



LiveWire: A Podcast by the Downey Patriot

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Norms manager retires after 46 years



Nancy Cook retires this week. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

■ Nancy Cook has spent nearly half of her Norms career in Downey.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Regular diners at Norms will have to cope with seeing one less familiar face after this week.

It was 1976, and 22-year-old Nancy Cook was going through a tough time in her life.

“I had dropped out of college; I was struggling in some areas of my life. I was like a troubled kid,” said Cook, now 63. “A lot of drinking, excessive drinking. Party phase. The party was over but I was still there.”

Needing something to hopefully spark a turnaround, Cook happened upon an advertisement seeking applicants for a new Norms location.

“I drove by and they had advertising for and they were going to open Norms Santa Ana,” said Cook. “So, I applied and I got a job as a graveyard server.”

Things started out okay for Cook working at Norms, who moved up from working graveyard to dinner shifts, though she still had a few rough edges to smooth out.

“I was still kind of a mess. You know, a lot of troubles,” said Cook. “Like when one time they seated me too many tables. And so, I went up to the hostess, and I said, really nicely, ‘If you seat me any more people, I’m gonna kick your ass.’ So, the next day, I got in trouble. But I was really upset because this is how I looked at it. I said it nicely. You know, I didn’t come up in her face.”

Still, Cook says that Norms saw something in her and looked past her flaws.

“They started to develop me to management,” said Cook. “It changed my life...They were able to take a big ol’ mess; like I would have had to get rid of somebody for the things that I did. You know what I mean? It would have just been too much.”

“But they saw something and they still they, you know, when I made mistakes, or was late every day, they took it as an opportunity to teach me and coach me and so they wanted to move me into

management. So, they started training me, and what happened was, you know, I grew.”

Every Norms has a General Manager, and then two assistants: one in the kitchen, and one front of house.

Cook was determined.

“So, they promoted me to service manager but they didn’t have any women managers, because it was ‘back in the day,’” said Cook. “I became obsessed with becoming the first woman manager, which they told me I couldn’t be a chef, because I didn’t know how to cook. So, I spent my three-week vacation one year learning to cook at another Norms.”

“I really have nothing but Norms. My life was nowhere but Norms. It was okay for me to spend my vacation there. I didn’t have family. I mean, I had just my family, but no husband, no kids, so I was able to be a workaholic. So, then they promoted me and I eventually made the first woman manager when I was 29.”

In 2000, an opening at Cook’s hometown Downey restaurant opened up. Not only would she apply, she would be granted the position.

“I was in Santa Monica north, but I lived here in Downey. The manager here was getting ready to retire just like me [now]. So, the minute I you know, I knew he was gonna retire, I asked for it, but I deserved it. I had made, you know, been very profitable. I’ve been a very good manager for many years,” said Cook. “And I was so happy because my daughter went to Downey school so I was able to times were able to you know, I could leave work in the afternoon, go to her awards assembly or for her softball game, or her dance recital, come back to work, like, it was awesome. I’ve been so grateful that I’ve been here. It’s a mile down the street. I don’t have to worry about traffic anymore.”

In total, 22 of Cook’s 46 years with Norms have been served in Downey. Over that time, she has developed many friendships and relationships.

“If I had one thing to say that I loved about the businesses, it’s the people, the customers and the employees,” said Cook.



PIH Downey honored for stroke care

■ PIH was recognized with a quality achievement award for stroke care.

DOWNEY – The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association has recognized PIH Health Downey Hospital and PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital with the Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines - Stroke quality achievement award for their commitment to providing research-based, high-quality stroke care that supports better outcomes for stroke patients.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die.

Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American

Cook is retiring this week. As this chapter on her life closes, Cook says she’s “ready to slow down,” and intends to focus on family.

“I have my daughter, she has two kids. I also have three step kids; one of them lives in a different state. I’m going to go visit,” said Cook. “My mom is 92, [I’m going to] spend time with my mom.”

“You know, the challenges of Norms were, I work every weekend, and every holiday my entire life. So, when like at Christmas time, we would celebrate Christmas, like, the day before, a few days before. Thanksgiving, we would do it the day before, you know what I mean?”

Still, she remains thankful for her time spent at Norms.

“I guess I’d say that every single day that I worked, there has always been something to be joyous and laugh about every single day. There’s been joy, even in the hardest, craziest days,” said Cook. “At the end of it when we get our ass handed to us by you know, like we’re short staffed or whatever. We’re really busy. Every day we can turn around and laugh and make the you know, lemonade out of lemons.”

“It’s just the, you know, the way that they loved me and took care of me. I think I’ll miss you know, that’s what I would say that I just love them, that would be that they gave me such a fun workplace.”

Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest evidence- and research-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines - Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

Both hospitals also received the Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award, for ensuring patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke. Additionally, PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital received the Target: Stroke Honor Roll award, for meeting quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.

“PIH is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” said

Sodetani will not seek reelection

DOWNEY - Longtime Downey School Board member Martha Sodetani will not seek reelection, she has said.



“After serving on the Board of Education for 17 years, the decision to step down and not run this November was difficult,” said Sodetani. “I am stepping away from publicly serving Downey Unified’s students, families, and staff, but I know they are left in good hands.”

“That said, I have chosen to serve going forward through community philanthropic organizations. Serving on the Board of Education has been an honor and one of the greatest joys of my life.”

Sodetani was elected in 2005. She represents Trustee Area 1, and currently sits as the Board’s Vice President.

Her seat is one of three that will be up for grabs in November’s election. Board President Bobbi Samperi (Trustee Area 7) and member Nancy Swenson (Trustee Area 5) have already announced that they will run for reelection.

Krystal Valdez, RN MSN ACNS-BC, PIH Health System Director of Quality Programs. “Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure that the communities we serve experience longer, healthier lives.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize PIH Health Downey Hospital for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Steven Messe, M.D., chairperson of the Stroke System of Care Advisory Group. “Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities.”

Downey Police and Fire report July 4 incidents

DOWNEY - Downey Fire responded to several fires over the Independence Day holiday.

Downey Fire Department reported six fireworks related incidents on Monday.

The incidents include one natural vegetation fire, one outside rubbish fire, one passenger vehicle fire, one fire in a structure other than a building, and two fires in a dumpster or other outside trash receptacle.

Downey Police also reported their activity for the holiday, having received 92 calls for service between the hours of 6 pm and 2 am.

Overall, 36 fireworks related citations were issued.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 85°

Saturday 86°

Sunday 87°

THINGS TO DO



42nd Lotus Festival
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A free event promoting the arts and cultures of India and the Asian Pacific Region.

ON THIS DAY

1534: French explorer Jacques Cartier made his first contact with indigenous people in what is now Canada.

1798: Congress rescinded a treaty with France, sparking an undeclared naval war. The ability of Congress to authorize military action without a formal declaration of war was later confirmed by the Supreme Court and formed the basis of many similar actions since, including American participation in the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

1865: Four conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln were hanged.

1911: The United States, UK, Japan, and Russia signed an agreement banning seal hunting.

1928: Sliced bread was sold for the first time.

1937: Japanese and Chinese troops clash at the Marco Polo Bridge, beginning the Second Sino-Japanese War

1946: Frances Xavier Cabrini, also called Mother Cabrini, became the first American to be canonized. An Italian-American Roman Catholic nun, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Catholic religious institute that was a major support to her fellow Italian immigrants to the United States.

1981: President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O’Connor to become the first female member of the Supreme Court.

1992: The New York Court of Appeals ruled that women have the same right as men to go topless in public.

2019: The United States women’s national soccer team defeated the Netherlands, 2-0, at the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup Final in Lyon, France.

Birthdays

Beatles drummer **Ringo Starr** (82), actress and singer **Vonda Shepard** (59), comedian **Jim Gaffigan** (56), retired basketball player **Lisa Leslie** (50), figure skater **Michelle Kwan** (42), and pop singer **Kodi Lee** (26).

Concerts in the Park



Cold Duck will perform Wednesday at Downey’s Concert in the Parks series. For details, see page 7.

Things you didn't know about Downey: The Hose

Local religious leaders speak out against abortion

By **Bobbi Bruce**
Downey Historical Society

DOWNEY - The following is an article from the Time Traveler by John Adams, published by the Downey Eagle on Jan. 21, 1994.

On July 4, 1955, a common plastic garden hose brought the world's print and electronic media to a previously quiet home on Alderdale Avenue and turned the lives of the Downey residents into a living hell.

Rockwell's space shuttle has since made Downey famous, as have the Rose Float parades down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena every New Year's Day. But in 1955, the garden hose that suddenly started burrowing straight down in the ground was probably the most famous event to ever occur here.

It set the news world on its ear. George J. DiPeso hated that hose.

It started on a Thursday afternoon when DiPeso's daughter, Suzanne, was watering the lawn. She suddenly ran to the house and announced that the garden hose was going straight down into the ground and she couldn't pull it out.

Her mother couldn't budge it either.

DiPeso tried to pull it out with his truck. Not only did the truck fail, but the hose continued to gain in its effort to disappear into the Mother Earth.

By Saturday night, 17 feet of

the hose had gone down the hole.

Arthur Swisher, field superintendent for the Arroyo Ditch and Water company took a look. His only explanation was that the area around Rancho Los Amigos was known to contain quicksand. He said that might explain the hose's sinking, but didn't explain how the hose got through the thick layer of topsoil to begin with.

It couldn't be gophers, reasoned the experts, because gophers don't go straight down and have not been known to overpower trucks.

The nearest sewer line was 30 feet away.

In the 1950's, atomic radiation was a catch-all explanation for many aspects of the unknown. Geiger counters were called in, but they showed no unusual radiation.

Old-timers suggested that the Rio Hondo River might have changed its underground channel and be sucking the hose down.

Others recalled when they buried a cow 10 years before and barely got out of the pit alive when it caved in due to quicksand.

By that time the nation's wire service had got hold of the story.

DiPeso was disgusted with media hounds tramping across his lawn and asking him the same questions again and again. He was so tired he decided to end the matter, and cut the hose off Sunday night, covering over the

spot where it had entered the earth.

The media and amateur scientists were aghast. They appealed to his senses of fair play. He couldn't just walk away from this!

Overwhelmed, he dug up the hose end and wired the pieces back together. It was now Tuesday night. The hose had slowed down, but was still inching its way downward.

Meanwhile, in keeping with their growing fame as the keepers of the hose, the DiPeso family appeared on Art Linkletter's TV show, "House Party," and were given a TV. One Samaritan even donated \$5 for DiPeso to repair his battered lawn.

After the TV appearance, the hose mania cooled down. The world may never know whether the hose disappeared into the earth in its entirety or was again cut. DiPeso had stopped talking. DiPeso and his family breathed a sigh of relief and returned to a normal life.

However, the hose has never been completely forgotten. John Vincent of the Downey Historical Society received a phone call from a columnist on the Baltimore Sun in July of 1988. The writer wanted to know if there was anything new about the hose.

His newspaper had carried a series of stories on the odd incident in 1955, and he said he'd encountered the old clippings and thought he'd call.

So, you see, the story resurfaces occasionally, even though the hose doesn't.



■ Following the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Christian and Catholic leaders are speaking out

Pastor Art Reyes gives a sermon at Downey Calvary Chapel on Sunday. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

By **Vincent Medina**
Contributor

DOWNEY - Christian and Catholic leaders in Norwalk and Downey are expressing pro-life views and belief that abortion is murder following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

The case ruled that the constitution protected women's right to choose to have an abortion.

Pastor Raymond Decipeda from Saint John of God church in Norwalk said the Catholic faith believes life starts in the womb.

"Life begins at conception," pastor Decipeda said. "If a person was already sick and in the hospital just because his hands swivel and he could not feed himself, does that mean I kill him? Life is precious from the moment of conception until natural death."

Pastor Art Reyes from Calvary Chapel in Downey said alternatives should be considered instead of terminating a pregnancy.

"I think our government should fund adoptions not abortions," Reyes said. "There's always an option for life."

After the case was overturned 15 states immediately banned abortion, including Ohio, where a 10-year-old girl was raped and needed to cross state lines to have an abortion.

Under the Christian faith, pastor Chris Reyes, brother of Art Reyes, said the young girl should have carried the baby to term.

"We think that rape and incest and those circumstances are extremely unfortunate, we condemn it," Chris Reyes said. "In other words, rape doesn't constitute for what we believe is the murder of a baby."

Pastor Decipeda was presented with a similar scenario of a 12-year-old girl. He also agreed that she should carry the baby to term, and her age would not be an exception for abortion.

"There are other ways if you don't want to raise a child. You don't have to kill the child," Decipeda said.

However, Decipeda did acknowledge that abortion would be an exception if the life of the mother and the child were at risk.

"You need to have an abortion because it threatens the life of the child or the life of the mother. Does that mean it's murder? No," Decipeda said. "Because that's the principle of double effect. You're doing it not to kill the child. You're doing it to save the mother."

Pastor Chris Reyes holds the women and doctors accountable for the abortion, and considers them to be committing murder.

"In the eyes of the church, the act of committing an abortion or allowing one or going from one is a murdering of a baby taking their life," Chris Reyes said.

Members of the Calvary Chapel have expressed their beliefs against abortion by advocating outside the FPA Clinic in Downey every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday between 8:30 am - 11 am.

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Comics, actors show support for benefit golf tournament

■ Celebrity radio hosts The Baka Boz held the event in support of K-12 tutoring.

By Bianca Martinez
Contributor

DOWNEY - Actors and comedians gathered up their golf clubs and their good will and came together for the first annual Baka Boz Benefit Golf Tournament on Monday, June 27.

Radio personalities the Baka Boz Nick Vidal and Eric Vidal hosted the tournament at the Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey in partnership with the Southeast Community Foundation.

“Our mission is to basically bring kids to the grade level that they’re supposed to be at and that’s by the way of tutoring, the proceeds today will benefit high-impact, high-dosage tutoring that we provide for free, at no cost, for kids K-12,” said Southeast Community Foundation CEO Eddie Tafoya.

The celebrity guest list for the tournament included: Eric and Nick Vidal, Arie Rose, Steve Williams, Creeper of Cholo Fit, Sal Lopez, Tony Denison, Alysha Del Valle, Emilio Rivera, Antonio Jaramillo, Julien Cesario, Anthony “Citric” Campos, Alfred Robles, Phil Medina, Jamal Gardner, Courtney Nichole, Ricky Montez, Momo Rodriguez, Concrete, Jay Montalvo, David Fernandez Jr., Al Coronel, Jeff Garcia, Jesus Trejo, Martin Moreno, Steve Villegas and Chelsea Rendon.

“Beautiful people and beautiful souls out here lending their time and their energy and their authenticity to something that is necessary in certain communities,” said Nick Vidal.

Although a handful of those in attendance admitted they have never played a game of golf prior to the tournament, they didn’t hesitate to participate in support of the Southeast Community Foundation.

“Supporting charity is always

fun, it’s always amazing, you always gotta help people out, help the next generation help the next generation,” said Actress Chelsea Rendon.

Actor and comedian Momo Rodriguez mentioned the significance of Latino representation at the event.

“A lot of my friends are playing here, a lot of people in the industry that I know and work with, a lot of people trying to do right for Latinos and it’s always good to be part of a clique of people that are trying to do positive things in a time where everyone is being viewed as under a microscope,” said Rodriguez. “We want to show that we have support and our people are trying to do positive things and not always the negative things that are attached.”

The Southeast Community Foundation offers academic resources and services to children in the Southeast Los Angeles region, with the city of Downey being an area served.

Comedian Jesus Trejo said, “education is very important, especially as Latinos, it’s definitely that old adage that knowledge is power, the only way that we’re gonna come up, or as they say in Spanish levántate as a raza, is through knowledge and education and hopefully we help a lot of students out there get the education and the guidance that they need.”

Entry into the event was \$175 per individual and \$700 per foursome. All funds raised via purchase of a raffle ticket at the golf tournament go towards the Southeast Community Foundation.

“Children, as they say, are the future and I am a proponent of actually giving children the opportunity to have choices in life that are not so much under the idea of institutionalization but more about the freedom of being able to see past many narratives,” said Actor Jay Montalvo.

Eric Vidal said hosting the first

annual Baka Boz Benefit Golf Tournament and being able to give back to the community is a dream come true.

“We have been doing our thing and have been getting our career going for 25-30 years now but it’s not about us anymore, we’re established and there’s other things out there that need some light on it, so I’ve been wanting to get involved with more nonprofit organizations and really lending our time, light and energy and truth to something else,” said Vidal.

Many of the celebrities in attendance were invited personally by the Baka Boz.

“Anytime the Baka Boz say, ‘Show up, we got this going on, it’s a good cause,’ I’m there; nothing but love for the homies,” said Martin Moreno.

The Baka Boz say they plan to host a benefit tournament next year but jokingly mentioned not in June, as reference to the heat which reached a high of 92 degrees that day.

Rudy Sandoval originally had the idea of holding a benefit golf tournament and reached out to the Baka Boz, who in turn met with Tafoya and hosted the event in partnership with the Southeast Community Foundation.

“Rudy introduced us to Eddie and he told us exactly what it was, we did some research and was like there’s children out there that need assistance that are not getting it and no one’s really doing it, these guys are doing it so it’s perfect for us,” said Vidal.

“The Baka Boz have told me that they want to make this an annual event and they chose Downey specifically because this town is near and dear to them, they got their early starts here and they wanted to showcase their start around here with the foundation and this tournament here,” said Tafoya.



The Baka Boz pose with comedian Martin Moreno. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)



Actress Chelsea Rendon and comedian Jesus Trejo (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

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When it feels like 10%

By Susan Estrich

The latest inflation figures for May were better than some expected, with a rate of only 6.3%.

Could have fooled me. It feels like 10%. And I'm not alone.

According to the latest Monmouth University poll, more than 4 in 10 Americans now say they're struggling to stay where they are economically, the highest number since they started asking the question five years ago, and an 18% increase just in the last year.

This is what inflation feels like.

Granted, it's particularly bad here in the land of \$7 gas (they even advertise those prices!), but anyone who buys groceries on a regular basis knows that a hundred-dollar bill no longer buys you more than a bag-full, and forget about change for a 20 when you take the kids for fast food; forget about the 20 being enough. There's the no change for a 20 situation, and the fact that everything that used to cost \$7 or \$8 now costs \$10, not to mention the advent of the \$15 sandwich. Forget about meat and even poultry. Everything costs more, and you're reminded of it every single time you take out your wallet.

The most troubling number on the poll, from a political point of view, is the right-track/wrong-track number. That's the measure that predicts whether the party in power is likely to stay there.

The number of Americans who think the country is on the wrong track, according to that same poll, is 88%.

That is a stunning number. If this were a presidential year, it would be grounds for a decision not to run. It is certainly not where House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wants the country to be heading into a fight for

both the House and the Senate.

If there is any good news for Democrats in the poll, it is that the country is equally divided on who should run Congress, which may help some Democrats in close races but hardly paints a rosy picture for the president and his policies.

For all the criticism that has been aimed at the president and his team, the polls and the pundits are remarkably short on solutions. People do blame Washington — the same polls show that, by astronomical margins, they see national policy as hurting and not helping — but there's no consensus on solutions.

In the short run, at least, the one set of numbers the president can work on is the number of Americans who think he cares about people like them and is trying to help them. In a country where virtually all of us identify as middle-class, the fact that the polls show that most Americans don't think his policies help the middle class leaves open the question of who they do help. Not the poor, either, according to the poll.

And certainly not the rich, if you listen to the rhetoric. Whoever is being helped — there must be someone — apparently doesn't know it. The president has, at the very least, a very serious communications problem.

We are at a troubling point in our politics. The president's approval/disapproval numbers are bad: 36/57, meaning he isn't even carrying the Democratic base. But Congress' are lower still, with only 15% of Americans approving of the job Congress is doing. This is against a backdrop of hearings that have called into question the very foundation of our democracy as it existed on Jan. 6.



Getty Images

Who is there to trust?

President Joe Biden came into office as the decent and honorable alternative. He is still that. And that still matters. But it isn't enough, at least not when inflation is soaring and nearly half of us say we're struggling to stay even. It's always the economy.

New York Times pays for opposition research into talk radio

By Tim Graham

Here's one easy way to figure out if a newspaper is in the tank for the Democrats: Do they spend money to study how Democrats are being unfairly attacked on conservative talk radio?

The answer is "yes" at the New York Times. Their front page on July 5 carried a story titled "Right-Wing Radio Sows Doubt About a Vote Yet to Take Place." This is a weird take coming from liberals who often bombastically talk about how we may never have another free and fair election.

The Times reporter is Stuart A. Thompson. They say he "writes about online information flows." The liberal media hates the idea that there are "information flows" allowed in America that say mean things about Democrats. Reporters on the "misinformation" beat (as well as the "extremism" beat) are laser-focused on villainous conservatives.

Thompson's story began by complaining, "To many conservative commentators, the fix is already in. Democrats have cheated before, they say, and they will cheat again. Never mind that the claims are false." They found radio hosts who said Democrats will lose control of Congress unless they cheat. That's a prediction. It can't be false in advance. Do they really want to claim it's untrue that "Democrats have cheated before"?

Here's the money graf, as in where the Times spent their money: "Mentions of 'Democrats cheating' and similar ideas were raised more than 5,000 times on syndicated radio shows and local broadcasts this

year, according to an analysis of data from Critical Mention, a media monitoring service. Similar ideas were mentioned a few hundred times on television shows and podcasts tracked by Critical Mention during the same period."

How much money did the Times spend for Critical Mention to find these 5,000-plus examples? There was no "online information flow" on that question. They just want to use their front-page real estate to discourage anyone from saying the words "Democrats cheating."

The story includes a pile of quotes from offending right-wing radio hosts (and audio clips to imbibe online).

It would make sense for a newspaper that says "truth" is everything to focus on anyone who would echo former President Donald Trump's claim of a "sacred landslide victory." That's not true. They report Trump proclaimed in his Jan. 6, 2021, rally that Democrats changed voting laws "because they want to cheat."

Thompson wrote, "Republican politicians and cable outlets like Fox News have carried the torch for Mr. Trump's conspiracy theories ever since." Is that entirely true? Or does it have some partisan spit on the

ball?

Deep in the article on page A-13, Thompson asserted, "Liberal commentators have also claimed Republicans cheated or will cheat again, but to a far lesser extent." Did the Times pay a "media monitoring service" to prove "a far lesser extent"? Or was it just a hunch?

Thompson noted that, after the 2018 election, Stacey Abrams refused to concede in her race to be governor of Georgia, and a big petition on her behalf was titled "Don't Let Georgia Republicans Cheat and Steal the Governor's Mansion from Stacey Abrams." But he lamented that, since then, conservative radio hosts have "painted her efforts to improve voter access, particularly for historically disenfranchised groups, as a way to enable cheating."

Claims of voter fraud or cheating are used to influence (and discourage) voting. But so are claims that anyone who tries to tighten election eligibility is "Jim Crow 2.0," and we can be sure the Times won't spend money to count how many times the liberals have falsely compared conservatives to violent segregationists.

Tim Graham is director of media analysis at the Media Research Center and executive editor of the blog NewsBusters.org.

Fireworks

Dear Editor:

From what I can tell, the City of Downey policy of no tolerance for illegal fireworks must be completely unenforceable.

We had explosions of illegal fireworks for hours in my neighborhood in South Downey last night that didn't end until around midnight.

Michele LeBourgeois
Downey

Attack on the Capitol

Dear Editor:

In response to Martha Morrissey's letter from June 30, I have issues with her condemning an investigation of the attack on the United States's capitol.

First, Ms. Morrissey refers to the committee members as "seven Democrats and two Republicans (in name only)." I have to disagree; it is made of nine American Congress members of all which are honoring their oaths to defend the Constitution of the United States, something all those serving in our government do no matter which political party they are affiliated with. The two Republicans are not in name only; in fact they are true conservatives.

Article I of the Constitution states: "The Legislative Branch has the powers to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States of America." The legislative branch is doing its job and defending our democracy. I am not sure what those that follow former President Trump are called but they do not represent the Republican party of Lincoln or true Conservatism, for they seem to put one man over their country, embracing ideals that certain people of one-color matter; that is one aspect of fascism.

In addition, that retaining power seems more important than defending the Constitution of the U.S. To put what happened on January 6 behind us is like saying you're dismissing the Constitution, throwing away our democracy. In a Democracy all people matter.

Secondly, Ms. Morrissey questions our free and fair elections based on our former president's lie. The 2020 elections were the most secure election to date. She stated that "election results have been questioned many times in the past." I believe she is referring to Florida in 2000, perhaps the only time I can recall a recount, because it was so close with a margin of 537 votes. In the 2020 election it was a difference of 7 million votes with Trump losing that election.

It is also on record that former President Trump was able to seek out "voting irregularities" in 61 court cases and no fraud was uncovered.

I stand with American democracy, and we cannot have any one person threaten our constitution or our democracy again.

Joanne Gallo
Downey

Roe v. Wade

Dear Editor:

The Supreme Court handed down their ruling overturning Roe v. Wade on June 24. Pro-lifers have hailed the decision, stating that there is no right to abortion in the Constitution. This is wrong, at least in the way it is framed.

The Ninth Amendment states that just because a right is absent in the Constitution doesn't mean it does not exist. In other words, the rights in the Constitution are not a complete list. The Founding Fathers couldn't have possibly listed every single right imaginable; the Constitution would be dozens of pages long. I urge everyone reading this to look up the Ninth Amendment and read more about it; it was never highlighted to me in school.

Furthermore, the Due Process Clause of the Constitution bars the government from passing laws that blatantly restrict the freedoms and liberties of individuals. The Due Process Clause was used to strike down laws banning interracial marriage, restricting contraception, and also declared Jim Crow laws unconstitutional. This makes the Supreme Court's decision even more appalling, as they wantonly ignored precedent and multiple Constitutional amendments.

At least three of the justices lied during their confirmation hearings, saying they believed Roe was settled law and that they would not try to overturn it. This is all part of a concerted effort by the pro-life movement to totally ban abortion throughout the United States.

So while the overturning of Roe v. Wade seems like a clear victory for them, in reality it's an admission of defeat; they have failed to win over public opinion, they have failed to change hearts and minds over abortion. They cannot win through the ballot box nor in the court of public opinion (a majority of Americans support access to abortion), so they are bypassing the people and going directly through the courts. Instead of becoming unpopular, more Americans agree with the Roe ruling now than in the 1970s.

All of the current abortion bans have been passed through state legislatures, not by direct votes made by the people. Even though pro-lifers have stated they only want to return the abortion issue to the states, prominent Republicans have already moved the goalposts, saying they want a national abortion ban.

According to Gallup, only 13% of Americans support totally banning abortion without any exceptions. The idea of California being beholden to unelected, extreme, out-of-state politicians is angering. They are blatantly disregarding the will of the people. This is deeply undemocratic and frankly, authoritarian.

Edward Valencia
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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Property value decrease is reviewable

By Jeff Prang
Los Angeles County Assessor

There's an important date that will allow property owners to file an application that may allow for a decrease in their property tax because of a decrease in the value of the very same property.

The date is July 2nd and it's for filing a Decline-in-Value Review. For those unaware of what a Decline-In-Value Review entails the following information should be helpful. Furthermore, the 2022 Decline-in-Value filing period is July 2, 2022, through November 30, 2022. Applications will be available beginning on July 2, 2022. For more information, visit: www.assessor.lacounty.gov/div

California's Proposition 13 established the base year value for property tax assessment. It also caps the growth of a property's assessed value at no more than two percent a year unless the market value of a property falls below the base year value.

In 1978, California voters passed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that allows a temporary reduction in assessed value when a property suffers a "decline-in-value." A decline-in-value occurs when the current market value of a property is less than the current assessed value as of January 1.

The office of the Assessor mailed over 59,000 Decline-in-Value review notifications to property owners with existing reductions in 2021. Additionally, over 1,400 Decline-in-Value review notifications were sent to commercial property owners. These commercial properties, likely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, were reviewed proactively by the Assessor for possible reductions in assessed



Getty Image

value for 2021.

You must file a Decline-in-Value Review Application form (RP-87) with the Assessor between July 2 and November 30 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1. Applications are valid if postmarked by November 30. If November 30 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, an application is valid if either filed or postmarked by the next business day.

You must demonstrate that on January 1, the market value of your property was less than its current assessed value.

On your claim form, provide the Assessor with information that supports your opinion that the market value for your property is less than the assessed

value. The best supporting documentation is information on sales of comparable properties. You should select two comparable sales that sold as close to January 1 as possible, but no later than March 31. You may query the Assessor's database for sales in your neighborhood by visiting the Property Assessment Information System. While the submission of comparable sales is helpful for the Assessor in determining the market value of your property, applications submitted without comparable sales will be accepted and processed.

If the market value as of January 1 is less than the trended base value, your assessed value will be lowered to the market value for the fiscal year beginning on July 1. The adjusted value will

be reflected on your annual tax bill.

If the current market value is higher than the trended base value, no change in the assessed value will be made. Property owners are encouraged to review the Assessor's website, assessor.lacounty.gov/div, for more information about Decline-in-Value and how property value is assessed.

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Kaiser Downey inspires next generation of doctors

DOWNEY — For more than 17 years, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center physicians and staff have inspired local youth to pursue medicine through the Kaiser Permanente Hippocrates Circle program, which introduces a diverse group of middle school students to careers in health care.

The 2022 Kaiser Permanente Hippocrates Circle program kicked off in January—after being completely revamped to ensure COVID-19 safety precautions were met—with a total of 35 students from Bellflower Middle School.

Instead of the usual medical center tour, this year the tour came to their school and students experienced exciting hands-on activities, including:

A CPR class hosted by the Kaiser Permanente Downey Staff Education Department

A healthy eating discussion held by the Kaiser Permanente Downey Center of Healthy Living

A "Future Doctor Kit" station where students were shown how to use basic medical instruments by two family medicine physicians from Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center, Aide Perez-Soto, MD, and Milagro Ramos, MD, who is also the program's physician champion

Students also participated in virtual discussions in which

a diverse group of physicians and department administrators from Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center spoke to students about their career journeys.

These events are designed to help students visualize themselves preparing for medical school.

At the May 11 graduation ceremony, the students were honored with certificates issued by Rep. Linda Sanchez, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, and Bellflower City Council to recognize this major milestone and congratulate the next generation of medical professionals.

"The Hippocrates Circle graduation is a program favorite because the students receive their first stethoscope and it really makes them feel like they are on their way to becoming a doctor," Dr. Ramos said. "Doing this program gives me a chance to motivate young minds and give them information that I did not have when I was growing up. It shows them that if they want to become doctors, they can do it."

The Hippocrates Circle program is the first step in a long line of youth workforce development programs that Kaiser Permanente offers, including the Volunteer Program, INROADS internships, and Residency and Fellowship opportunities.

'Taste of Rio' raises nearly \$70K

WHITTIER — "A Taste of Rio," the signature event of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, raised nearly \$70,000 for student scholarships and other support services.

Foundation officials hosted a crowd of some 400 guests at the college's campus on June 17, where they were met with lively music and bright decorations during the outdoor event. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of tastings including Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards, Gondola Pizza, Mi Burrito Mexican Grill, Eastaza Coffee and Angry Horse Brewing.

Guests included students, community members, Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees staff and administrators, as well as Assemblymember Mike Fong, El Monte Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga, Whittier Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo and other elected officials.

"We are so thankful for the outpouring of support for 'A Taste of Rio,'" Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "The money raised from this event are paramount in providing scholarships and support services to our students. I'm

so happy that this marked my ninth year attending this event, which was yet again another great success."

Dreyfuss also said she felt honored to have attended all nine 'A Taste of Rio' events and that this latest was a way to say goodbye to the campus when she retires on June 30.

"A Taste of Rio" began in 2012 as a way to provide additional financial support to students, but was put on hiatus for the last three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event also included a silent auction, during which guests bid on items such as a Las Vegas getaway, a Nespresso coffee maker, tickets to a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game and more, raising an additional \$8,374.28 for student scholarships and other support services.

"It is so great to have A Taste of Rio back after a short hiatus - I greatly missed having the event because it always brings the community together for a good cause. Now that it's back, it's also a neat and fun way to mark the start of summer for the Rio Hondo College community," Board of Trustees President Vicky Santana said.

Dr. Mercedes Gutierrez named Cerritos College Vice President of Human Resources

NORWALK — Cerritos College named Dr. Mercedes Gutierrez as vice president and assistant superintendent of human resources.

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees approved her contract at its regular meeting on June 8. Dr. Gutierrez assumed her role on June 22. She oversees the Human Resources Office, including employee relations.

Dr. Gutierrez comes to Cerritos College with a wealth of experience in human resources management in the public education sector. Most recently, she served as Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Resources at the Los Angeles Community College District where she was the Director of Human Resources. Prior to that, Dr. Gutierrez served as Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)'s Coordinator of Human

Resource Services for nine years.

Dr. Gutierrez earned a doctorate in educational leadership from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She also earned two master's degrees: one in bilingual/bicultural education from Loyola Marymount University, and one in educational leadership from California State University, Los Angeles.

"I look forward to the depth of experience and knowledge that Dr. Gutierrez will bring to Human Resources and our campus community," said Cerritos College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. "Dr. Gutierrez will be instrumental in helping the College work together to empower every individual so they may reach their full potential in support of our diverse campus community."

New technology credited with saving life at St. Francis Medical Center

LYNWOOD — Gasping for breath and scared for her life, Lynwood resident Deborah Williams was in critical condition when she was rushed to St. Francis Medical Center, a member of Prime Healthcare, where she faced a frightening diagnosis: pulmonary embolism (PE) — a large and potentially deadly blood clot in her lung.

She had been feeling off for over a month, visiting several community and academic hospitals with worsening symptoms. Now in the St. Francis ER, her breaths were shallow. Her oxygen was plummeting to dangerous levels.

It was then that Williams, 69, became among the first patients in St. Francis' Southeast Los Angeles service area to undergo a minimally

invasive procedure using the new Inari Medical FlowTrier, an advanced system whereby a flexible tube called a catheter is maneuvered toward the clots through a small skin puncture to engage and remove them in a single session. The process is completed without anesthesia, clot-busting medicines, or mandatory ICU admission.

"This procedure is transformative for the treatment of large blood clots in the lungs and legs," said Shailender Bhatia, MD, Vascular and Interventional Radiologist at St. Francis. "Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, collectively venous thromboembolism (VTE), is the third most common cause of heart-related death in the US, behind heart attack and stroke. VTE affects about a million Americans annually

with a composite mortality rate of 30% — a statistic that's remained virtually unchanged for 50-60 years," continued Bhatia.

In approximately an hour, St. Francis interventional radiologists Rajesh Bhavsar, MD, and Jason Deutsch, MD, successfully removed 95% of the enormous blood clots from Williams' lungs. By the time the access site was closed with a small stitch, Williams' breaths deepened as her oxygen levels soared to normal levels. Her heart and lungs resumed normal function almost immediately.

"Until this technology became available, up to 90% of patients just like her would go home on blood-thinners alone, which only prevent new clots from forming," explained Bhavsar. "Others were treated with thrombolytic (clot-busting) medicine that carry high bleed risks, like bleeds in the brain."

"I'm so grateful to the St. Francis Medical Center team for saving my life," Williams said. "The doctors were so kind and explained the procedure. I was comfortable and alert during the procedure and have good memories of talking with the team. I received excellent care, better than any other place."

Cath Lab and Interventional Radiology Manager Kelye Davis, MSN, RN, CVRN-BC, coordinates the comprehensive VTE Program at St. Francis Medical Center. She recalls when PE was a virtual

death sentence until the Inari technology became available. "It's a true blessing to work at a hospital committed to offering the latest technology to serve patients within the community," said Davis. "The Inari procedure is just one example of the many advanced cutting-edge medical techniques available at St. Francis."

Dr. Bhatia was an early proponent of the Inari Medical FlowTrier, recognizing the system's significant patient care benefits. Designed to remove blood clots through both mechanical and aspiration mechanisms, the process is designed to eliminate the need for thrombolytic drugs or blood thinners and effectively keeps patients out of the intensive care unit.

St. Francis CEO Lawrence Barnard felt strongly about bringing this technology to the community and to building a blood clot program at the hospital. "The Inari system lays the foundation for a regional VTE response team to complement the hospital's existing Stroke and STEMI (heart attack) programs," said Barnard. "VTE, Stroke and STEMI are blood-clot conditions, as well as PE and DVT which are caused by larger clots and are just as devastating. St. Francis Medical Center and Prime Healthcare are committed to investing in technology that ensures this community has access to advanced treatments that enable patients to regain health and the best quality of life possible."

Ms. Williams is now feeling great.

"I felt back to 100% in just a couple of days," she said.

In Memory of

Barbara Diel

January 26, 1938 - July 1, 2022

Barbara Sue Diel, 84, of Downey, Ca. passed away on July 1, 2022 surrounded by her family. Barbara was born on January 26, 1938 to Russell and Mary DePasquale in New York, she immediately brought joy and laughter into their world. The DePasquale's relocated to Southern California in 1953. Barbara went on to graduate from Bell High School in 1955. After graduation she started her first job as a telephone operator for Pacific Bell Telephone Company. She worked her way up to be the administrative secretary for the Vice President. In 1962, she met Vern and two years later they married and have been inseparable. Barbara and Vern were married for 54 years and had two children, Karen and Christine. They raised their daughters in Downey. In 1988, Barbara retired after a 30-year career with Pacific Bell Telephone Company. Barbara and Vern enjoyed their retirement traveling to many different countries. When Barbara wasn't traveling, she enjoyed playing bingo, attending her weekly senior club luncheons and working on crossword puzzles. Barbara was a fiercely dedicated mom to her children. Family came first and was above all else to Barbara, a value she instilled in all those around her. The void left by her absence is impossible for the family to fill. Barbara joins her parents, Russell and Mary in heaven. She is survived by her husband Vernon, her brother Paul, her children Karen (Paul), Christine and her grandchildren, Lauren, Michael and Rachel and her great-grandchildren Brody, Cora and Lucy.

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Norwalk Council denies carwash



Red Mountain Group director of development John Clay listens to public comments against SuperStar Carwash. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

■ After strong public opposition to the proposed SuperStar Carwash, city council voted to uphold the planning commission's denial of the business.

By Vincent Medina Contributor

NORWALK — City Council denied an appeal for Red Mountain Group [RMG] SuperStar Carwash at Studebaker Road and Rosecrans Avenue during Tuesday's meeting.

RMG's request to build the carwash had already previously been denied by the planning commission.

Had RMG earned the commission's approval, the Norwalk True Value Hardware store, TNT Mexican Restaurant and Vic's Barber Shop would have been demolished and replaced with the automated facility.

RMG director of development John Clay tried to dismiss the public's concerns to the council and cited initial approval from staff.

"One of the issues from the public was the false perception that there are too many car washes

and actually there's only three car washes in the area," Clay said. "The staff report on this table recommended approval process, citing consistency with the general plan land use compliance with the performance standards required under the Norwalk Municipal Code and consistency."

Kyle McDonald counseled the property owner and spoke on their behalf. McDonald criticized the planning commission because he believed they listened to public opinion over the facts of their proposal.

"We addressed all of the factual concerns and what we were left with was really basically our opinions," McDonald said. "And the decision that was handed down on the commission was based on opinions that are nonsense."

Community residents spoke out in strong opposition to the car wash.

Ken Vice expressed the concern that the car wash will reduce businesses in the area and addressed RMG's lack of concern for public opinion.

"In terms of whether they've done their due diligence in listening

to the community if we need this business, they haven't succeeded in doing this," Vice said.

Sylvester Ani also opposed the car wash, stating that the business would not be used given the large public opposition.

"The Commission is doing this business favor by denying the project because if the community isn't in support of that project, now, that's not going to change after it gets built," Ani said. "And that's not going to be a good evening. So, I think that it benefits all parties as well, to not try and force a square peg into a round hole."

After hearing public testimony, the council voted unanimously to uphold the planning commission's denial.

"We take this role of care very seriously. We're accountable and beholden to the residents of the city of Norwalk," Mayor Rick Ramirez said. "We see developers coming in with what they want, but it's not what Norwalk wants, it's not what Norwalk needs."

Clay and the members of the RMG left abruptly as the community residents applauded the decision.

IVF clinic responds to gay couple's wrong embryo suit

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Responding to a gay couple's lawsuit that alleges their wishes to have a son were thwarted when a female embryo was wrongly implanted in their gestational carrier, a spokesman for a Pasadena-based in vitro fertilization clinic said Wednesday every child has "value and limitless potential regardless of gender."

Plaintiffs Albert and Anthony Saniger brought the lawsuit Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court against HRC Fertility and fertility specialist Dr. Bradford A. Kolb, alleging breach of contract, medical malpractice, negligence, fraudulent concealment and violation of the Unfair Competition Law and the Consumer Legal Remedies Act. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

"At HRC Fertility, our mission is to provide world-class care," a spokesman for the clinic said. "We have helped thousands of people, including the couple involved in this lawsuit."

While the Sanigers ideally desired a baby boy, they were nonetheless blessed with a healthy girl and HRC has sought to address their concerns, according to the spokesman.

"Every child has value and limitless potential regardless of gender," the spokesman said. "We

hope the Sanigers find love and value in their healthy child while so many across the country are struggling with reproductive issues."

The Sanigers met more than 10 years ago, married in 2013 and dreamed of having a maximum of two children, both sons, the suit states. Before they were wed, the Sanigers chose first and middle names for their future sons in May 2015 and created Gmail accounts for their future offspring with their first and last names, the suit states.

Throughout the process, the Sanigers were explicit with HRC and Kolb that they wanted only male embryos transferred to their gestational carrier and the defendants represented that the Sanigers would get to select the exact embryos, which had an identified gender, to be used in each transfer, the suit states.

Instead, HRC and Kolb "negligently, recklessly, and/or intentionally transferred a female embryo to the Sanigers' gestational carrier," according to the suit.

HRC "specifically targets" families in the LGBTQ community and its website says the clinic is "dedicated to helping the gay and lesbian community achieve their dreams of parenthood," the suit states.

HRC's website also states that Kolb is internationally known for his expertise in complex reproductive

matters and that patients come from around the world to seek his services, the suit states. The website further states that Kolb's practice is known for helping to develop and implement cutting-edge technologies in the genetic screening of embryos and the development of new laboratory technologies, according to the suit.

IVF is a particularly expensive process for male gay couples who must arrange for their children to be carried to term by a gestational carrier, the suit states. In May 2020, the Sanigers provided their sperm to HRC to create their embryos and arrangements were made for donor eggs and a gestational carrier through a third-party agency at a total cost to the plaintiffs of about \$300,000, the suit states.

Unsuccessful transfers occurred in July and September 2020 before their surrogate became pregnant in December of that year, the suit states.

The Sanigers' daughter was born in 2021, the suit states.

"To this day, HRC has offered no explanation for how this error occurred," the suit states.

The financial impact to the Sanigers is "staggering" because they ultimately will be raising three children rather than the two sons for which they had planned, the suit states.

Fierro elected president of state college board

NORWALK — At its June Board meeting, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) board elected Dr. Jose Fierro as the 2022-23 board president.

Dr. Fierro will serve a three-year term through 2026. He will lead the 15-member board that includes chancellors, superintendent/ presidents, and presidents of 116 colleges and districts across the California community college system.

Members are elected by the CEOs in specific regions.

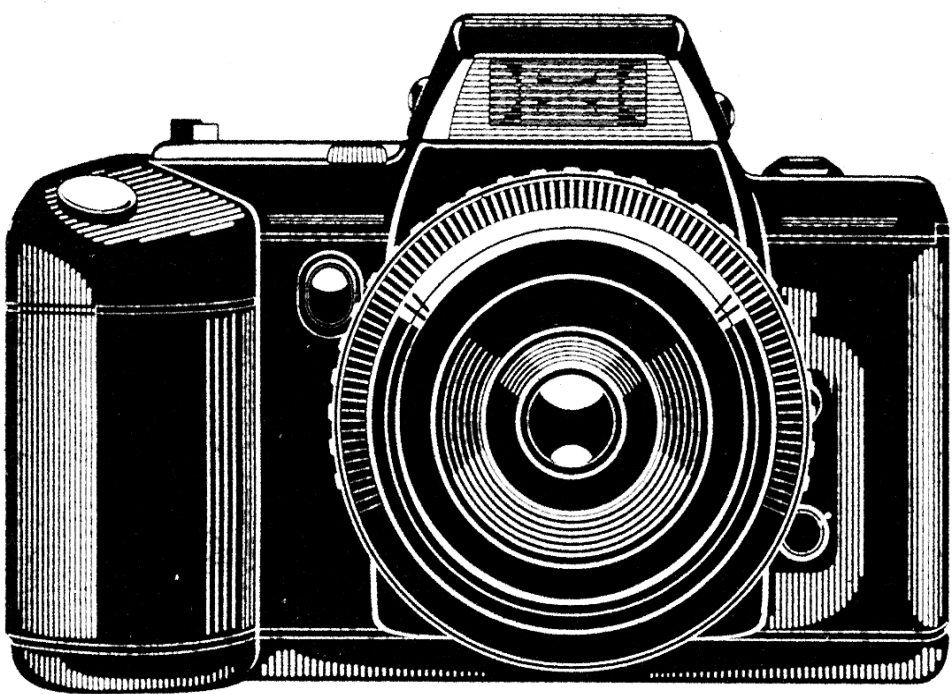
"I am humbled by the opportunity to lead this visionary CEOCCC board this coming year," said Fierro. "As new and stubborn challenges arise, the board will be laser-focused on fresh ideas to innovate old modalities that have historically limited student access and equity."

"Our ultimate goal is to identify strategies that lift our students and their families out of poverty and into the middle class, especially during this time of economic uncertainty. By investing in more resources and implementing strategic policies, the CEOCCC Board can help our

districts to adopt more holistic support models that remove barriers so our students can thrive.

"I'm excited to work with my colleagues to advance our mission of student success."

The CEOCCC board takes positions on education policy issues that come before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the California State Legislature. CEOCCC board members represent their colleagues by region or at large and fulfill the important responsibility of analyzing and making recommendations on legislation and the state budget.



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The Downey Patriot

DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and learn how to sign up for and use email, type up text documents, and browse the internet. Free but registration required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Book & Movie Club: 12 Angry Men, 11 am. Read the play and then watch a special screening of the Sidney Lumet directed movie, "12 Angry Men," with a discussion afterwards. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Wild West Quill, 4 pm. A Cowboy-themed dinner for Downey senior citizens. \$5 admission. Reservations must be made in person no later than 2 pm the Friday prior. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

Concerts at the Park, 7 pm. Popular band Cold Duck performs live. Food will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association. Dogs must be on a leash, bring your own chair. No umbrellas or pop-up shade structures. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Live Music at the Stardust, 8 pm. Live performances by Los So Lows and Stephanie Amaro. \$10 presale, \$20 at the door. Dress code is sharp (collars, slacks and dress shoes). Stardust, 7643 Firestone Ave.

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Excursion to see "Pretty Woman: The Musical," 3 pm. A day trip to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts to see "Pretty Woman: The Musical." Open to adults ages 50 and older. \$55 for Downey residents, \$59 for non-residents. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Concerts at the Park, 7 pm. Pop and soul band Soul 3 Sixty performs live. Food will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association. Dogs must be on a leash, bring your own chair. No umbrellas or pop-up shade structures. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and learn how to sign up for and use email, type up text documents, and browse the internet. Free but registration required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Concerts at the Park, 7 pm. The Downey Symphony closes out Downey's concerts in the park series. Food will be sold by the Downey Rose Float Association. Dogs must be on a leash, bring your

own chair. No umbrellas or pop-up shade structures. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Live Music at the Stardust, 8 pm. Live performances by Nick Pagan and Rosalie Elena Rodriguez. \$10 presale, \$20 at the door. Dress code is sharp (collars, slacks and dress shoes). Stardust, 7643 Firestone Ave.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

National Night Out, 5:30 pm. Learn about crime prevention and local resources. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

Excursion to Pageant of the Masters, 4 pm. "Wonderful World" is the theme of this year's Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach. Trip includes plenty of time for dinner before the show and to explore the pageant amphitheater. \$45 for Downey residents, \$49 for non-residents. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Backpack Giveaway, 2 pm. Students and their families are invited to receive a free backpack and school supplies, courtesy of Gangs Out of Downey. Golden Park, 8840 Golden St.

Music and a Movie, 5 pm. Enjoy live music, food booths, food trucks, a prize walk, and a movie starting at dusk. Golden Park, 8840 Golden St.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Health Workshop: Medicare & Medical Plans, 10 am. A free workshop for adults ages 50 and older sponsored by Medicare Corner Group. Reservations required by calling (562) 904-7223. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

Downey Pride Sunset Festival, 5-10 pm. Live music, performances, food and drink specials, beer garden, photo booth, vendors, and more. Downtown Downey

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Rocket Fever, 10 am to 5 pm. Come by and build then fly your own rocket. Sponsored by Financial Partners Credit Union., Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

Downey Pride Family Picnic, 12-6 pm. Live performances, free food,

vendors, face painting, and more. Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Blood Drive, 11 am to 5 pm. Sign up at redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code "Downey" Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Computer & Internet Safety, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the fundamentals of safe internet browsing and how to better safeguard yourself both on and offline. Free but registration required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Computer & Internet Safety, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the fundamentals of safe internet browsing and how to better safeguard yourself both on and offline. Free but registration required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Kiwanis Golf Tournament, 12 pm. The 24th annual L'Abri Golf Classic benefiting Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis and the Downey Family YMCA. RSVP to jfztzl@labrimanagement.com. Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

16th Annual Senior Follies, 1 pm and 5 pm. A talent show by Downey's most talented senior citizens. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Ricky Galvez Memorial Golf Tournament, 12 pm. A golf tournament fundraiser hosted by Gangs Out of Downey. More details to follow. Rio Hondo Golf Course, 10627 Old River School Rd.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas Parade, 1 pm. Downey's annual Christmas Parade presented by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, featuring bands, floats, classic cars, dance troupes, and Santa Claus. Downey Avenue

Man killed handling illegal fireworks in Montebello

By City News Service

MONTEBELLO - An investigation was continuing Tuesday into the death of a man who authorities say was killed in an explosion while handling illegal fireworks in Montebello.

The blast occurred about 6:30 p.m. Monday in the yard of a home in the 1400 block of Germain Drive, according to the Montebello Police Department.

Paramedics responding to the home found the 42-year-old man unconscious and took him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. His name has not yet been released.

Montebello police went to the residence on a report of a person injured by fireworks, said Michael Chee of the city of Montebello.

"Upon arrival, Montebello Fire and paramedics were also summoned," Chee said in a statement, "An adult male victim, age 42, was suffering from serious injuries as a result of attempting to use an illegal firework. ...

"A preliminary investigation indicated the victim was attempting to ignite or use a high powered, mortar type, aerial firework that is illegal in the City of Montebello, (the) County of Los Angeles and the State of California," Chee said.

"The victim apparently

attempted to hold the device when the firework went off and caused severe trauma to his upper torso," Chee said.

Chee said Montebello Fire Department personnel investigated, and confiscated all fireworks paraphernalia found at the scene that were involved in the accident. A full report is pending, Chee said.

Chee also said no other injuries were reported.

"Initial findings indicate he personally brought the illegal fireworks to this private gathering with him," Chee said.

"Although 'safe and sane' fireworks are legal and sold in the City of Montebello, high powered aerial fireworks are illegal," Chee said. "This tragic accident and death was avoidable and serves as an unfortunate and grim reminder of the danger posed by illegal and high power fireworks."



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"Lilian Lopez is an excellent person! Always answered all my questions and was very patient and attentive when explaining everything" - **Dania Raya**

FEATURED PROPERTY



Don't Wait!!
This 3 bedroom and 1.75 bathroom home is conveniently located in the city of Downey. Property features high vaulted ceilings, crown moldings, and a built-in fireplace located in the dining room. The primary bedroom is spacious with double closets and ensuite bathroom. **Call Today!!**

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Beautiful beach front view 1 bedroom 1 bath condo on the 3rd floor. It's all about the location and this is it! Condo comes with stainless steel appliances. Community pool and spa. Enjoy the beautiful sunsets on your patio. Secure parking garage. Close to shopping and dining. **Call Today!!**



This is the one!!
This 3-bedroom home features laminated floors, fireplace in the living room, open concept kitchen with granite counters, newer wood cabinets and a large master bedroom with ample closets. It has a double entrance on both streets with concrete driveways, plenty of fruit trees, custom landscaping, drip irrigation systems, large storage, wrought iron gate, garage attached with laundry area and RV. Boat parking. **Call Today!!**



Must See!!
Beautiful 3-bedroom 2.5-bathroom home in a gated community. Gorgeous master bedroom with walk in closet and sliding doors leading to deck. Teak wood floors in bedrooms. Fireplace in living room and dining room. Slate stone courtyard, BBQ, and dining area. Spa & 2 car attached garage. **Call Today!!**



Triplex!!
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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>12618 EASTBROOK, DOWNEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1,356 sq. ft. 7,163 sq. ft. lot <p>LISTED FOR \$775,000</p>	<p>JUST LISTED</p>  <p>OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-4:30PM</p>	<p>JUST LISTED</p>  <p>OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 12-4PM</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>GREAT LONG BEACH LOCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 separate units Each unit has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath Large lot <p>CALL JIMMY FOR PRICE!</p>	<p>HOT! HOT! HOT! AND SO IS MARIO!</p> <p>SOLD 12074 RIVES AVE, DOWNEY I REPRESENTED THE SELLER</p> <p>SOLD 11522 SAMOLINE, DOWNEY I REPRESENTED THE SELLER</p> <p>SOLD 11845 HORTON, DOWNEY I REPRESENTED THE SELLER</p> <p>SOLD 12332 HORLEY DOWNEY I REPRESENTED THE SELLER</p> <p>SOLD 8253 GARDENDALE, DOWNEY I REPRESENTED THE SELLER</p>
<p>SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER</p>  <p>10544 LEMORAN, DOWNEY</p> <p>LISTED FOR \$825,000 SOLD FOR \$910,000 SOLD \$85,000 ABOVE LIST PRICE!</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bedrooms 1.75 bathrooms Family room with fireplace Great starter at a great price! <p>LISTED FOR \$719,000</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 beds 2 baths 1,959 sq. ft. 9,230 sq. ft. lot Newly remodeled kitchen Large family room 2 car detached garage <p>LISTED FOR \$1,075,000</p>	 <p>VICKI SPEARMAN REALTOR® 562-367-9520 ICARE4DOW@AOL.COM DRE #00542721</p> <p>YOUR HOME CAN BE ADVERTISED HERE</p> <p>CALL VICKI TODAY FOR A FREE MARKET EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>NORTH DOWNEY, REDUCED!</p>
<p>SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER</p>  <p>9840 MYRON, PICO RIVERA</p> <p>LISTED FOR \$675,000 SOLD FOR \$712,000 SOLD \$37,000 ABOVE LIST PRICE!</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>201-203 KEMP, COMPTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-2 bedrooms 1 bath units 1 unit remodeled 1-2 car garage on duplex <p>SOLD \$55,000 OVER LIST PRICE!</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>UPGRADES GALORE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1,386 sq. ft. New kitchen & baths <p>LISTED FOR \$799,950</p>	<p>CALL TODAY FOR A FREE EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME!</p> <p>562.761.0597</p> <p>GET TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR HOME TOO!</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>NORTH DOWNEY GEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1,446 sq. ft. Detached bonus room <p>LISTED FOR \$875,000</p>
<p>SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER</p>  <p>7504 MULLER, DOWNEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedrooms 4 bathrooms 3,288 sq. ft. Call us to help sell yours! <p>SOLD FOR: \$1,250,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>NORTH DOWNEY HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedrooms 4 bathrooms 3,549 sq. ft. 7,499 Sq. Ft. Lot <p>SOLD FOR TOP DOLLAR!</p>	<p>CALL FOR A FREE MARKET EVALUATION TODAY!</p> <p>562-818-6111</p> <p>WWW.MICHAELBERDELIS.COM</p>	<p>MARIO PERSICO BORN EDUCATED LIVES WORSHIPS IN DOWNEY</p> <p>562-533-7433 -REALTOR® SINCE 2002- MARIO@MARIOPERSICO.COM</p>	



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