. One is the near-universal allegiance to Trump, no matter how badly he behaves or how much he trashes long-standing Republican policies. Republicans are basically reenacting the 1937 Soviet Communist Party conference, in which delegates applauded the murderous dictator Joseph Stalin for 11 straight minutes because they were too terrified to stop.

The second notable fact is how much dissent the party used to allow as a matter of course. In 1974, seven GOP members of the House Judiciary Committee voted to impeach Richard Nixon. They were not exiled to Siberia.

It used to be rare for the party to persecute its mavericks. Dissidents found ample room in the GOP tent, even though they often lost platform battles. Among the politicians known by what now sounds like an oxymoron — “liberal Republican” or “moderate Republican” — were such major figures as President Dwight Eisenhower, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, President Gerald Ford and Michigan Gov. George Romney.

Ronald Reagan led the 1980 conservative takeover of the GOP, but he made common cause with moderates — even choosing one of them, Bush, as his running mate. In his day, it was said that Democrats look for heretics while Republicans look for converts. Lately, though, the Republican Party seems to be taking lessons from “The Spanish Inquisition for Dummies.”

It’s a measure of how far the party has traveled that George W. Bush, beloved by Republicans during his presidency, couldn’t bring himself to vote for his party’s nominee in 2016 or 2020. Reagan, who supported the North American Free Trade Agreement and amnesty for undocumented immigrants, would be considered irredeemable by his party today.

Extremists in the party, however, can be tolerated. When the House voted to revoke the committee assignments of Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene for racist, antisemitic, violent and generally insane statements and tweets, 199 Republicans sided with her.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy urged his members to oppose the censure of Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., for a cartoon video of him killing Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Notes Politico, “The 13 Republicans who backed the infrastructure bill then endured a wave of violent threats against their lives, many of which were encouraged by some of the most extreme members of their own conference.”

But a fondness for violent rhetoric has long been a trademark of Trump, who still commands the broad allegiance of the party faithful. Republicans who encouraged, excused or defended what he did on Jan. 6 retain their good standing. So to be purged, as Cheney has been, is not a disgrace. It’s an honor.

Steve Chapman blogs for the Chicago Tribune.

Does anyone believe in the Constitution?

By Larry Elder

It’s no surprise that Democrats want an “infrastructure” bill. The depressing part is that the supposedly limited government/federalist Republicans are prepared to comply.

Sure, Republicans complain about the price tag, arguing that it’s too big, too inflationary. But as to the proposition that it’s the federal government’s role to build/repair/expand the “infrastructure” of states, there is little or no quarrel from Republicans.

During former President Donald Trump’s administration, Republicans wanted to make similar “investments” in states’ roads, bridges, waterways, etc., insisting businessman Trump would ensure a more efficient, productive use of the spending.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, voted for President Joe Biden’s \$1.2 trillion “infrastructure” bill, saying: “Every president ... has tried to get the infrastructure bill done. One of those presidents is our most recent president, President Donald Trump, who pushed to pass a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill during his time in office, in his budget.”

No, not every president. Some early presidents actually followed the U.S. Constitution and insisted things like a crumbling bridge in state A is not the responsibility of taxpayers in states B through Z.

Yes, the investment-infrastructure train left the station many years ago, but it’s instructive to see how far we’ve gone down the tax-and-spend

road while ignoring the constitutional principle that presidents once subscribed to. Objecting to a congressional bill to give money to French refugees, James Madison — known as the “Father of the Constitution,” and our fourth president — wrote, “I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents.”

During the presidency of James Monroe, America’s fifth president, Congress proposed a “build back better” bill to expand the Cumberland Road. Even though the expansion would go through and benefit his home state of Virginia, Monroe cast his only veto against the bill. According to Monroe’s biography on the University of Virginia’s americanpresident.org: “Although Monroe personally supported the idea of internal improvements, he balked at the federal government’s role in ... a series of federally financed projects designed to improve and update the nation’s roads, bridges and canals. Monroe worried ... that federal payments for such internal improvements would expand even further the power of the federal government at the sake of state power. Where would the limits be drawn?”

Today, few in Congress question whether government should spend money on infrastructure, focusing only on how much to spend.

The constitutional principle is not the only reason that “infrastructure” bills are bad. Why should a state said aside money to fix its own bridges when the state knows that it can spend its money on other priorities, given that sooner or later the federal government, aka all taxpayers, will ride to the rescue? After President Jimmy Carter signed

1979’s Federal Emergency Management Act, FEMA began giving money to states experiencing “natural disasters.” The number of declared natural disasters skyrocketed. States spent their money on other things knowing that declaring a “natural disaster” would provoke an influx of federal dollars.

After Biden’s infrastructure bill, he wants Congress to “invest” in his Build Back Better bill. White House press secretary Jen Psaki recently said, “He’s going to deliver for all Americans, as is evidenced by the infrastructure bill ... that’s going to help expand broadband to everyone, no matter your political party.”

“Expand broadband,” which means internet access? The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, wrote: “The Biden Administration is less interested in bridging the digital divide than it is about transforming the United States’ successful intermodal competitive system into a utility provided by local governments. Federal intervention ... only serves to distort competition, enriching incumbents and hindering the development of new technology. ... The best way to lower prices is not with heavy-handed price controls and cumbersome regulation but through robust competition.”

I have written that half the country believes in a free lunch and the other half is stopping them from eating it. When it comes to Democratic and Republican support for federal government “infrastructure” spending and “investments,” it is sometimes hard to know which half is which.

Larry Elder is a radio host and bestselling author.

The Downey Patriot

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Trump over Biden

Dear Editor:

Donald J. Trump was “duly” elected as the President of the United States in 2016, but to this day his presidency is not recognized by Hilary and other Democrats.

They did everything possible to tear down this great president, who despite the lack of support from the Democrats was able to secure our southern border, make our country energy independent, brokered peace in the Middle East, held the Taliban in check in Afghanistan by maintaining control of the Bagram Airport with only 2500 troops and threatening the Taliban if they killed any member of our military, they would suffer dire consequences - actions by President Trump that kept our military safe and without any death during the last 18 months of Trump’s presidency.

Regulations were eliminated so small businesses could thrive and many jobs were returned to America. Additionally, President Trump did not accept a salary during his presidency and slept only 3 hours a night because of his loyalty, patriotism, and dedication to represent all citizens of the United States.

With two impeachments imposed on President Trump for having done nothing criminal (the Durham investigation now indicting three people charged with falsely involving President Trump with Russian Collusion justifying this), our “duly” elected President, Joe Biden, who ran on being a moderate and unifier, gets a pass for threatening our country’s sovereignty with wide open borders and allowing millions of migrants to be planted throughout communities without

regard to our border laws and without checking for COVID-19 or any other diseases. Many migrants are housed in some of our finest hotels with food and all amenities.

Additionally, with the hasty, reckless way Biden authorized our departure from Afghanistan, 13 of our beautiful young military members were killed in Afghanistan, and many Americans and interpreters are still being held hostage in Afghanistan. President Biden is begging OPEC for more oil, but they refuse to produce more. Sadly, Biden and the progressives (I fail to understand why they are called progressives as they are so regressive in wanting to take us back to the horse and buggy era) get a pass. If any President should be impeached, it is Biden for all of his destructive policies and support of illegal immigrants over American citizens.

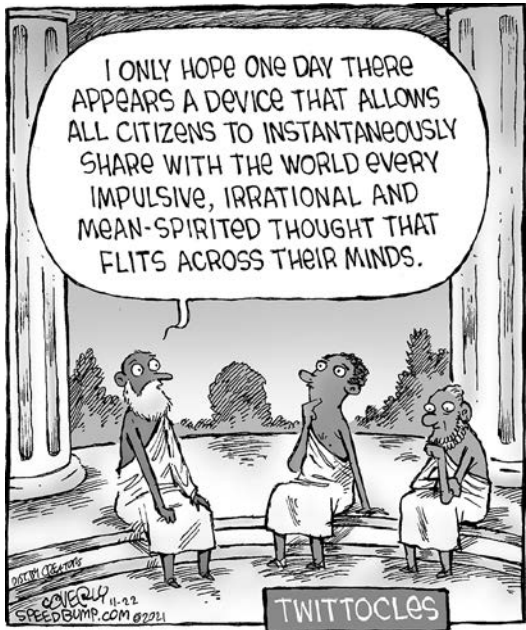
“Duly” elected should come with conditions - that candidates running for public office, regardless whether state, city or United States should qualify with background checks, and with the President and members of Congress, tested on the U.S. Constitution.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, a candidate running for Presidency should pass a cognitive test. President Trump took one willingly and passed with flying colors.

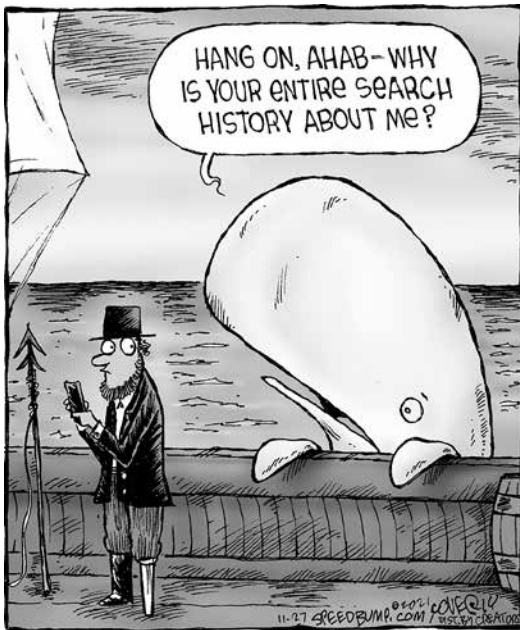
Our country is supposed to be a republic, with checks and balances, but with all the edicts coming from the Biden Administration, it feels more like a totalitarian, socialistic nation.

Martha Morrissy Downey

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.
 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: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park, email scoutmaster@downeyboyscouts.com.
 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., 12 pm: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 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 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 484-8415.
 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., 6:00 pm: Sister Cites of Downey, at Barabara 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.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 351, at Furman Park, contact 562-500-5093 for more information.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 2nd Thurs., 12 Noon: Creative Purposes, call Bill Wallace 923-2311.
 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.

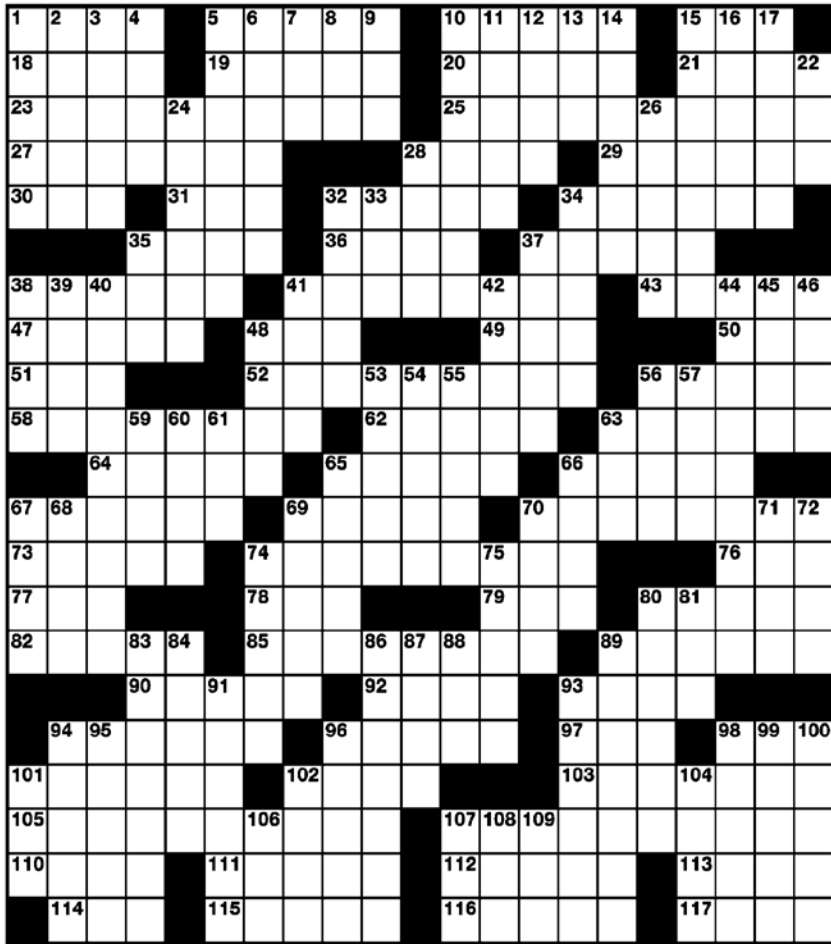
The **DOWNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER** Report graffiti to this number. **923-4484**

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
THEY'RE NOT THAT: Despite what they're called
 by Fred Piscop

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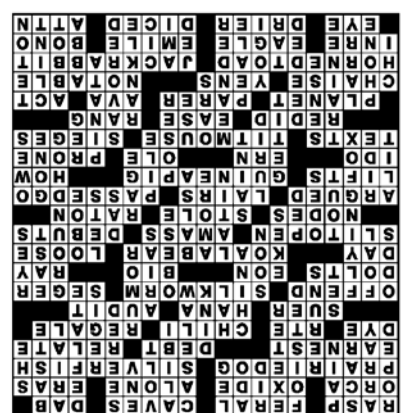
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

from the French word for "chair."
 CHAISE (101 Across) is derived
 her "Sonnets from the Portuguese."
 (Across) is the next-to-last poem in
 "HOW Do I Love Thee?" (76)
 1850, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's
 their journals. First published in
 Lewis and Clark mention it in
 call, which sounds like a bark;
 its "cane" name from its warning
 The PRAIRIE DOG (23 Across) got





Downey Police Department, in partnership with Albertsons and Downey TLC, gave out gift cards to 30 families in need for Thanksgiving dinner. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)



Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis and Warren High School's Key Club partnered for a community cleanup Saturday. Students and adults spent the morning cleaning the school campus and the streets around Warren High. Kiwanis meets Wednesdays at 7 am at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

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2. Calling this number will direct you to a licensed insurance agent.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has neither reviewed nor endorsed this information.

Dine Local

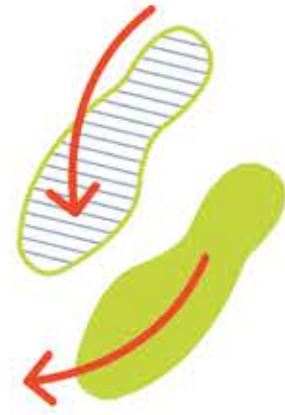
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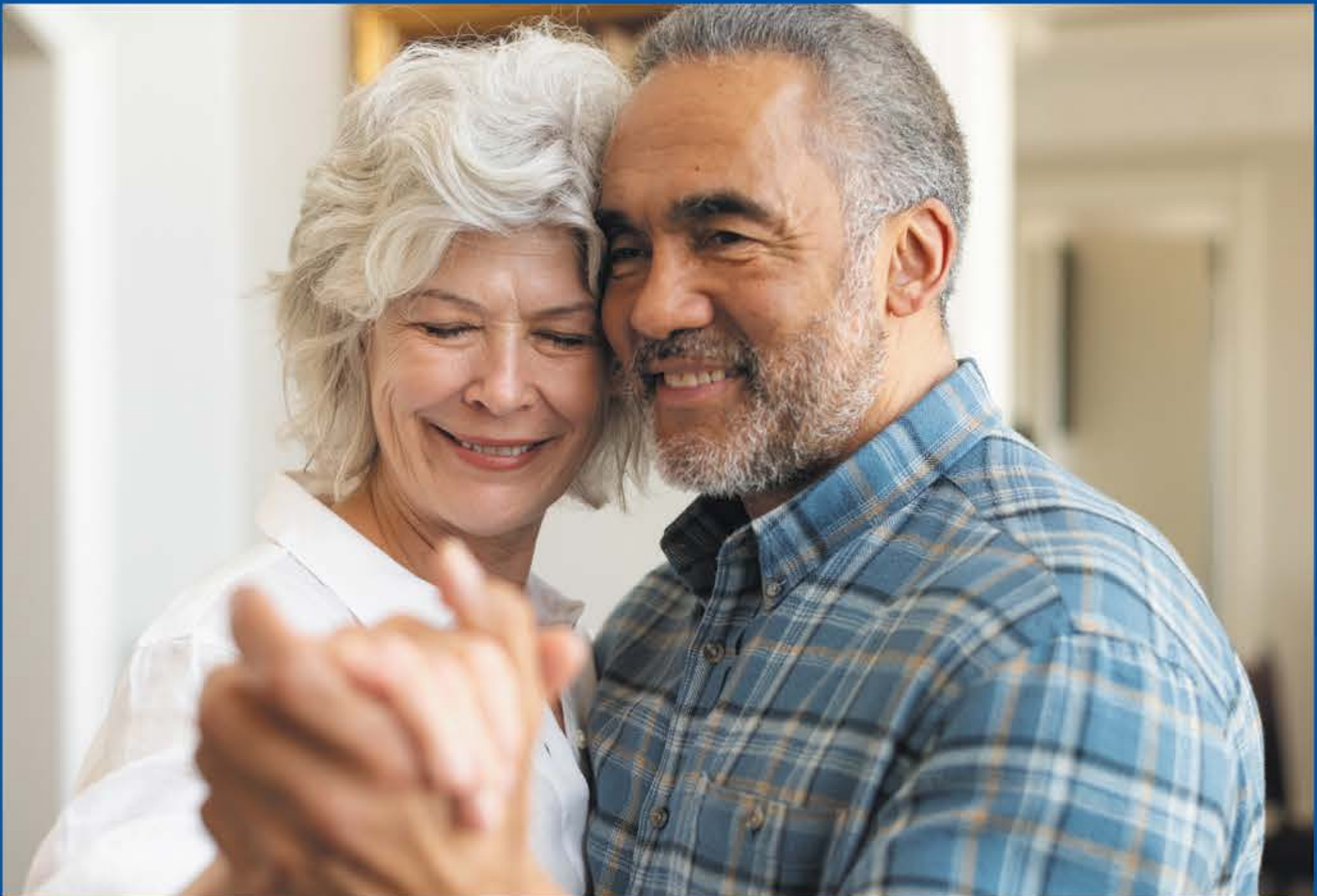
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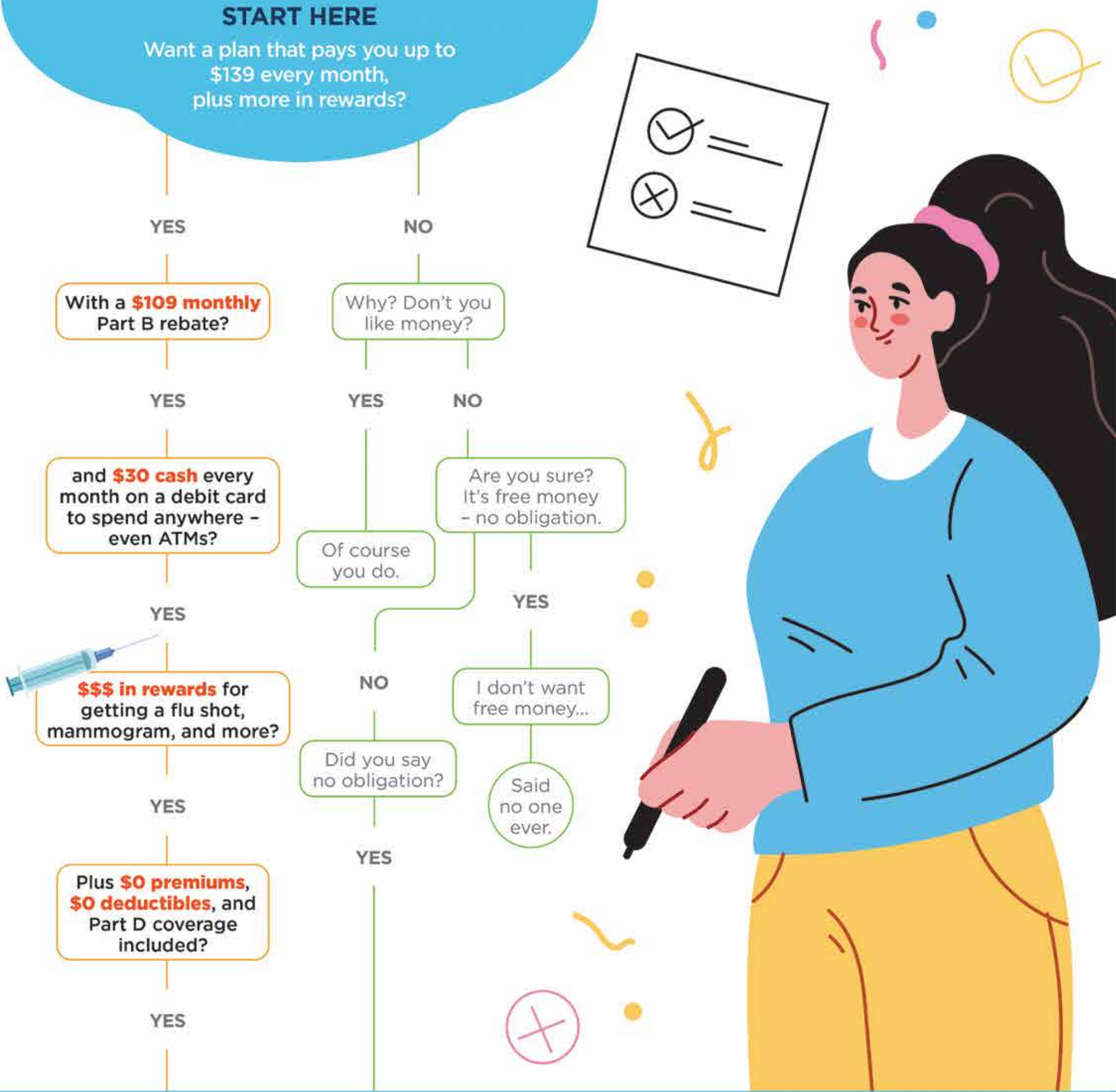
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Astro, UB40 founding member

Astro, a founding member of the British reggae band UB40, known for singles including "Red Red Wine," died Nov. 6 at age 64.

Born Terence Wilson, Astro got his nickname in childhood from a pair of Dr. Martens Astronaut boots he often wore. He co-founded UB40 in 1978, playing percussion as well as singing.

His lead vocals can be heard on the song "Rat in Mi Kitchen," a 1987 U.K. hit that Astro wrote after band member Ali Campbell complained of having a rat in his kitchen. He also performed the rap in 1983's "Red Red Wine," a No. 1 hit in the U.K. that was also popular in the U.S.

Astro left UB40 in 2013 after disputes between the band and management, and in 2014, he joined Campbell and other band members to reform under the name UB40 featuring Ali Campbell and Astro.

"There is no job on this planet that gives you the job satisfaction that I get," Astro said in 2016. "I live to be on stage. I have got the attention span of an ant when we are in the studio; I really do hate being in the studio. I know that it is a necessary evil but I crave a reaction straight away."

Marilia Mendonça, Brazilian singer

Marilia Mendonça, a Brazilian singer and songwriter known for

her powerful ballads, died Nov. 5 in Brazil in a small plane crash at the age of 26.

Mendonça's musical style was sertanejo, a popular Brazilian genre. She became known for her heartfelt ballads and songs of female empowerment as she led the burgeoning subgenre called feminejo.

Mendonça quickly rose to fame after her 2014 debut EP, and by 2017, she became the most-played Brazilian artist on YouTube. Her 2019 album Todos os Cantos won the Latin Grammy Award for Best Sertaneja Music Album.

Mendonça had just released a new album less than a month before her death, Patroas 35%, a collaboration with Maiara & Maraisa.

As news of her death broke, Mendonça became the most-streamed musical artist worldwide.

Bob Baker, writer on Wallace and Gromit

Bob Baker, a British writer for the Wallace and Gromit series as well as co-creator of the robotic dog K9 as a writer for "Doctor Who," has died at age 82.

Baker began writing for "Doctor Who" in 1971 alongside his longtime writing partner, Dave Martin. The pair wrote for the era when Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker were the third and fourth Doctors.

They created the robotic dog companion K9, who became a popular part of the show and received a spinoff TV show, "K9," in 2009. The two also wrote the British children's shows "Sky

and "King of the Castle."

Baker began collaborating with Wallace and Gromit creator Nick Park for the animated pair's second short film, "The Wrong Trousers." He also co-wrote the Wallace and Gromit shorts "A Close Shave" and "A Matter of Loaf and Death" as well as the feature film "The Curse of the Were-Rabbit."

Baker's name was spun into the name of a character in "A Matter of Loaf and Death," Baker Bob.

William Lucking, starred in Sons of Anarchy

William Lucking, an actor known for roles including Piney Winston on the FX biker drama "Sons of Anarchy," died Oct. 18 at the age of 80.

Lucking had a long and varied acting career, first appearing on TV in the late 1960s in shows including "Ironside" and "Mission: Impossible." He starred in the first season of "The A-Team" as Colonel Francis Lynch, head of the military police, and he had another starring role in the single-season Western series "Outlaws."

He began his most prominent role on "Sons of Anarchy" as a recurring character in the show's first season, becoming a main character from season two through his character's death in season four.

Lucking appeared in many movies, including "The World's Fastest Indian," "Red Dragon," "Erin Brockovich," "Stripes," and "10." His other TV appearances include "Days of Our Lives," "Murder, She Wrote," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," and "The West Wing."

Lucking was also a stage actor who co-founded the Santa Paula Theater Center.

Barbara-Rose Collins, trailblazing Congress member

Barbara-Rose Collins, the first Black woman from Michigan elected to the U.S. Congress, serving as a Democrat in the House of Representatives from

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1991 to 1997, died Nov. 4 of complications of COVID-19 at the age of 82.

Collins first entered public service in 1971, when she was elected to the Detroit Public School Board. In 1975, she made a successful run for the Michigan House of Representatives, representing the 21st district for six years.

She then moved on to the Detroit City Council for a decade before her election to the U.S. House of Representatives. There, Collins sponsored successful bills including the Food Dating Bill and the Sex Education Bill. She was a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Women's Caucus, and she served on committees including Public Works and Transportation as well as Post Office and Civil Service.

In 1994, she participated in a sit-in at the White House in protest of U.S. policies toward Haiti. She and several other U.S. Representatives were arrested, fined, and released.

In 1996, Collins introduced the first bill attempting to make Juneteenth a federal holiday; though this bill didn't pass, Juneteenth was made a federal holiday in 2021.

After losing the 1997 Democratic primary, Collins returned to the Detroit City Council, serving from 2001 until her retirement in 2009.

Ruth Minner, Delaware's first female governor

Ruth Ann Minner, the first, and to date only, woman elected governor of Delaware, serving from 2001 to 2009, died Nov. 4 at the age of 86.

Minner was widowed at 32 and raised her children as a single mother, earning her GED and attending college while working two jobs. A Democrat, she was elected to the Delaware House of Representatives in 1975 and served there until her election to the Delaware Senate in 1983. She sponsored the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Act while in the Senate.

In 1993, Minner was elected lieutenant governor of Delaware, alongside Governor Tom Carper. They served two terms before her 2001 election as governor.

Among the new laws she signed was the 2002 Clean Indoor Air Act, banning smoking in restaurants and bars, and a 2005 bill that made Delaware the first state to offer two years of college tuition to recent high school graduates.

Minner was elected to two terms as governor before her retirement in 2009.

"Don't tell me who is holding you back. There is only one person who can hold you back and that's you," Minner said in 2020. "If you're willing to work and put in

the time and the energy, you can accomplish anything you want to and there's nobody out there to stop you."

Maureen Cleave, journalist covered the Beatles

Maureen Cleave, a music journalist who was a confidante of the Beatles, having written about them since their early days of fame, died Nov. 6 at her home in Aldeburgh, England at the age of 87.

Cleave worked for the London Evening Standard, where she began writing the column "Disc Date" in 1961. She was among the first journalists to write seriously about rock and pop music, as well as one of the first to cover the Beatles.

She first wrote about the band in 1963, and she developed a relationship with the band members as she interviewed them a number of times over the next three years.

The band discovered that her apartment was a safe place to hide from hordes of fans, and they did so often. It was Cleave who conducted the 1966 interview with John Lennon in which he said the Beatles were "more popular than Jesus."

Cleave also interviewed notable musicians including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, the Rolling Stones, and Little Richard.

Earl Grollman, noted grief expert

Rabbi Earl A. Grollman, a grief expert who appeared on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and counseled grieving Americans after the Oklahoma City bombing and the 9/11 attacks, died Oct. 15 of congestive heart failure at the age of 96.

Grollman began studying grief as a young rabbi, frustrated that he had not been taught in seminary how to help his congregation in times of mourning.

Grollman was the rabbi of Beth El Temple Center in Belmont, Massachusetts for 36 years before his retirement in 1987. He became a nationally recognized expert on grief even as he led the congregation, writing books including "Living When a Loved One Has Died" and "Straight Talk About Death for Teenagers: How to Cope with Losing Someone You Love."

Grollman appeared on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" in 1981, talking to children about the grief they might experience after their parents divorced. In

1995, after the deadly bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Grollman traveled to the city to speak to survivors and offer presentations on grief.

He helped survivors after the 9/11 attacks as well, and he traveled to the sites of some school shootings to counsel those who lost loved ones. Grollman also spoke on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and on National Public Radio.

Among the insights he shared with the bereaved was his adage, "Grief is the price we pay for love."

Don Maddox, influential fiddler player

Don Maddox, a fiddle player in the pioneering country band the Maddox Brothers & Rose, died Sept. 12 at an adult care facility in Medford, Oregon at the age of 98.

Maddox joined the band alongside his brothers and sister after traveling across the country in search of work during the Great Depression. They made their way from Alabama to California, where the Maddox Brothers & Rose began performing on the radio in 1937.

Younger than his three brothers who formed the band, Maddox didn't begin playing with them professionally until 1940, as they toured and recorded, gaining fame in the burgeoning genre that was then called "hillbilly music." They became known for their flashy costumes and for musical innovations including a slap bass technique.

The Maddox Brothers & Rose were influential on the development of country music, rockabilly, and rock and roll. Maddox sang backing vocals as well as playing fiddle, and he was the band's comedian, adopting the persona of "Don Juan" as he laughed and joked onstage.

Their hits included "Philadelphia Lawyer," "Sally Let Your Bangs Hang Down," and Hangover Blues." The last of the siblings to survive, Maddox stepped away from music in the 1950s and had a career as a cattle rancher.

Later in life, he had a career resurgence, playing at the Grand Ole Opry and opening for Big and Rich at Oregon's Britt Festival.




Don Maddox

In Memory of

Eleanor Lawhorn

November 3, 1935 - November 22, 2020



On November 22, 2020, Heaven welcomed Eleanor Lawhorn, caring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Eleanor was born on November 3, 1935 in Breckenridge, Texas to Walter and Emma Mae Jetton. She grew up in Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada and later relocated to Long Beach, California, where she raised four children, two sons, Richard and Robert, and two daughters, Peggy and Catherine. In 2000, she relocated to San Diego where she reconnected with and married her high school sweetheart, Farrell.

Eleanor's greatest joy was her family. Raising her children as a single mom, Eleanor worked two to three jobs at a time to ensure that her kids did not go without. She had a passion for extracurricular activities and was an active parent in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League Baseball, and Pop Warner football. She was generous with her time and had a heart for volunteering. She admired all things fashion, collected antiques, adored the color pink, and loved her dog Phoebe. She will be missed by many.

Eleanor is survived by her four children, Richard, Robert, Peggy, and Catherine and her multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, November 20th, 2021 at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 11 o'clock a.m. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests you put a little extra in the offering plate.

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Biden releasing oil reserves to combat soaring gas prices

President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced the release of emergency oil reserves to combat high energy prices ahead of the busy holiday travel season, but it will be weeks before the barrels hit the market.

The Department of Energy will release 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to the White House. The release is aimed at addressing the lack of oil supply around the world, but its actual effect may be limited. In 2019, US petroleum use averaged approximately 20.5 million barrels of oil per day and in 2020 the US used on average about 18.1 million barrels per day, according to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration. The EIA reports petroleum usage was lower in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The barrels of oil involved in Tuesday's announcement will not hit the market until "mid to late December, depending on market take up," according to a senior administration official.

This release will be in coordination with several other countries, including China, India,

Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. Officials believe the coordinated effort could potentially have more of an effect on lowering gas prices.

As of Friday, there were 604.5 million barrels of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to the Department of Energy.

The move comes as the White House faces mounting pressure to lower skyrocketing prices at the pump that are contributing to the biggest inflation spike in decades, causing frustration and anger among Americans.

Thirty-two million barrels will be in exchange "over the next several months," the White House said, and those barrels will eventually return to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve "in the years ahead." Eighteen million barrels "will be an acceleration into the next several months of a sale of oil that Congress had previously authorized."

"American consumers are feeling the impact of elevated gas prices at the pump and in their home heating bills, and American businesses are, too, because oil supply has not kept up with

demand as the global economy emerges from the pandemic," the White House said in a news release. "That's why President Biden is using every tool available to him to work to lower prices and address the lack of supply."

Biden had been privately advised in recent weeks that tapping into the reserve wouldn't do much to alleviate the current problems, but some Democratic lawmakers argued it could provide temporary relief at the pump. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was among the Democrats leading the charge.

Despite being told the impact may be negligible, the option to release oil reserves remained on the table, given Biden had few others, and officials believed coordinating with other countries could potentially have more of an effect.

The national gas price average as of Tuesday is \$3.403, according to AAA, which is significantly higher than the average at the same time last year when many people were not driving or traveling as much due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is unclear how much the White House effort would immediately affect prices.

The move may instead largely act as a signal to OPEC nations and Russia that the US is serious about taking action to lower prices after those nations were reluctant to ramp up oil production to reduce prices.

Biden officials have warned the Saudis for weeks that the US would find alternative solutions if the price of crude oil topped \$85 a barrel, officials said, which it did late last month. But Saudi Arabia has stood firm in refusing to increase output and has priced in -- wrongly, in the view of US officials -- the possibility that the US reaches a nuclear deal with Iran, two US officials said. The Saudis' concern is that sanctions on Iran would then be rolled back, allowing the country to ramp up its oil production and compete with OPEC+.

Given that reluctance, the Biden administration viewed coordinating with the other nations as an attempt to undermine the cartel's control of the market.

"The thinking has been, we can do this alone, or we can do it internationally -- and the latter would be much more effective, especially when it comes to



sending a message to the Saudis," said one senior official involved in the discussions.

Biden has taken other actions as well. Last week, the President asked the Federal Trade Commission to "immediately" investigate whether illegal activity by oil and gas companies is pushing up gas prices.

That move isn't likely to have an immediate effect on gas prices

for consumers, but is another example that Biden is seeking to show he is working to bring prices down.

The FTC's findings could also help in the long run if they find wrongdoing. The oil industry's top advocacy group slammed that move as a "distraction."

Why are good employees quitting?

The job quitting isn't stopping: a record 4.3 million workers left their jobs in August -- a milestone that followed the April landmark of 4 million Americans exiting their companies.

Some people are leaving their jobs because the COVID-19 pandemic caused them to reconsider how much their companies value them. In that context, whether it's a matter of pay, work demands, work-from-home flexibility, or overall culture, it's important that businesses seeking stability and growth know how they can retain their best employees, says Michele Bailey (www.michelebailey.com), ForbesBooks author of "The Currency of Gratitude: Turning Small Gestures into Powerful Business Results."

"With over 10 million employment vacancies, some people are leaving because they are confident they can find a better job, a better fit in line with the new perspective the pandemic has given them," Bailey says. "So at this point, a good number of jilted employers should be asking themselves, 'Why are talented people leaving my company? What can I do to change that, regain stability and grow?'"

"The answer is often looking back in the mirror at them, and in how they treat people more as laborers than rare gems who are special -- people who can make the workplace special. It's fixable, but it's all about putting your employees first."

Bailey says in terms of retaining top employees, companies and their leaders should think about these points:

Know the cost of replacing good employees. One report shows that it costs 33% of a worker's annual salary to hire a replacement if that worker leaves. "Clearly, retention and development of existing employees makes the most sense if they are the right fit," Bailey says.

Encourage professional development. Bailey says forward-thinking, growth-oriented companies hire talented people with the capability of taking on bigger responsibilities. "Professional development provides the opportunity for

steps up in their career path," Bailey says. "Employees who do not see a clear path are at risk of leaving."

Build culture by acknowledging the whole person. "Work-life balance" has gotten a lot of attention during the pandemic, but Bailey says good leadership ensures that balance is in place by going the extra mile to know employees, and to listen to their concerns, whether personal or professional. "The reality is that all of us bring our personal selves to work and our work serves home with us," she says. "When something is going well or poorly in either space, it tends to seep into our attitudes and behavior in the other. When you address the overall wellness of your people

as part of your business mandate, you have people well-aligned and rowing in the same direction."

Create an army of brand ambassadors by empowering your employees. Employees who feel their voices are heard at work are nearly five times (4.6) more likely to feel empowered to perform their best at work. Employees who use their strengths every day are six times more likely to be engaged at work, 8 percent more productive, and 15 percent less likely to leave their jobs. "Many businesses tout themselves as collaborative workplaces with great cultures; however, worker frustration suggests that the reality is otherwise," Bailey says. "A good culture is a place where they're freed to flourish, energized, and

proud to represent the brand to clients."

Reward and recognize. "Showing gratitude to your workforce is imperative to having a successful business," Bailey says. "Eventually people want you to show them the money -- and you must if you truly value them -- but frequent shows of gratitude in any form should be consistent and timely."

"We can hold onto our talent and keep our people engaged," Bailey says, "by creating an environment where employees become emotionally connected through gratitude to company leadership, to each other, and to the company's purpose."

How to show holiday gratitude to employees

The holiday season is a reflective time, and as company leaders look back on the past year of challenges and accomplishments, it's important that they show gratitude to their employees -- and not make it a rare occurrence.

Research has shown a strong correlation between employee recognition and employee retention. Specific to the holiday season, one survey found that about 60% of employees would be more likely to stay in their job if they received meaningful holiday gifts from their employer.

As the "Great Resignation" sweeps the country, employers should be mindful of making the holidays the "Great Appreciation" for their best employees and making it a habit, says Michele Bailey (www.michelebailey.com), ForbesBooks author of "The Currency of Gratitude: Turning Small Gestures into Powerful

Business Results."

"As leaders reflect, those who haven't made gratitude a core value of their organization should strongly consider it going forward into next year," Bailey says. "The current context of workers leaving in droves basically demands it. And the holidays are the perfect time for leaders to set a new tone and show they are sincere about showing appreciation on a consistent basis."

"This really benefits everyone in an organization; led by the leader, everyone is influenced to show gratitude for each other. When you make gratitude a habit and recognize the value of the contributions of your colleagues, you encourage them to strive for greater results. And your business will inevitably grow as your team members champion your brand."

Bailey offers five ways leaders can express gratitude to employees during the holidays

and make the practice a regular feature of their organization:

Prioritize mental health. The nearly two-year-long pandemic has added anxiety for millions of workers, and every holiday season many people experience increased stress and depression. Therefore, Bailey says it's vital that company leaders keep these factors in mind and check on the mental health of their employees. "Lots of employees feel burnt out this time of year, and remote workers can feel more isolated," she says. "Make sure to check in with your people one-on-one and in small groups. Let them know that you care."

Give praise. "By publicly praising an employee or team who has done an outstanding job, you make them feel valued," Bailey says. "This can boost their confidence and their enthusiasm for the company. A personal

handwritten note also goes a long way with an employee. The holiday season is an ideal time for the leader to champion their top people and energize them going forward into next year."

Make gifts meaningful. Bailey says leaders should put a good amount of thought into gift-giving as a reward for employees, showing a personal touch and making it something useful and memorable. "They don't have to be expensive," she says. "The value is in the thought. And along with material gifts, consider experiential gifts, which allow the recipient to have an experience that ties in with their interests."

Give paid holiday leave. "Extra time off during the holidays to be with family is a bonus in itself," Bailey says. "As work-life balance becomes more important to employees nowadays, this is the time of year

when employers should show they're sincere in making that happen."

Survey your teams on what they need for next year. This is a way of paying your gratitude forward, Bailey says. "The holiday season and end of the year are a great time to tune in to your teams and listen to how you can help them do their jobs

better next year. Being heard and having their thoughts turned into action by management help your employees feel appreciated."

"If your work culture is not operating with gratitude," Bailey says, "not only will the holidays feel a bit empty, but your potential as a company will remain unfulfilled."

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After Apple-Picking

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off...
My instep arch not only keeps the ache,
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.
I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend...
For I have had too much
Of apple-picking: I am overtired
Of the great harvest I myself desired.
There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.
For all
That struck the earth,
No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,
Went surely to the cider-apple heap
As of no worth.
One can see what will trouble
This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.
Were he not gone,
The woodchuck could say whether it's like his
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,
Or just some human sleep.

Robert Frost, North of Boston, Henry Holt and Co., 1914

Frost rooted his poems in the soil he had farmed. Though he was born in California, he called New Hampshire "one of the two best states in the Union," the other being Vermont. Ezra Pound said, "I know more of farm life than I did before I had read his poems. That means I know more of 'Life.'" Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom has left the state with his family for a trip to Mexico during Thanksgiving.

The Governor's Office announced the trip on Monday hours after Newsom held a news conference at a vaccine clinic in San Francisco.

Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis will act as governor while Newsom is out of the state, as required by the state constitution.

The Governor's Office said Newsom will return to California on Sunday.

Homebuyers motivated by desire to be closer to family and friends

Among repeat home buyers and home sellers over the last year, a key factor for moving was the desire to live closer to family and friends, while an equally important motivator was the need for more space or a bigger home. Sellers as a whole were able to benefit in these transactions, typically earning their full asking price, and selling in one week.

These driving forces to move as well as further sales figures appear in the National Association of Realtors' 2021 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, a yearly report - now in its 40th year - that analyzes demographics, preferences and experiences of buyers and sellers across America.

"During the pandemic, buyers and sellers have been driven by the desire to be close to family and friends, as well as the need for a larger home," said Jessica Lautz, vice president of demographics and behavioral insights at NAR.

Among sellers, as a group they traded up in price, size and newer residences, as 46% purchased a larger home and 28% purchased the same size home.

Relocating to be closer to family had been increasing in recent years, according to Lautz, however, the COVID-19 outbreak accelerated that trend.

In past years, convenience to work and affordability had ranked as top factors for reasons to move.

The 2021 NAR report comprises an entire year of research in which buyers and sellers purchased or sold a home during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to various other findings, the pandemic likely spurred occupants to shorten their home stay, as tenure in the home decreased to eight years from 10 years, according to the report. This is the largest single-year change in home tenure since NAR began collecting such data.

In general, buyers said they expected to live in their homes for a median of 12 years, while 18% said that they were never moving. Historically, tenure in the home has been six to seven years, but experienced an increase to nine to 10 years following the Great Recession.

"Home sellers have historically moved when something in their lives changed - a new baby, a marriage, a divorce or a new job," said Lautz. "The pandemic has impacted everyone, and for many this became an impetus to sell and make a housing trade."

The market over the last year saw homes reach record-high prices, paving the way for sellers to secure maximum profits on transactions and leaving buyers to grapple with historically high housing costs. As a result, home buyers typically bought their homes for 100% of the seller's asking price, with another 35% purchasing their home for beyond the asking price, according to the report. This 100% median is the highest recorded since

2002. Home sellers reported selling their homes for a median of \$85,000 more than their purchase prices, which is a jump from \$66,000 last year.

"Buyers moving quickly during the pandemic, coupled with all-time-low inventory, led to a decline in time on market to the shortest ever recorded, which was just one week," said Lautz. "Only a quarter of home sellers offered incentives to entice potential buyers, down from nearly half of all sellers the year prior."

On average, buyers said finding a home to purchase took eight weeks, unchanged from last year. Forty-three percent of buyers found virtual tour options to see properties and view listings online to be useful. For a second straight year, buyers reported that just finding the right home to buy continued to be "the most difficult task" for them in the home buying process.

The report found that 41% of recent buyers said they initially looked online for properties as their first step in the process, and another 19% said their first step involved contacting an agent. The majority of buyers and sellers alike eventually turned to a real estate agent or broker to assist in their home transaction. Eighty-seven percent of buyers purchased their residence through an agent or broker, with 7% buying directly from a builder or builder's agent. Among home sellers, 90% worked with an agent

to sell their home, while 7% were for-sale-by-owner sellers, and less than 1% sold via an iBuyer.

Forty-seven percent of buyers said the agent they used was referred by a friend, neighbor, or relative, and 13% used an agent that they had already worked with on a past transaction. Seventy-three percent of buyers reported that they needed to interview only one real estate agent during their home search, and a whopping 90% said they would use their agent in the future or recommend the agent to others.

For home sellers, 68% said they became acquainted with their agent via a referral or had used the agent before to buy or sell a home. Eighty-two percent of sellers said they contacted only one agent before finding what they considered to be "the right agent" to sell their property.

Fifty-three percent of sellers used the same agent to both purchase and sell their home, while 89% reported that they would recommend their agent for future residential dealings.

Typically, sellers recommended their agent twice since selling their property. Sellers to the tune of 27% referred their agent four or more times since selling their home.

Realtors also assisted a number of first-time buyers over the last year, as the report notes the share of first-time home buyers increased from 31% to



34%, which is the largest jump since 2017. This year, the typical first-time buyer was 33 years old - equal to the previous year. Conversely, the typical repeat buyer age continued to climb, reaching an all-time high of 56 years old.

"As home prices increase, generally first-time buyers are hit hardest because they have no previous home on which to draw equity," explained Lautz. "Furthermore, in the current environment, these buyers also face soaring rent prices and high

student debt balances, which makes it extremely difficult to save for a down payment."

Twenty-eight percent of first-time buyers reported that they used a gift or a loan from friends or family in order to make a down payment on a home and 29% said saving for a down payment proved to be the most difficult step in the entire buying process. For repeat buyers, 56% cited using equity generated from the sale of a primary residence toward their down payment. For first-time buyers, the typical

down payment was 7%, while it was 17% among repeat buyers.

A notable revelation in the report was the slight decline in married home buyers. This year's data showed that 60% of recent buyers were married, a share that has fallen from a high of 81% in 1985. However, the share of single women buyers increased to 19% from a recent low of 15% in 2014. The shares of single men and unmarried buyers remained at 9%, respectively.

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FEATURED PROPERTY

Must See!!

Large 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath house. Great for an extended family or investment property. Plenty of parking on the ample sized driveway and in the gated carport. Fresh new paint throughout the house. Centrally located by the 105 and 605 freeways, near Costco, Downey Landing, parks, and bike trail. Property has plenty of mature persimmon, mango, lemon, and pear fruit trees. CALL TODAY!!!

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3-bedroom, 2-bathroom Mobile home in a family park. Small side yard. Parking for up to 3 cars. Community pool and clubhouse. CALL TODAY!!!

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Four bedroom and two bath home with enclosed patio perfect for entertaining year round. Two large bedrooms perfect for a growing family. Large closet space in every bedroom. Upgraded windows, new carpet, central heating, and AC. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout the house. RV parking on side with an attached 2 car garage. CALL TODAY!!!

IN ESCROW

Immaculate!!

Home features beautiful laminate flooring, crown molding & recessed lighting. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet & electric shades. The kitchen has newer cabinets, granite counters, additional built-in storage, & electric shades. The kitchen is open to the family room with gas fireplace, 2-year-old double pane windows, newer toilets, & newer A/C & heating. 3 car garage. CALL TODAY!!!

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LIST PRICE: \$659,000

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- Upgraded 3 bedroom home with dining room in front
- Attached duplex has spacious 1 bedroom units built in 1991
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LIST PRICE: \$1,249,000

IN ESCROW!



North Downey Starter Home

- 2 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- living room, dining room combination
- Cozy den with sliding door

LIST PRICE: \$689,000

IN ESCROW!



Downey Opportunity

- 4 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms
- Open floor plan large remodeled kitchen
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LIST PRICE: \$899,999

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Central Downey

- 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- 1,235 sq. ft | 6,939 sq. ft. lot
- Living room with fireplace
- Permitted enclosed patio

LIST PRICE: \$739,999

JUST LISTED!



NORTHEAST DOWNEY

- 4 bedrooms | 3.5 bathrooms
- 2,657 sq. ft. | 12,170 sq. ft. lot
- Living room & family room
- Large pool
- Bonus room behind garage

LIST PRICE: \$1,299,950

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- Great location

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Mid-Century Downey Ranch Style Home

- 3 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- Family room with fireplace
- 1,906 sq. ft. | 7,732 sq. ft. lot
- Detached 2 car garage

LIST PRICE: \$920,000

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