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## Umpire saved after collapsing on field

■ Rudy Lopez suffered a heart attack while umpiring a Downey High baseball game; Good Samaritans saved his life.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – It was a beautiful day for baseball. Downey High School was playing against visiting Millikan, and umpire Rudolph “Rudy” Lopez was calling balls and strikes behind home plate.

“We were in about the fifth inning when I started to settle in to make my next pitch call, and everything went dark,” said Lopez.

Lopez had collapsed and was unresponsive.

The 71-year-old has dealt with heart issues for 20 years. Along with suffering from atrial fibrillation and diabetes, he has endured “six or seven heart attacks.”

On Oct. 25 on the Downey High School baseball field, it would take a group effort and some life-saving technology to bring him back.

Lakeysha Pack, a NICU nurse at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was watching the game and chatting with other Millikan parents when Lopez went down. She, along with Walter Patton, a Santa Monica Fire Captain and EMT who was also attending the game, and Richard Quinonez, a Downey Baseball Booster Club parent, immediately jumped into action.

“I immediately ran over and saw that he was having a seizure,” said Pack. “So, I asked the others, because I didn’t even know who was around, just help me turn him to his side. I took his shirt, put it over his head, they helped take off the vest, and I immediately started doing CPR.”

Pack and Patton administered CPR while Quinonez assisted. Meanwhile, Isaac Delgadillo, a 17-year-old Downey High School senior who had just pitched in the game, ran for help.

Delgadillo described the scene as “a panic.”

“I had seen two parents from Millikan, they came down,” said Delgado. “I’m in the Sports Med[icine] class, so it kind of clicked in, what are the steps, what happens.”

“I knew obviously CPR, but with CPR comes the AED; that’s one of the most important things to increase their survival, so I thought I need to go get that.”

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is a portable electronic medical device that can detect the heart’s rhythm, giving a corrective electrical shock if necessary.

Delgado fetched the AED and Downey Athletic Trainer Chris Zessau.

Pack and Patton worked on Lopez for 20 minutes. He would be shocked with the AED at least once before EMTs were able to arrive and take over; he’d be shocked four times in total before being stabilized.

Continued on page 3

# Sports bar calls Downey dress policies unlawful

■ Ojos Locos is demanding a refund of \$4K in fines it paid, calling Downey’s dress policies unlawful and unenforceable.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Ojos Locos has challenged the city over its city-wide dress code, which was implemented in anticipation of the restaurant’s arrival.

Ojos Locos, a Dallas, Texas based Mexican food sports bar known for its scantily-clad waitresses, opened in Downey in September last year, much to the chagrin of residents and council-members alike.

Specifically, there were concerns that the restaurant’s female servers would be wearing as little as bras, panties, and lingerie, as had been seen on the social media accounts of other Ojos Locos locations, though Ojos Locos denied that this was the case.

In response, a city-wide dress code was approved in March 2022. Under the ordinance, food handlers are not able to expose any portion of the midriff, any portion of the chest

three inches below the clavicle, and/or any portion of the leg less than three inches below the buttocks. Violators – which could include the establishment and the employee themselves – are subject to fines of \$500 for a first offense, \$1,000 for a second offense, and \$2,000 for any following offenses.

Waitresses at the Downey chain wear short skirts and low-cut tops that do not cover the midriff.

Now, Ojos Locos is starting to push back.

According to a letter sent to the city by Ojos Locos General Counsel Dawn Diaz, two administrative citations have been administered to the restaurant. However, Diaz says that the citations were for the same violation which was double billed due to there being two company officers, thus resulting in \$4,000 being paid to the city through the appeal process.

Diaz continued, calling the city’s dress code “both unenforceable and unlawful.”

“We are requesting that the city not target and discriminate against the female gender that we hire as Chicas, immediately



Ojos Locos sports bar says it paid \$4,000 in fines for violating the City of Downey’s dress code. (Ojos Locos photo)

refund all fees paid, and revoke said ordinance,” she said.

The city council discussed

the issue in closed session at their meeting on Tuesday, however no action was announced.

# Former Jalisco mayor visits Downey

■ Pablo Lemus met with local small business owners and political leaders.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey was paid a visit by former mayor of Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico and pre-candidate for the Movimiento Ciudadano party for governor of Jalisco Pablo Lemus on Tuesday.

During his visit to the city, Lemus met with business owners and city council members. He was also meant to be honored at Tuesday’s city council meeting, however due

to a scheduling conflict will return at a later date.

Downey and Guadalajara have been affiliated under the Sister Cities program since 1960. Downey was the first city to establish a sister city relationship with a community in Mexico.

Mayor Mario Trujillo said it was “a special visit for us.”

“We are the first sister-cities ever, and for him to take time from his busy schedule really says a lot about the fact that he knows who we are, and values us enough to take time to come here and say hello to us,” said Trujillo.

In a post on Instagram, Lemus said that his California trip was “full of learning.”

“Since 1960, work with our Jaliscian capital is constant, it’s up to us because in 2022 we tackle public policies in the field of security and civil protection,” Lemus wrote. “The bonds with this beautiful California town are stronger than ever, and I can assure you that our brotherhood will last for many years.”

Trujillo described the relationship between Downey and its sister cities as “a plus.”

“It’s important for us to maintain those relationships, again, because it talks about what an accepting, diverse community Downey is, and that we treasure these relationships that we’ve formed since 1960 with our different sister cities.”



Pablo Lemus spent the early part of this week visiting Downey and other local cities. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)



The space shuttle Endeavour fuel tank was moved to its new display location Wednesday. (Courtesy photo)

# Science Center moves shuttle fuel tank

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** – A massive orange fuel tank was slowly moved about 1,000 feet through Exposition Park Wednesday, preparing it to be lifted into vertical position as part of the eventual upright, launch-ready display of the space shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center.

Moving the tank, known as ET-94, was a delicate operation, taking roughly two hours for the relatively short journey. ET-94 is 154 feet long, 27.5 feet in diameter and weighs about 65,000 pounds, according to the Science Center. It is also the last remaining flight-qualified external tank in existence.

Beginning at roughly 10 a.m. Wednesday, crews employed a “self-propelled modular transporter” for the tank’s 1,000-foot journey past the Science Center building and the Exposition Park

Rose Garden to the site of the under-construction Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which will house the one-of-a-kind shuttle display.

With the tank in place, a heavy-duty crane will be used to lift it into the air and then lower it into vertical position alongside two already-standing solid rocket boosters. Vertical assembly of the twin 149-foot tall rocket boosters was completed in early December. That assembly includes the aft skirts or base of the boosters, along with the 116-foot-long rocket motors and the “forward assembly,” or cone-shaped tops.

The lifting of the fuel tank is scheduled to occur sometime after 10 p.m. Thursday night, or possibly early Friday morning. Crews were monitoring wind conditions before committing to an exact time for the lift to occur.

**Weekend at a Glance**

Friday 65°

Saturday 65°

Sunday 65°

**ON THIS DAY**

**1861:** Alabama seceded from the Union, the fourth state to do so in the run-up to the American Civil War.

**1935:** Amelia Earhart, one of the world’s most celebrated aviators, made the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California, a distance longer than that from the United States to Europe.

**1964:** U.S. Surgeon General Luther L. Terry announced that cigarette smoking is linked to lung cancer.

**1963:** Despite warnings that a marriage would shatter his image as a teen idol, Frankie Avalon married former beauty queen Kay Diebel.

**1964:** The Whisky-a-Go-Go opened on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood, and quickly became a vital music venue by hosting acts such as The Doors and Otis Redding.

**1973:** Major League Baseball owners voted in approval of the American League adopting the designated hitter position.

**1999:** Jon Stewart succeeded Craig Kilborn as host of late-night talk and satirical news program “The Daily Show” on Comedy Central.



**2001:** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission approved the merger of America Online and Time Warner, and AOL Time Warner (later shortened to Time Warner) stock began trading the next morning; the joint company suffered large financial losses, and the two entities split in 2009.

**2020:** Health officials in Wuhan, China announced the first recorded death from COVID-19.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Baseball manager **MANNY ACTA** (55), R&B singer **MARY J. BLIGE** (53), actress **AMANDA PEET** (52), and actor/singer **CODY SIMPSON** (27).

# The years before Downey was incorporated

■ **HISTORY:** Downey was a bustling community of 90,000 before it became an official city.

By **Bobbi Bruce**  
Downey Historical Society

The following story of Downey's early history leading to its incorporation was written by Clyde Leech and first appeared in the Los Angeles Herald Express newspaper on June 30, 1961.

Downey is the center of a large trade area and has a local population of about 90,000. Despite this, Downey has no major department store. Downey Avenue at intersection of 3rd Street is typical of the downtown shopping area.

Exactly 135 years after a Spanish soldier of fortune named Manuel Niete took title of all the land between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers from the foothills to the sea, a 28-year-old farmer named James Leon Stamps planted 103 acres of it to watermelons, cantaloupes, lima beans and other marketable produce.

Niete arrived on this terrain in 1784. Stamps planted his crops in 1919. The interval between was one of many changes but it is doubtful if these could match in dramatic content events in the 42 years that relentlessly have marched by since 1919.

For one example, Stamps today is known as Mr. Downey. Still vitally interested in the community he first reached in 1892, when as a one-year-old he arrived with his parents from Arkansas. Stamps became the city's first mayor when it incorporated in 1956.

During the intervening years, Stamps farmed and bought property. Some years ago, however, he stopped farming the 103-acre plot and sold it to a group which developed it as a country club.

Through circumstances, Stamps later found it necessary to take over the property. He operates it today as Rio Hondo Country Club, a public golf course of 18 holes with fairways and bunkers and carefully tended greens where truck crops and deciduous fruit trees once flourished.

A recent sledge of illness caused Stamps, now 70, to cut down on his own golf but the other day he was putting on a practice green when the writer and photographer Milt Martinez arrived at the club.

"Right here is where I planted Satsuma plums," Stamps recalled.

The difference between plum orchard and a carefully manicured golf course green is the measure of difference between the Downey of pre-World War II and the modern community of 90,000 which today places equal emphasis

upon cultural growth and economic development.

Downey is 87 years old. It became a settlement when rails were laid in 1847 between Gallatin on the north and College Settlement site of Los Nietos Collegiate Institute, first Protestant institution of higher learning in Southern California on the south.

### Welcome to Downey

Residents of the two communities then moved into a new community which they named Downey in honor of John Gately Downey, governor of the territory during the Civil War.

Five years later, Gov. Downey joined Dr. James McFarland in purchasing Rancho Santa Gertrudes, one of five smaller ranches carved from the original rancho following the death of Niete and divided among his heirs. The Santa Gertrudes encompassed all of the 11.7 square miles now occupied by the city.

The gain of Downey and Dr. McFarland was the misfortune of one Lemuel Carpenter, a manufacturer of brooms and soap, who had purchased the property from their heirs. After several years of prosperity, hard times set in for Carpenter and he was forced to let the rancho go at the hands of a sheriff who kept firm hold of an auction gavel.

For any years prior to the

The 8000 block of Firestone Boulevard is shown flooded in 1952, four years before Downey voted to become an incorporated city. (Los Angeles Examiner)



second World War, Downey was a trade center used by dairy farmers and orange growers. Nothing of importance happened to disturb the pastoral calm of this rural environment until rumblings of war caused defense industries to converge on South California.

The community then began a pattern of growth which gained great momentum in the postwar era and continues to this day.

By 1949, the population was 32,000. It appears that subdividers struck a bonanza in the Downey area, yet the fact remains that large portions of the city's residential sections are most attractive. There is little evidence of jerry-built housing. On the contrary, residential developments in the city, particularly on the north and west sides, are among the finest of any Southland community.

Of equal importance to the emergence of Downey from the

status of a community which for years existed in name only has been established of a well developed complex of modern, light industries. There are today more than 200 firms within a planned industrial area.

After World War II, the idea of incorporation occurred to community leaders, but nothing was done about it until 1954, when it was put up to the vote of the people - only to be defeated by a walling two-to-one majority.

In September 1955, a local newspaper and a homeowners association began to emphasize the theory that areas remaining unincorporated are not as profitable to property owners as areas lying within incorporated municipalities. A 16-man committee, composed of eight members who had voted in favor of incorporation and eight who had voted against it, was formed by the association to investigate the caliber of services provided by the county, and financial prospects

for a city of Downey.

The committee learned, among other interesting facts, that the County Fire Protection District was taxing residents of the community of Downey approximately \$700,000 per year, for which it provided one station and two companies requiring an expenditure of possibly \$200,000 per year.

It became apparent, therefore, that Downey residents were investing \$500,000 a year in protecting residents of other parts of the county from the hazards of fire. Such needs at Downey as fire alarm systems, adequate water pressure and reserves, and other factors significant to fire insurance rates had largely been ignored.

Police protection consisted of two patrol cars from the Sheriff's Department. These operated in the area but were not limited to the community of Downey, which then contained 89,376 people in the 11.7 square mile town. This situation was summed up by one committee member who described Downey as "an urban community receiving rural services."

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# Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Do you feel an overwhelming and uncomfortable urge to move your legs - particularly at night? Does the feeling only get worse when you try to relax or lie still? Does moving them help? Does this (understandably!) keep you awake? You may be experiencing restless legs syndrome (RLS). Yes, it is a real disease, and is also known as Willis-Ekbom disease.

Restless legs syndrome affects up to 10% of us, including about a million children. Women are twice as likely to have it, and while symptoms can begin at any age, it can be more severe as we become middle-aged and older.



Common triggers include inactivity - like sitting for a long car trip, plane flight, or movie; being immobilized in a cast; or even while doing relaxation exercises. RLS tends to be worse at night. It may go away for days or months, before a new relapse. Symptoms tend to become more severe over time... however, they may also disappear.

Most cases appear to have a genetic component, but the causes of RLS are puzzling. No cause-and-effect relationship has been proven, but other conditions often occur along with RLS, including varicose veins, folate and/or magnesium deficiency, fibromyalgia, sleep apnea, kidney failure, diabetes, thyroid disease, Parkinson's disease, certain autoimmune disorders, celiac disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and peripheral neuropathy. Surprisingly, either iron deficiency or elevated levels of iron are found in most cases! And, a Mayo Clinic study showed that people with very frequent leg movements were more likely to have thick hearts, a condition that makes them more prone to cardiac problems, stroke and death.

Some medications make RLS symptoms worse, including anti-nausea meds, antipsychotic drugs, certain over-the-counter antihistamines, and some anti-depressants. Other factors that can aggravate RLS include being in the last trimester of pregnancy, detoxing from opioids, alcohol use, sleep deprivation, and undergoing surgery.

While lab tests can rule out conditions such as vitamin deficiencies or other movement disorders, and sleep studies can rule out sleep apnea, no lab test actually diagnoses RLS. Your doctor will focus on your description of symptoms, triggers, what gives relief, and the pattern it follows through the day and night.

The goal of treatment is to decrease the number of days and nights with symptoms, to lessen the severity of the symptoms, and to reduce the frequency of nighttime awakenings. Current treatments include:

- Resolving any underlying condition.
- Taking iron supplements, for the 20% of cases associated with iron deficiency
- Using dopamine agonist medications, including Requip (ropinirole) and Mirapex (pramipexole), which has been helpful for some.
- Taking certain medications used for neuropathy, including gabapentin and Lyrica, which have recently demonstrated some success.
- Lifestyle changes may make a real difference. This might include reducing the consumption of caffeine, alcohol and tobacco; maintaining regular sleep patterns; getting exercise, including stretching and walking; massages; and taking relaxing baths.

Unfortunately, restless legs syndrome is a chronic condition with no perfect cure. Research continues.

**Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 10927 Downey Ave., Suite C, Downey, CA 90241.**

# Bystanders save life of baseball umpire

Continued from page 1

Lopez started to come to in the ambulance. When he arrived at the hospital, three stents were added to the seven he already had in his heart.

Still, and rather bafflingly, doctors and nurses told Lopez that "he looked good." He asked "compared to what?"

"They said to me people who are shocked usually don't get shocked four times, and normally, in normal conditions, after the third time they wouldn't continue to make attempts," said Lopez. "So, I was very fortunate. It was a blessing; it was a miracle to be honest with you."

Lopez says that he believes "those people in the stands were placed there for my benefit."

Pack, Patton, Delgadillo, and the other Downey High staff who were involved in the incident were all recognized by the Downey Unified School District at its board meeting in December, reuniting with Lopez as well.

Pack says she is "grateful for the outcome." "God works in mysterious ways," said Pack. "God puts you where you need to be, and God said you need to be here this day because they're going to need you."

"I think everything that happened that day was through the work of God, and he used me to perform his work. I'm just glad that I was there and I'm glad it was a good outcome, and [Lopez] is able to be with his kids and grandkids to this day."

Delgadillo said the incident emphasized the importance of AEDs.

"You never know what anything could lead to; you wouldn't think from a baseball game there would be a heart attack, but it could happen any time, any place," said Delgadillo. "To be able to have [an AED] within running distance, and you can get it back within a minute, it's beyond important."

Of course, the obviously most thankful is Lopez, who says he's "feeling fantastic" and "living every moment of today, one day at a time."

"I've been given a second chance, and a new opportunity, and I am so thankful every day for it," said Lopez. "I will do everything I can to make sure that I use it for the glory of God."

Lopez will return to Downey next month, when he is scheduled

# 8 probation officers on leave from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

**DOWNEY** - Eight Los Angeles County probation officers have been placed on administrative leave following a "significant incident" last month at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey, officials announced Wednesday.

The Department of Probation said the incident involved "misconduct" between the eight officers and detained juveniles, though further details were not released.

"Sharing this information publicly is an important step forward in my commitment to bring new leadership, transparency, and accountability to the Probation Department," said Probation Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa in a statement. "I am committed to providing a safe and secure environment that gives the youth committed to our care a clear path to rehabilitation. We are actively identifying and removing those who do not align with our core values and standards to eliminate the negative influences within our organization."

The juvenile hall was only recently reopened after two other county facilities were too problematic to remain open.

In an effort to maintain the integrity of the investigation, officials said the department's internal affairs will not be involved, and said the L.A. County Sheriff's Department will conduct an independent investigation.

# Woman, 7 dogs killed in fire

**BELLFLOWER** - A house fire in Bellflower left a woman and seven dogs dead, and authorities Tuesday were investigating the cause of the blaze.

Firefighters sent to the 8700 block of Mayne Street at about 8:10 a.m. Monday extinguished the flames in the single-story building in about 20 minutes, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. The victim and the dogs were found dead inside the home, county fire Supervisor Michael Pittman said.

## In Memory of

### Duane Robert Ely

Duane Robert Ely, 77, peacefully passed away Saturday, November 4, 2023 at his home in Downey, CA. He is survived by his wife, Dolores Little, his son Bill Ely, and his daughter Jessica Ely. He is survived by his step children Sherry Little, Brian Little and Tammy Little. Funeral services were performed at the Miramar National Cemetery on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

## In Memory of

### Nancy Goldstein

1936 - 2023



Nancy Platt was born in Mishawaka, IN to Sylvia and Floyd Platt. She and her sister, Shirl Platt, grew up in South Bend, IN. Nann moved to Downey, CA in the early 60's, and remained in the area for over 60 years. Her three children, James, Lisa, and Leslie were born during her first marriage to James Ellsworth. Nann married Robert Goldstein in 1992 after dating for many years, spending nearly 50 years together. Nann worked most of her career at Certified Grocers and was a hospital volunteer for many years after that. She is survived by her husband Bob, her 3 children and their spouses, 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her sister. Nann was a true lady, had a good heart, and was loved by all who knew her. She is missed everyday. Her family will be having a private celebration of her life.

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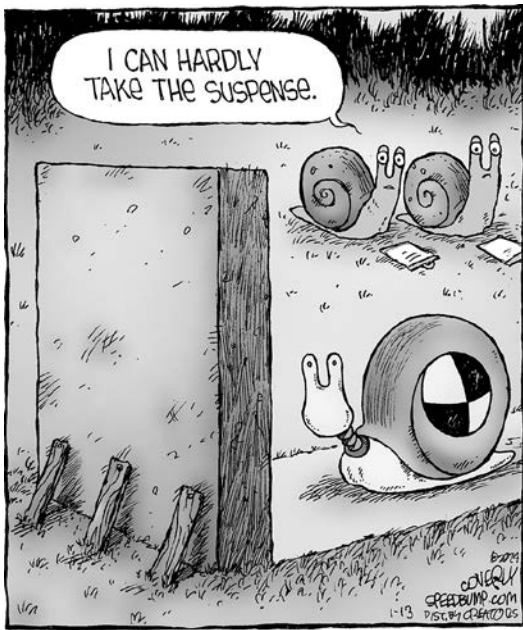
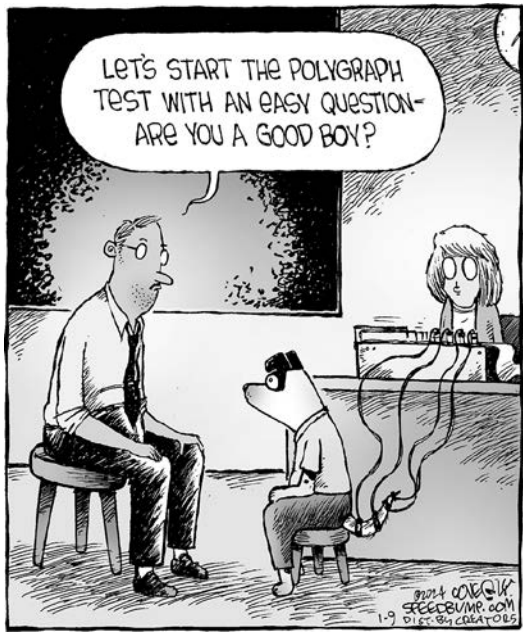
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Downey Community Calendar

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., 6:00pm: 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.
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 Mel Sanchez 562-665-4125.
6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
6:30 - 9 pm: Civil Air Patrol - Los Angeles Cadet Squadron 138, at Downey Adult School, Room M104, call 714-402-5157.
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.
1st Tues., 7:30 pm: Downey Amateur Radio Club, EOC room Downey Fire Station #1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
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.
9 am: Quilters Group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
10:30 am: Ballroom dance class, at Downey Community Center, call 776 7270.
1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
7 pm: Royal Rangers Outpost 132, at Desert Reign Church, call 562-861-6011.
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.
4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
Wed.& Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
12 pm: Bingo, at Woman's Club of Downey - Proceeds benefit Rancho.
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.
7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
1st Thurs., 6 pm, All other Thurs. 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 283-2335.
2nd Thurs., 12 pm: 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.
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.

SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.

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1 Fragrance
6 "Silly me!"
9 USPS itineraries
13 Cherry-picks
18 Stately residence
19 Homeland Security agcy.
20 Othello adversary
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58 Boston seafood servings
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68 Blokes
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72 Light beams
73 Ballet bend
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75 Minstrel's instrument
76 "Ready when you \_\_\_"
77 The heavyweight boxing champ
81 Try to buy at auction
82 Writer \_\_\_ Kinnan
84 Grinch creator
85 Rent payer
86 Footnote abbr.
87 Pisa place
88 Reign over
89 The Time Machine author
91 A sense
92 Russian grandma
96 It had its first radio broadcast
98 His Magic Mountain was published
100 Brings on board
101 Be abundant (with)
102 Group for those 50+
103 Trojan War catalyst
104 Pundit's columns
105 Former JFK landers
106 "Later!"
107 Bisected
DOWN
1 Car radio switch
2 Almost unobtainable
3 Small bills
4 Windy, wet seasons
5 Bending backward
6 HP PC rival
7 Tennis official
8 Can't stay
9 Manicotti filling
10 Wonderland dessert
11 Self centers
12 "Send help!" signal
13 Compose together
14 Now degreased
15 Scandinavian Lawrence
16 Shoebox tops
17 Graduating grp.
19 Columbo portrayer
23 Put up, as a portrait
25 Not enough
28 Picnic spoiler
31 Religious regulation
32 Marquee name
33 Horse opera
34 Hold responsible
35 He became MGM's production boss
36 Tennis great Becker
37 Divulges
38 His poems de amor brought him world acclaim
39 Plant deeply
40 Stretches over
42 More recent
43 Local theaters, slangily
46 Lawn tool
48 Pollo partner
50 Facilitates
51 Convenient, in product names
52 High hairstyles
53 Model married to Sarkozy
54 Showed initiative
56 Packs (down)
58 City of Tuscany
60 Didn't do anything
61 Civil War photographer
62 Leave quickly
63 GWTW heroine
64 Similarly
65 Passes quickly
66 Boca \_\_, FL
67 Shelled out
69 Spanish national hero
70 Smart-alecky
73 Church district
75 Football officials
77 Needing work
78 Thinks much of
79 Diner serving
80 Beer can opener
81 Original SNL cast member
83 Cast aside abruptly
85 Polka band instrument
87 "No more for me"
88 Sloping walkway
89 Indy Jones weapon
90 Irish republic
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# Welcome to the end of college football as we know it

## Greed is further eroding college football, and we suffer for it.

By Will Leitch

*Will Leitch is a contributing editor at New York Magazine, the founder of the late sports website Deadspin and the author of six books, including the novels "How Lucky" and "The Time Has Come."*

On Monday night, college football as we know came to an end. Now that Michigan has defeated Washington in the College Football Playoff Championship Game in Houston, the sport will fundamentally reconstruct itself.

Washington, UCLA, USC and Oregon will join the Big Ten; Oklahoma and Texas will join the Southeastern Conference (SEC). The College Football Playoff will expand to 12 teams, while the Pac-12, a conference that originated in 1915, just three years after Arizona became a state, will wither and die.

This is the end. And it is also, of course, just the start.

What did 2023 teach us about what we should be prepared for in the years to come? Here are six lessons from The Last Season Of College Football As We Knew It.

### TV executives are the new commissioners and now run everything

Stewart Mandel, one of the top college football reporters at The Athletic and one of the emerging unofficial deans of the sport's conventional wisdom, has taken to saying that college football's ideal fan is no longer a crazed Auburn message board poster or the sort of guy who sets up his weekend tailgate sometime around Wednesday afternoon. It's instead a bored, distracted, unaffiliated gambling aficionado who doesn't really care about college football but will look up from his phone when the television is showing a game with a brand-name team he recognizes.

All that drives decision-making in college football now is television ratings, to the point that conferences are hiring former television executives as their commissioners. This trend reached its logical, and most mercenary, conclusion when Florida State, an undefeated champion of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), was left out of the College Football Playoff (CFP) in favor of Alabama, a team that had lost a game and had been ranked behind the Seminoles all season, in large part because leaving an SEC team out of the playoff would be disastrous for the CFP's ratings. (Attempts by CFP committee members to construct other rationales consistently fell on deaf ears.)

Was it "fair?" Of course not. But the people in charge showed this year that "fair," or even "competition," were at best happy accidents that took a backseat to the real driving force here: name-brand competition that gets as many dudes as possible to look up from their phones.

### The death of conferences is only beginning

The death of the Pac-12, a conference that went from having its own cable channel to no longer existing seemingly overnight, is one of the more stunning things to happen in college sports in decades. Its disappearance leaves only four major conferences, but if you're in the Big 12 or (especially) the ACC, you shouldn't breathe all that easy just yet.

As college football has veered closer and closer to the NFL model, it has long been speculated that the logical end game for all this change is not four conferences but two: essentially, much like the NFL, an Eastern Conference and a Western Conference, a consolidation of only the sport's biggest names. It stands to reason those conferences would be the SEC and the Big Ten, the conferences currently soaking up all the oxygen (and money, which is more important in college football than oxygen).

This is already starting to happen. Florida State was so stung by its exclusion from the CFP that it is reportedly trying to figure out ways to get out of its grant-of-rights contract with the ACC, a conference it has long battled with over financial issues. We've already seen that the SEC and Big Ten will pounce when other conferences seem weak. A future where they are the only two conferences standing is well within sight.

### 'Little' schools will be banished to the minor leagues, and 'little' may just mean your alma mater

The biggest losers of college football realignment this year were unquestionably Washington State and Oregon State. After years in the Pac-12, their conference imploded around them, and while everyone else found safe havens, they were stuck in the mid-tier Mountain West ... with their days of national relevance likely behind them forever.

But if you feel bad for them, don't get too comfortable: Your school could be next. An inevitable result of a two-conference, NFL-style system will be a consolidation of schools, which will mean, with geography no longer a determining factor, only the schools that get big TV ratings will get to play on the biggest stage. That's immediate bad news for schools like Northwestern and Vanderbilt, small private schools that have benefitted from their history with their conferences, but if the number of schools in these conferences is whittled down to 48 or even 32 teams, the meat will be cut much closer to the bone.

Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Ohio State, Michigan, they'll all be fine. But at 32 teams — which is the direction all this is going — well, does that leave room for, say, Missouri? Kentucky? Purdue? Illinois? Arizona State? Kansas? If your team isn't a member of that 32, it will be as irrelevant as Washington State or Oregon State is now. If you didn't stand up for them this time, who will stand up for you then?

### The college football video game is going to change everything

Ask anyone who works in the college football media business: The quickest way to juice your traffic is to write about the upcoming EA Sports College Football video game, scheduled for release this coming summer. The game, which stopped production back in 2013 because of issues involving the use of players' names, images and likenesses (and

leading to the NIL revolution that has transformed college athletics in the wake of the Supreme Court decision two years ago), is expected to revolutionize college football once more, with players now receiving financial remuneration for the game and schools licensing their own names, logos and stadiums for it.

The game is likely to have a rise-all-boats explosion of popularity that could mirror the success of the FIFA franchise, which is widely credited with expanding soccer's ubiquity globally, and especially in the United States. In many ways, college football has come to resemble a video game in recent years. Now the game will come back to return the favor.

### The sport has reached its end-stage-capitalism period

You might have heard Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh and his team talk about all the "adversity" it has overcome, but remember that all this "adversity" has of course been self-imposed. Harbaugh himself has been suspended for half of his team's games this season for two different scandals, one involving illegal recruiting tactics and the other involving sign-stealing allegations. (Harbaugh has denied knowledge of any alleged in-game interception of opposing teams' play calls.) His punishment, ultimately, has been a huge shrug followed by a "Michigan vs. the World" narrative that has been embraced by ESPN, ABC and anyone with a financial interest in selling Monday night's game.

In any sane, just, orderly and downright healthy sport (or organization, really), Harbaugh and his team would be engulfed in scandal. In college football, though, as long as you're winning and bringing in the ratings (both of which Michigan did), none of that makes a difference.

In the long term, these changes to college football seem potentially fatal. Sure, in the short term, they'll work: I'm as excited to watch next year's 12-team College Football Playoff as anyone. But in the long term, when you pattern yourself after the NFL in order to get some of their television juice, when you jettison the traditions and orthodoxies that made people fall in love with the sport in the first place, you stop being college football: You simply become Minor League NFL. And no one cares about minor league anything.

The people who run the sport — the executives, the conference commissioners, the athletic directors, occasionally (but rarely) even the school presidents themselves — know this can't last forever. A reckoning is coming. So they're getting everything they can while they can, before the party is over and the dance floor is cleared. Rules, tradition and sentiment be damned.

### In the end, only the Pop-Tart will endure

I do not know what will happen to college football. But I do know that the Pop-Tart, the breakout star of this bowl season who celebrated the first-ever Pop-Tarts Bowl by sacrificing himself, "Midsommar"-style, to be eaten by the victors, will ultimately survive us all.

I, for one, welcome our new Pop-Tart overlords. I'd like to remind them, as a trusted internet personality, that I can be helpful in rounding up others to toil in their underground toasted pastry sugar caves.

# Newsom defies Supreme Court ruling on right to bear arms

By Jacob Sullum

*Jacob Sullum is senior editor at Reason and a nationally syndicated columnist.*

California Gov. Gavin Newsom thinks the Constitution should be amended to accommodate the gun regulations he favors. But in the meantime, he is trying out a different strategy: If we ignore the Second Amendment, maybe it will

go away.

In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right to carry guns in public for self-defense, saying states could not require residents to demonstrate a "special need" before allowing them to exercise that right. Newsom responded to what he called a "very bad ruling" by backing a new law that makes carry permits easier to obtain but nearly impossible to use.

Senate Bill 2 bans guns from 26 categories of "sensitive places," including parks, playgrounds, zoos, libraries, museums, banks, hospitals, houses of worship, public transportation, stadiums, athletic facilities, casinos, bars, and restaurants that serve alcohol. The list also covers any "privately owned commercial establishment that is open to the public" unless the owner "clearly and conspicuously posts a sign at the entrance" saying guns are allowed.

S.B. 2 "turns nearly every public place in California into a 'sensitive place,' effectively abolishing the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding and exceptionally qualified citizens to be armed and to defend themselves in public," U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney noted last month, when he issued a preliminary injunction barring California from enforcing many of the law's provisions. "California will not allow concealed carry permit holders to effectively practice what the Second Amendment promises. SB2's coverage is sweeping, repugnant to the Second Amendment, and openly defiant of the Supreme Court."

Carney's response to May v. Bonta, a lawsuit challenging S.B. 2, was not surprising. New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Hawaii have attempted similar end runs around the Supreme Court's decision, provoking lawsuits that in each case resulted in a court order blocking at least some of the challenged restrictions.

Undeterred by those warnings, Newsom and his legislative allies are hoping that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, which historically has been highly

sympathetic to gun control, will bless their blatant trickery. On Saturday, the appeals court dissolved an administrative stay that briefly blocked Carney's injunction, which means the new gun-free zones are on hold until it decides the case.

California has the burden of showing that each of its location-specific gun bans is "consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation" — the test that the Supreme Court has said gun control laws must pass. But even without a detailed analysis, the overall impact of the state's new rules is plainly inconsistent with the right recognized by the Supreme Court.

Under S.B. 2, the plaintiffs in May v. Bonta note, "Californians who desire to exercise their enumerated right to carry are essentially limited to some streets and sidewalks (so long as those public places are not adjacent to certain other 'sensitive' places), plus a few businesses willing to post a 'guns allowed' sign at the risk of potentially losing other customers by doing so." The law "creates a patchwork quilt of locations where Second Amendment rights may and may not be exercised, thus making exercise of the right so impractical and legally risky in practice that ordinary citizens will be deterred from even attempting to exercise their rights in the first place."

That, of course, is the whole idea. S.B. 2 itself notes that restricting the discretion of licensing officials, as the Supreme Court's ruling required California to do, could have opened the door to "broadly allowing individuals to carry firearms in most public areas." Deeming that outcome intolerable, legislators instead decreed that guns may not be carried in most public areas.

At the press conference announcing the introduction of S.B. 2, the complaint in May v. Bonta notes, Newsom "used air quotes when discussing the 'right' to carry firearms outside the home, making his contempt for the Constitution clear." Newsom might as well have held up a single finger, aimed directly at the Supreme Court.

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scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: FEBRUARY 16, 2024, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: S27, Room: 5400  
The address of the court is 275 MAGNOLIA AVE. LONG BEACH, CA 90802

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 3, 2024  
MARK C. KIM  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JENNIFER TISZA**  
6445 DOWNEY AVE  
LONG BEACH, CA 90805  
(562) 446-6190  
jennifertorpeza@gmail.com

The Downey Patriot  
1/11/24, 1/18/24, 1/25/24, 2/1/24

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 24TRCP00012  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SOFIA MACDOUGALL WOLFE BY AND THROUGH NATALIA JACQUELENE MACDOUGALL AND MICHAEL WILLIAM WOLFE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) SOFIA MACDOUGALL WOLFE to Proposed name (1) CAROLINA MACDOUGALL WOLFE  
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.

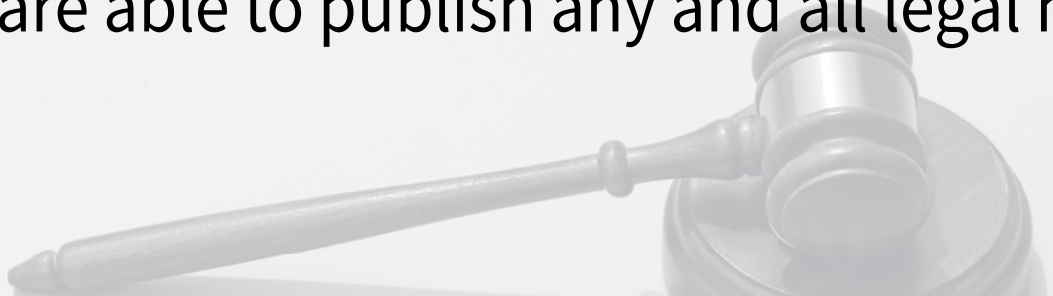
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: MARCH 1, 2024, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: M, Room: N/A  
The address of the court is 825 MAPLE AVENUE, ROOM 100 TORRANCE, CA 90503

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 8, 2024  
DEIRDRE HILL  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**SOFIA MACDOUGALL WOLFE BY AND THROUGH NATALIA JACQUELENE MACDOUGALL AND MICHAEL WILLIAM WOLFE**  
7425 OGELSBY AVE.  
LOS ANGELES, CA, 90045  
(562) 712-1372  
NataliaMacDougall@gmail.com

The Downey Patriot  
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# Crime Report

On 12/25/2023 at 12:50 pm, officers responded to the area of Firestone Blvd and La Reina Ave regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated the suspect used his vehicle to intentionally collide with the victim's motorcycle. The victim sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital. Detectives are investigating.

On 12/27/2023 at 1:05 am, officers responded to the area of 7400 Stewart and Gray Rd regarding an assault. The victim stated the suspect held a knife to her chest and threatened to kill her. The suspect fled the scene, but was located by officers nearby and arrested.

On 12/28/2023 at 4:30 am, officers responded to the area of 13000 Downey Ave regarding a robbery. The victim stated the suspects entered the business and jumped over the counter while demanding money. The victim was not injured and detectives are investigating.

On 12/29/2023 at 2 am, officers responded to the area of 8800 Rosecrans Ave regarding a carjacking. The victim stated the suspect hit him with a firearm and fled the scene in the victim's vehicle. The victim sustained minor injuries. Detectives began investigating the case and identified the suspect. The suspect was later arrested for carjacking and several other charges.

On 1/1/2024 at 7:10 am, officers responded to the area of 10400 Sherry Ave regarding an assault. The victim stated a known suspect hit him with a metal BBQ lid. Officers arrived and located the suspect at the scene. The victim was treated for minor injuries and the suspect was arrested.

On 1/1/2024 at 1:35 pm, officers responded to the area of 7600 Stewart and Gray Rd regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. Officers determined the suspect had struck the victims several times with a metal pole in the upper body. The suspect was located at the scene and arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. The victims sustained minor injuries.

On 1/7/2024 at 10 am, officers responded to the area of 11800 Lakewood Blvd regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated three suspects assaulted and stabbed him while he was standing on a corner. The suspects fled the scene in a vehicle and the victim drove himself to a local hospital for treatment. Detectives are investigating.

# Walgreens manager says she was fired for calling police

**HUNTINGTON PARK** – A former shift manager at the Walgreens store in Huntington Park is suing the pharmacy store chain, alleging she was wrongfully fired in 2023 for calling the police on a person she suspected of being a shoplifter and who later threatened to file a lawsuit.

Marisela Ramos' Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit alleges wrongful termination, retaliation and failure to provide a safe place of employment. Ramos seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

A Walgreens representative did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the suit brought Friday.

Ramos was hired as a shift manager in September 2004 and often dealt with unsafe work conditions due to shoplifters, looters and hostile customers at the Pacific Boulevard store, the suit states.

Last July, a Ramos co-worker told the plaintiff that someone in the store could be a shoplifter, the suit states.

"Plaintiff stared at this suspected shoplifter to determine whether this person was indeed shoplifting," according to the suit.

Noticing Ramos' gaze, the suspected shoplifter began yelling at the plaintiff, then approached Ramos and said he "would be waiting for her outside," according to the suit, which further states that Ramos called the police "in fear of her and everyone in the store's safety."

The police dispatcher heard the alleged shoplifter yelling and told Ramos to remain on the line until police arrived, which they did shortly thereafter and arrested the man, the suit states.

In September 2023, a Walgreens asset protection specialist told Ramos that the suspected shoplifter was threatening to sue the company, the suit states. That same month, after Ramos began her work shift, her supervisor fired her for calling the police on the accused shoplifter, according to the suit.

Ramos has suffered financial losses and experienced emotional distress, humiliation, mental anguish and embarrassment since being fired, the suit states.

# Literary festival returns

**LONG BEACH** – The 2024 Literary Women Festival of Authors will soon make its much anticipated 42nd return to Long Beach.

The event will be held Saturday, March 9, at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center Ballroom and brings together the best of women's literary talent.

Tickets go on sale January 1, 2024, and can be purchased at literarywomen.org.

## POET'S CORNER

### Being human is a guest house

This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.

**Jalal-ud-din Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks**

*Rumi, the Sufi mystic poet, wrote this classic poem in the 13th century. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.*

# Downey Youth Football announces 2024 officers

**DOWNEY** – Louis Morales will serve an unprecedented 26th consecutive year as president of Downey Youth Football, which this year celebrates its 64th season in Downey.

Other elected officers include first vice president Cathy Godinez, second vice president Tony Ruiz, treasurer Estefany Iniguez, athletic director Dina Mendez, fundraiser coordinator Imelda Gomez and auxiliary chair Raelynn Pacheco.

The Razorbacks' legal representative is Eduardo Olivo, who has served in the role since 2001.

Registration for the 2024 season begins at "Back to Football Night" on Wednesday, March 13, at 7 pm at the SpringHills by Marriott hotel in Downey.

The Razorbacks offer flag football, tackle football and cheerleading for boys and girls ages 5-14. Registration is \$300 for tackle football and cheerleading, and \$220 for flag football.

Practice starts July 26 and the first game is Sept. 7. All home games are played at Downey High School and Warren High School.

For questions or more information, call Louis Morales at (310) 350-0220.

# Blackburn is guest speaker

**DOWNEY** – Engineer Gerald Blackburn will be the guest speaker at the Downey Historical Society on Jan. 25, from 6 to 8 pm at the Barbara J. Riley Community Center.

Blackburn – a former project manager with the Boeing Corporation – has been in the aerospace industry for over 45 years; his career spanning the entire manned space program from the X-15 at North American Aviation to the Apollo, Saturn SII, Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs.

Blackburn is a director of the Columbia Memorial Space Center Foundation and founder /past president and executive advisor of the Aerospace Legacy Foundation developing

historical preservation and outreach projects.

He is now the CEO and Founder of the Katherine and Gerald Blackburn Charitable Foundation and Trust.



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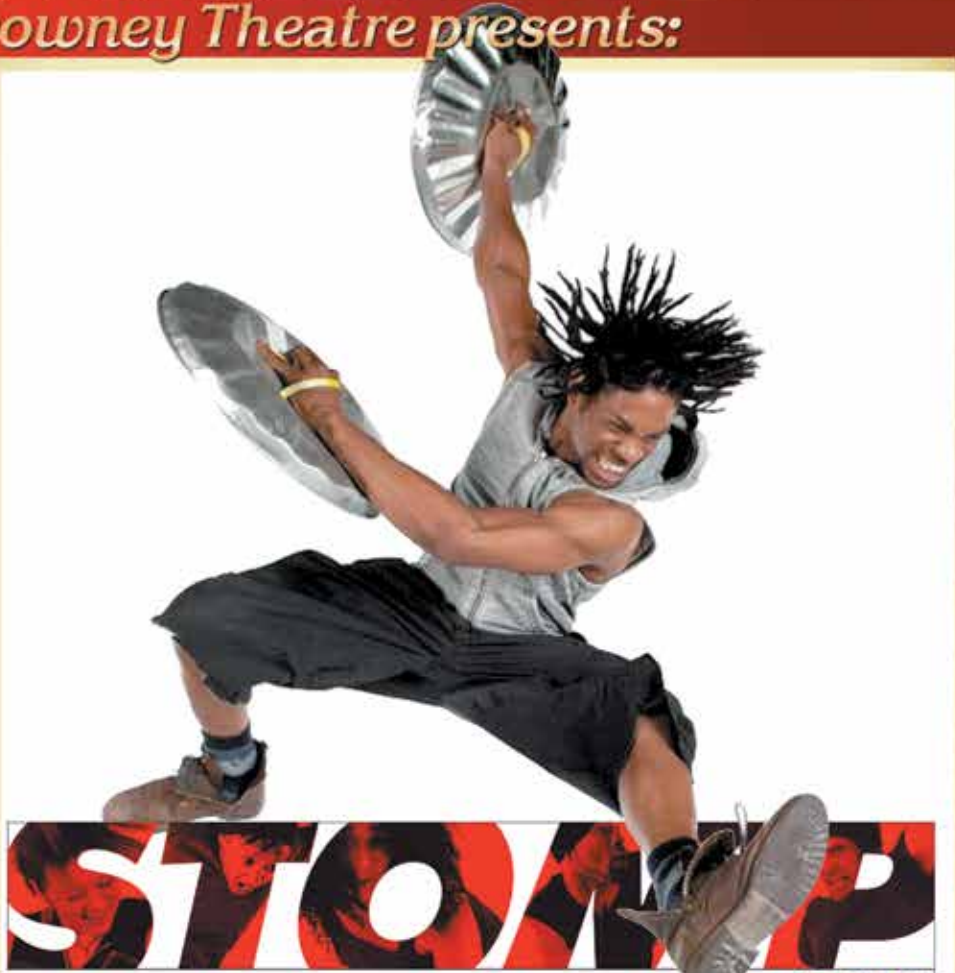


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