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**Blanca Pacheco wins Assembly seat**

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**ELECTION**  
**Robert Garcia to be Downey's next congressman**

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## Election Results

### Downey City Council (District 2)

Hector Sosa: 1,739  
Anthony Felix: 588  
Art Montoya: 476

### Downey City Council (District 4)

Claudia Frometa: 2,420  
Joaquin Beltran: 831  
Juan Martinez: 263

### Measure D (Hotel Tax)

NO: 8,155  
YES: 3,935

### Measure K (School Bond)

YES: 7,230 (55.42%)  
NO: 5,817 (44.58%)

### Cerritos College Measure CC (bond)

YES: 26,568 (55.35%)  
NO: 21,434 (44.65%)

### U.S. Representative (42nd District)

Robert Garcia: 48,410  
John Briscoe: 27,467

### State Assembly (64th District)

Blanca Pacheco: 24,690  
Raul Ortiz Jr.: 18,210

### State Senate (30th District)

Bob Archuleta: 61,266  
Mitch Clemmons: 44,673

### L.A. County Sheriff

Robert Luna: 687,127  
Alex Villanueva: 522,926

### County Measure A (Sheriff Removal)

YES: 838,980  
NO: 386,514

### County Measure C (marijuana tax)

YES: 698,674  
NO: 487,991

### Governor

Gavin Newsom: 816,449  
Brian Dahle: 470,319  
*Vote totals unofficial.*

# Frometa, Sosa elected to City Council



Hector Sosa and Claudia Frometa at an election night party Tuesday. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

■ Claudia Frometa (District 4) was re-elected in overwhelming fashion. Hector Sosa (District 2) also won handily.

■ Frometa, Sosa ran on platforms of restoring stability to the City Council.

**By Alex Dominguez**  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** — Downey's political future became clear early on election night Tuesday, with both Councilwoman Claudia M. Frometa and candidate Hector Sosa dominating their races in quick, decisive fashion.

Frometa (District 4) jumped out to an early lead significantly ahead of Joaquin Beltran and never looked back, with nearly 69% of votes in her favor at the time of writing. Beltran trailed by almost three-fold, with over 23% of the vote.

Juan Martinez sat at the bottom of the pack, with only 7% of votes.

Sosa also enjoyed a consistent, comfortable lead with over 62% of votes. Dr. Anthony Felix had secured around 20% of votes, trailed by Art Montoya, who sat at the bottom with nearly 17% of votes.

Both Frometa and Sosa declared victory in press releases on Wednesday.

"I would like to thank the voters of Downey for entrusting me to serve as their city councilwoman. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly," Frometa said.

"This election was not about me -- it was about restoring a moral compass to the City

Council. Downey residents are eager for elected leaders that will put the best interests of Downey ahead of everything else.

"The next four years will be critical to Downey's future. I'm ready to get back to work."

Sosa was similarly thankful, and expressed eagerness for the beginning of his term.

"We knocked on doors, talked to voters, and had serious conversations about the issues facing Downey," said Sosa. "Voters understood that Downey is a community that values ethics, decency and hard work, and I'm humbled to have earned their support."

"I'd like to thank every volunteer who helped make this campaign a success. But most

of all I want to thank my wife and kids, who sacrificed nights, weekends and so much more over the past year.

"They will sacrifice even more over the next four to eight years as I work hard on behalf of the citizens of Downey. I never would have run for public office without their blessing.

"Thank you again to Downey voters for their trust. I'm excited to immediately get to work."

This will be Frometa's second term on the council, and Sosa's first.

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 72°

Saturday 70°

Sunday 66°

## THINGS TO DO



### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical

Saturday, 2 pm & 8 pm  
Downey Civic Theatre

Get in the Christmas spirit early with this live musical adaptation of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Two performances. Buy tickets online or at the box office.

## ON THIS DAY

**1775:** The United States Marine Corps was founded when the Continental Congress ordered that two battalions of marines be raised for service during the American Revolution.

**1879:** American poet Vachel Lindsay, who, in an attempt to revive poetry as an oral art form of the common people, wrote and read to audiences compositions with powerful rhythms that had an immediate appeal, was born.

**1898:** The multiracial Fusionist (Republican and Populist) city government of Wilmington, North Carolina, was violently overthrown, and as many as 60 Black Americans were killed in a premeditated murder spree that was the culmination of an organized months-long statewide campaign by white supremacists.

**1958:** The Hope diamond, one of the largest blue diamonds known, was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., becoming one of its most-popular attractions.

**1969:** The American children's TV series Sesame Street—which featured a cast of puppet characters that included Elmo, Big Bird, and the Cookie Monster—debuted on the National Educational Television network (later PBS).

**1990:** The comedy "Home Alone," starring Macaulay Culkin, had its world premiere.



## Top Songs on this Date

1992: "How Do You Talk to an Angel" by The Heights

2002: "Lose Yourself" by Eminem

2012: "Gangnam Style" by Psy

## Birthdays

Comedian **Sinbad** (66), comedian **Tracy Morgan** (54), "Grey's Anatomy" star **Ellen Pompeo** (53), rapper **Warren G** (52), DJ and music producer **Diplo** (44), rapper **Eve** (44) country singer **Miranda Lambert** (39), and "Drake & Josh" star **Josh Peck** (36).

# Tim Hutcherson nominated for TIME Dealer of the Year

**DOWNEY** — Tim Hutcherson, owner and dealer principal at Downey Nissan has been nominated for the 2023 TIME Dealer of the Year award, TIME has announced.

Hutcherson, 65, is one of a select group of 48 dealer nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 106th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show held in Dallas, Texas, on January 27, 2023.

A prestigious and highly coveted honor in the automobile industry, the TIME Dealer of the Year award recognizes the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service.

Hutcherson was chosen to represent the California New Car Dealers Association in the national competition — one of only 48 auto dealers nominated for the 54th annual award from more than 16,000 nationwide.

"I am overwhelmingly honored to have been chosen," said Hutcherson. "I've watched other people win the award, or receive the award, and always wondered what it would be like. To be

nominated was wonderful, but then to win at the moment for the state, I guess I'm proud and overjoyed."

Hutcherson opened Downey Nissan in 2008, and even through a recession and a pandemic, has been able to survive, thrive, and become integrated into the city of Downey.

He said Downey Nissan "has a relationship in the city."

"In the city of Downey, we've tried to do outreach... We've worked with the YMCA, we've worked with the school district, Rancho Los Amigos rehab, the Women's Center that's over here, police department, fire department," said Hutcherson. "I think if you do that in a community, you're not afraid to put yourself out there. They know who I am, they know who the store is. So, it kind of bodes well with the customer that no one's hiding around here; It's all right, there it is.

"I want to give back, and I think that pays off in customer satisfaction, which ends up leading to these awards that come."

Hutcherson also owns a dealership in Tustin.

**Alex Dominguez, staff writer**





# Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Every day without exception, I find myself discussing the many ways in which my patients can lower their blood sugar.

Did you know that over one third of adults have pre-diabetes, and that 13% of adults suffer from diabetes?

The body normally manages blood sugar levels by producing insulin. Insulin is a hormone that helps control your body's blood sugar level and metabolism – the process that turns the food you eat into energy. However, a number of things can hamper the body's ability to do this, resulting in either too much sugar in the blood (hyperglycemia), or too much insulin being produced. Either condition can lead to so many serious complications.

For those with pre-diabetes or diabetes, it is critical to manage blood sugar. Here is a list of things you can do:

**Regular exercise helps in many ways.** It can help you reach and maintain a moderate weight and increase insulin sensitivity, which will allow your cells to more effectively use the available sugar in your bloodstream. Exercise helps the muscles to use blood sugar for energy and muscle contraction. Take small exercise breaks during the day, including light walking or simple resistance exercises like squats or leg raises. For regular exercise, almost anything will work, as long as it gets you up and moving.

**Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.** Drinking enough water helps the kidneys to flush out excess sugar through urine. Note that an added benefit is that water is a zero-calorie drink, and can take the place of high sugar drinks.

**Maintain a proper body weight.** This promotes healthy

blood sugar levels, and even a 5% drop in body weight can make a significant difference.

**Exercise portion control.** You might measure and weigh portions, use smaller plates, avoid buffets, read food labels, keep a food journal, and eat more slowly.

**Consume small frequent meals and snacks.** Several studies suggest that having smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day improves insulin sensitivity and lowers blood sugar levels.

**The food that most strongly influences your blood sugar level is carbohydrates.** Problem carbs are the simple ones like sugar, and highly processed white foods like pasta, bread, and rice, which easily break down into sugars. Insulin then helps to use and store these sugars for energy. When you eat too many carbs or have insulin-function problems, this process fails, and blood glucose levels rise. The American Diabetes Association recommends that people with diabetes count carbs every day. Note that a low carb diet is not a no carb diet. It is still important to eat complex carbs like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

**Eat more fiber.** Fiber slows carb digestion and sugar absorption. Of the two types of fiber, soluble and insoluble, soluble fiber is most important. Foods high in soluble fiber include vegetables, fruits, legumes, and whole grains. Your goal should be about 25 grams of fiber per day for women, and about 35 grams for men.

**Choose foods with a low glycemic index.** The glycemic index measures how quickly carbs break down during digestion and how rapidly they are absorbed. Choose whole grains like steel-cut or rolled oats, brown rice, quinoa, and barley instead of flour products like breads, pastas and crackers. Try beans, legumes and starchy vegetables like sweet potatoes and squash.

**Eat foods rich in chromium and magnesium.** High sugar levels have been linked to deficiencies in these minerals. Foods rich in chromium include meats, whole grains, fruit, vegetables, and nuts. Foods rich in magnesium include dark leafy vegetables, squash and pumpkin seeds, tuna, whole grains, dark chocolate, bananas, avocados, and beans.

**Control stress.** Stress releases the hormones glucagon and cortisol, which lead to a rise in blood sugar. Exercise, meditation, yoga, and relaxation can help to significantly reduce stress and lower blood sugar levels.

**Get enough quality sleep.** In addition to helping us feel better, there is a direct connection: Sleep deprivation raises levels of cortisol, mentioned above. Some suggestions: Follow a sleep schedule, avoid caffeine and alcohol late in the day, get regular exercise, cut down on computer screen time before bed, keep your bedroom cool, limit daytime naps, create a bedtime routine, use soothing and calming scents, avoid working in your bedroom, take a warm bath or shower before bed, and try meditation and guided imagery.

**Monitor blood sugar levels.** Feedback is a great tool. Use a home glucose meter or a continuous glucose monitor.

**If you drink alcohol, practice moderation.** In addition to so many other problems which come with the excessive consumption of alcohol, alcohol breaks down into sugar.

**Quit smoking cigarettes.** Quit smoking cigarettes. Quitting has been shown to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Medication is effective for many diabetics, but there are so many ways to either maintain or improve blood sugar levels that do not require medication. Lifestyle changes focused on managing weight, stress, sleep quality, exercise, diet, and hydration have an enormous impact. If you are concerned about your blood sugar levels, then in addition to talking to your physician, I urge you to use today's column as your homework assignment!

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

# Pacheco wins Assembly seat

Downey mayor Blanca Pacheco is heading to Sacramento.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Downey's Mayor Blanca Pacheco held a comfortable lead in the race for the 64th State Assembly District, all but signaling her departure from City Council and ascension into higher representation.

As of around 1 am Wednesday, Pacheco sat above opponent Raul Ortiz Jr. with almost 58% of votes cast in her favor.

Pacheco will be the first Downey resident to serve in the State Assembly, representing Bell,

Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Downey, La Habra, La Mirada, Los Nietos, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, and South Whittier.

Pacheco said she was "deeply humbled and grateful to the voters of the 64th District for this incredible vote of confidence."

"While we wait for all the votes to be counted, I first and foremost would like to thank all the supporters, volunteers and the incredible coalition that was the backbone of our campaign. This moment would not have been possible without their trust, hard work and dedication to delivering for our community," said Pacheco.

"I look forward to seeing a complete counting of the remaining ballots and am confident that our campaign will prevail."

In the State Senate 30th District race, Senator Bob Archuleta also maintained a lead over opponent Mitch Clemmons throughout the evening, holding over 58% of the vote at the time of writing.

With district lines now redrawn, he would represent Avocado Heights, Bellflower, Brea, City of Industry, Diamond Bar, Downey, Hacienda Heights, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, La Puente, Los Nietos, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Rowland Heights, Santa Fe Springs, South San Jose Hills, Valinda, Walnut, and Whittier.

Archuleta was originally elected to represent the then 32nd Senate District in 2018.



Blanca Pacheco was elected Tuesday to the state Assembly.

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# Measure K holds razor thin lead

**DOWNEY** – Downey Unified School District’s Measure K managed to keep its head above water on election night, albeit barely.

The proposed \$504 million bond for the upgrade and modernization of Downey’s public elementary schools stood at 55% of votes as of Wednesday morning, putting it exactly at its required threshold to pass and leaving little to no leeway.

The tight preliminary results should come as no surprise to DUSD, as a previous survey leading up to the Board of Education’s decision to put the bond on the ballot indicated a very close race that could fall either way.

Specifically, there was some concern that a currently poor economic climate might dissuade voters from supporting another bond at this time. Ultimately, the Board of Education opted to take their chances now rather than later, citing rising construction costs.

If Measure K is approved, it is estimated to cost average homeowners around \$194 annually.

Superintendent Dr. John Garcia said the District remained “cautiously optimistic,” though did not anticipate having an official decision until possibly next week.

“I really commend our board of education for having the vision to put this on the ballot to begin with,” said Garcia. “Our board understood that it is not ideal economic times, they knew it was a big ask of the community; but the longer we wait, the more prices continue to rise.”

He continued: “If we are able to pass Measure K with the support of more than 55% of the voters, it really demonstrates the ongoing care and commitment that this community has for its youth, and we don’t ever take that for granted in Downey Unified.”

*Alex Dominguez, staff writer*

# Downey hotel tax fails at polls

**DOWNEY** – Downey will not be adjusting its transient occupancy (hotel) tax, as Measure D was resoundingly rejected by voters on election night.

As of Wednesday morning, the measure had only been able to garner 32% of votes in favor.

The tax – which would have been levied on individuals staying in Downey’s hotels – was estimated to bring approximately \$950,000 in new annual revenue to the city’s general fund.

Councilwoman Claudia Frometa voiced disappointment with the results.

“It is unfortunate Measure D was rejected by our Downey residents. This was essentially a 4% tax increase on hotel stays in our city, not a tax increase on all of us,” said Frometa.

Frometa added that “The city failed to deliver a clear message” to residents.

The annual revenue of approximately \$950,000 would have been allocated to increase public safety in our city, like additional neighborhood patrols, improve our 911 response system, increase maintenance on our streets and city parks. These are all priority issues for our residents,” said Frometa. “Unfortunately, with so much transition at city hall, the benefits of Measure D got lost and our residents did not quite understand its benefits.”

*Alex Dominguez, staff writer*

# Robert Luna leads in battle for L.A. County sheriff

■ Sheriff Alex Villanueva is at risk of losing to the former Long Beach police chief.

**By City News Service**

**LOS ANGELES** – Former Long Beach police Chief Robert Luna holds a solid lead Thursday in his bid to unseat Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, though the incumbent maintains confidence he can crawl back into the contest as vote-counting continues in the coming days.

Luna jumped out front quickly when early ballot results were released from Tuesday’s election, but as updates trickled in as the evening wore on, Villanueva began making some slow gains.

Still, when semi-official results were posted early Wednesday morning, Luna had 57% of the vote compared to 43% for Villanueva.

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office on Wednesday estimated that roughly 1 million ballots remain to be counted. The office estimated there are 985,000 voter-mail ballots, 21,000 conditional voter-registration ballots and 300 provisional, or questioned, ballots.

The next updated vote tally is not expected to be released until Friday, then every subsequent Tuesday and Friday until all ballots are counted -- a process that could last until the end of the month.

“So far, the returns look good, and our campaign has a significant lead,” Luna said in a statement Wednesday. “And I believe that as more votes are counted in the days ahead, I’ll continue to maintain a lead in this race. L.A. County voted for change, and if I’m elected sheriff, I’ll bring new leadership, accountability, and effective strategies to reduce crime.”

Luna is looking to pull off a rare feat by unseating a sitting sheriff.

Villanueva’s victory four years ago over incumbent Jim McDonnell marked the first time in roughly a century that a sheriff had lost a re-election bid in the county. But now Villanueva finds himself in danger of meeting the same fate at the hands of Luna.

The sheriff expressed confidence, however, that he would make up the deficit from early balloting as vote counting continued over the coming week.

“Let’s see what the vote says,” he told KCAL9 at his Monterey Park election night party. “... I think people just want to see the things that matter to them addressed -- homelessness and violent crime.”

Luna, speaking to his supporters in Long Beach Tuesday night, noted that the vote-counting will take a long time, but said he feels good about the direction of the numbers.

“As I have met so many people throughout this great county, there was one thing that was very obvious to me ... people were talking about the need for change,” Luna said.

He said that as sheriff, he will be “accountable at the end of the day,” and will work to ensure “integrity” in the department.

The candidates ran a spirited campaign, with Luna attacking the incumbent over his torrid relationship with the county Board of Supervisors and accusing him of ignoring the issue of deputy gangs within the department. Villanueva has deflected such criticism, saying his battles with the board show he is a fierce defender of the department and its deputies, and insisting that he has gone to great lengths to attack and ban alleged deputy cliques in the agency.

“Mr. Luna, the Civilian Oversight Commission, the Board of Supervisors, they cannot wrap their minds around the idea that (on) my very first day in office, I removed the East L.A. station captain from his command because I had doubts about his ability to lead,” Villanueva said last week, responding to Luna’s latest allegation of inaction on the deputy gang issue.

The sheriff said four deputies were also fired from the East L.A. station over their actions at a much-publicized fight during a deputy gathering at Kennedy Hall. He also said he implemented the department’s first-ever policy barring “outlaw groups,” codified it in training materials and sponsored legislation to extend the policy statewide.

“There is nothing legally we can do left,” Villanueva said. “We can’t line up people, strip them down and fire people with tattoos, as some people have literally suggested. So when my opponent falsely asserts that nothing has been done, he’s just repeating the narrative politically driven by the Oversight Commission that works for the board.”

Luna insisted last week that deputy gangs remain an issue, citing “men and women from the sheriff’s department who have come forward, good men and women who want this rooted out.”

“So how do employees feel about coming forward and reporting misconduct when they know you have a sheriff that’s going to look the other way?” he asked. “That’s been proven time and time again.”

“I still have family who live here in East Los Angeles and just a couple of weeks ago, being in the East Los Angeles parade, how many people were stopping me and saying, ‘Chief, we need change here. There are gangs that are running this station. We need them out.’”

“These are community members, and not just one or two, many of them. It’s a problem. It needs to be fixed. We need change.”

Villanueva’s victory four years ago came with strong backing from reform-minded community groups and Democrats. But over the past four years, Villanueva’s support among those groups has waned as he repeatedly clashed with the Democrat-dominated Board of Supervisors over funding and policy matters. He has also repeatedly defied subpoenas to appear before the Civilian Oversight Commission and refused to enforce the county’s COVID-19 vaccination mandate among his deputies and department employees.

Villanueva’s campaign insists he has worked to restore public trust in the sheriff’s department, pointing to the rollout of body-worn cameras and boosting minimum requirements for new deputies. The campaign also boasts the agency is “the most diverse in the nation.”

“In his next term, Sheriff Villanueva will work to reduce violent crime, compassionately clean up homeless encampments and hold public officials accountable for their actions,” according to his campaign.

Luna has argued during the campaign that the sheriff’s department is being “mismanaged” by Villanueva and said he will work to restore trust in the agency.

# Garcia beats Briscoe to be Downey’s next congressman

**DOWNEY** – Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia will be Downey’s next congressman.

According to poll results early Wednesday, Garcia collected 63.8% of the vote, putting him ahead of his Republican opponent John Briscoe.

Garcia, a Democrat, was the first Latino and first openly gay mayor in the history of Long Beach. He will be the first LGBTQ immigrant elected to Congress.

Garcia lost his mother to COVID and dedicated his win to her in his speech to supporters.

“That hard-working woman who worked in clinics, who cleaned houses, who was a true immigrant in every sense of the word, is why I’m here today,” Garcia told the crowd. “Why my brother is here today. Her fight and love for this country is what made us today.”

Due to redistricting, Garcia will fill a seat vacated by Rep. Alan Lowenthal and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, who are retiring.



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# DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Free Haircuts for Veterans**, 8 am to 12 pm. Veterans are invited to receive a free haircut, plus coffee and donuts. Must have proof of service with ID or DD214. The Pride Barbershop, 8317 Firestone Blvd.

**Veterans Day Ceremony**, 10 am. Join the City of Downey as it pays tribute to all those who have served. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**Charcoal 101**, 10 am. Participants in this workshop will learn methods and techniques for drawing with charcoal. This class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Free but space is limited. Sign up at [downeylibrary.org/calendar](http://downeylibrary.org/calendar). Two classes: ages 18+ from 10 am to noon, and ages 13-17 from 2-4 pm. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

**Stay Gallery: Family Paint Day**, 11 am - 12:30 pm. Get the whole family together for a fall-themed, guided paint workshop with our live art instructor, Samantha Meza. Create your own original painting and make lasting memories - no experience required! One ticket includes paint materials for two people (one child and one parent/guardian). Discounted ticket options available. Learn more and

purchase tickets: [staygallery.org/paintday](http://staygallery.org/paintday)

**"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical,"** 2 pm & 8 pm. Get in the Christmas spirit early this year with the beloved TV classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" as it soars off the screen and onto the Downey Theatre stage. Two performances. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**Blood Drive**, 8 am to 2 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Women Guild's sixth annual blood drive. Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code OLPHCC. Knights of Columbus, 11231 Rives Ave.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**Crime Prevention Seminar**, 9 am. Join the Downey Police Department and Downey Chamber of Commerce for a crime prevention seminar targeted for the business community. The topic is "Holiday Crimes & Active Shooter Training." City Hall council chambers, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

**Dave Lopez**, 12 pm. Veterans news reporter Dave Lopez talks about his recently-released autobiography, "It's a Great Life if You Don't Weaken." Downey Chamber of

Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave.

**"Foster Boy" Film Screening**, 6 pm. "Foster Boy" is a true story about children caught in an often failing foster care system. Presented by Father Con. \$10. LOOK Dine-In Cinema, 8200 3rd St.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**Flavorful Fall**, 12 pm. A fall-inspired, four course meal prepared by program participants and executive chefs at The Arc. \$50 per person. RSVP with Christina Hernandez at (562) 855-3466. The Arc, 9545 Washburn Blvd.

**"Napoleon Dynamite,"** 8 pm. This unique evening includes a full screening of "Napoleon Dynamite" followed by a lively, freewheeling, moderated discussion with fan-favorite cast members; Jon Heder (Napoleon Dynamite), Efrén Ramirez (Pedro) and Jon Gries (Uncle Rico). Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**Keep Downey Beautiful Clean-Up**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags provided. Wear old clothes and close-toed shoes. Meet in the See's Candy parking lot, 9839 Paramount Blvd.

**Here Comes Santa Claus**, 9 am. Santa Claus makes his grand arrival at Stonewood Center, accompanied by elves. Join Santa at his new home near Macy's.

**Open Mic**, 3 pm. Come listen to great poets and maybe contribute one of your own. Hosted by poet Mike Sonksen. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**5K Run/Walk**, 7 am. A 5K run/walk in honor of late Downey police officer Ricky Galvez, presented by the Downey Police Officers Association and Friends of Downey PD K9 Foundation. Warm-ups begin at 7 am, followed by the national anthem at 7:15 and the run at 7:30 am. \$40 if registering online at [racewire.com](http://racewire.com). \$45 day of event. Columbia Sports Complex, 12400 Columbia Way

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**Pet Night with Santa**, 4-7 pm. Bring your pets for photos with Santa Claus. Located inside Macy's Court at Stonewood Center

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

**Pet Night with Santa**, 4-7 pm. Bring your pets for photos with Santa Claus. Located inside Macy's Court at Stonewood Center

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

**Holiday Home Tour**, 11 am to 6 pm. Tour Downey's historic Casa de Parley Johnson decorated for the holidays. \$25 donation (\$10 lunch available) with proceeds benefiting the Assistance League of Downey. For reservations, call

or text Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Holiday Home Tour**, 11 am to 4 pm. Tour Downey's historic Casa de Parley Johnson decorated for the holidays. \$25 donation (\$10 lunch available) with proceeds benefiting the Assistance League of Downey. For reservations, call or text Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

**Evening at the Casa**, 6-9 pm. Live jazz music, raffles, extended tours, heavy appetizers, no-host bar, antique car show, Blitzen's bake sale, boutique shopping, and more. \$50. For tickets, call or text Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Sensory-Friendly Photos with Santa**, 10-11:30 am. Visit Santa Claus in a sensory-friendly environment. Exclusively for children & families with special needs. Reservations are required for this private photo experience. Donations will be accepted for Autism Speaks. Register at [ShopStonewoodCenter.com](http://ShopStonewoodCenter.com)

**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

**Keep Downey Beautiful Clean-Up**, 3 pm. Join other volunteers in helping clean up the streets after the Downey Christmas Parade. Meet in front of the Downey City Library

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Pet Night with Santa**, 4-7 pm. Bring your pets for photos with Santa Claus. Located inside Macy's Court at Stonewood Center

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**, 6-8:30 pm. Downey's annual tree lighting ceremony returns with entertainment from local schools, a snow play area, arts & crafts, photos with Santa Claus, and more. The actual tree lighting will occur at approximately 6:30 pm. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Fair Housing Workshop**, 1:30 pm. Presented by the Fair Housing Foundation, this workshop will provide information on fair housing laws, rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, how to deal with tenant and landlord disputes, and more. The workshop will be presented over Zoom. Sign up at bit.ly/3s652P3

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Mariachi Divas Christmas**, 8 pm. The Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Divas perform a live Christmas show. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

**Navidad Mestiza**, 6 pm. Danza Artes de México presents: Navidad Mestiza 2022 "La Pastorela." Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

**An Irish Christmas**, 2:30 pm. Experience the joy of An Irish Christmas as seen on PBS! Enjoy all the holiday carols you know and love plus a spectacular high-energy display of Irish dancing at its very best. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

**Ladies Night with Taylor Dayne & Sheena Easton**, 8 pm. Taylor Dayne is an American pop icon with a career spanning three decades. Sheena Easton was the first, and still the only, artist to have top five records on five major Billboard charts. Her recording career has included Gold and Platinum albums in the United States, Europe and Asia. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**Keep Downey Beautiful Clean-Up**, 9 am. Join other volunteers in a one-hour neighborhood cleanup. Gloves, safety vests, litter sticks and trash bags provided. Wear old clothes and close-toed shoes. Meet at Big Lots, 9020 Firestone Blvd.

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. Titled "With a Song in My Heart," the concert features Concerto in G major "alla rustica" for strings, RV 151 by Vivaldi; "Irish Tune from County Derry" and "Molly on the Shore" by Grainger; Serenade for Strings in C Major, Op. 48 by Tchaikovsky; and a clarinet solo by Kelli O'Connor. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**Coffee with the Superintendent**, 6 pm. Enjoy coffee and conversation with Downey Unified School District superintendent

Dr. John Garcia. Stauffer Middle School, 11985 Old River School Rd.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**Mariachi Rock Revolution**, 8 pm. Mariachi Rock Revolution is a metal-fueled, Mariachi-infused spectacle of sight and sound paying homage to the tradition of Mariachi through an unprecedented fusion with modern rock and electronica. Downey Civic Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**TLC 5K**, 7 am. The TLC 5K run/walk returns with proceeds benefiting the TLC Family Resource Center. For details, email [tlc@dusd.net](mailto:tlc@dusd.net) or call (562) 904-3577. Apollo Park, 12544 Rives Ave.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 4

**Coffee with the Superintendent**, 6 pm. Enjoy coffee and conversation with Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia. Price Elementary, 9525 Tweedy Lane

## SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. Titled "¡Danzón!", the concert features Ritual Fire Dance from El Amor Brujo by De Falla; Marichitlán by Juan Pablo Contreras; Danzón No.2 by Arturo Marquez; "Fanfare for Earth" (world premiere) by Giovanni Santos; Capriccio espagnol, Op. 34 by Rimsky-Korsakov; and a solo by baritone Anthony Moreno. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

**Downey Coordinating Council Awards Banquet**. Downey service clubs and non-profits recognize their volunteers of the year. Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.

## POET'S CORNER

### Day After Daylight Savings

Blue numbers on my bedside clock tell I forgot to change the hour. This sets routines on haywire.

Like a domestic goat staked to its circle of earth, I don't do well untethered.

I have no hunger for early dinner, become confused by the sound of children who seem out

too late for a school night. They've found an extra helping of daylight to romp on new grass

and can't contain themselves, strip off jackets, scatter like a rag of ponies.

Whatever time says, their joy insists on springing forward.

Margaret Hasse, *Between Us*, Nodin Press. 2016

Hasse grew up in Vermillion, South Dakota. "Coming to California as a young woman from a small Midwestern town, I arrived at Stanford University as a freshman. The campus dazzled me with its arcades, quadrangles, and red tile roofs. I was ungrounded without the familiar landscape of prairie and farmland." Being ungrounded in space produces the same feeling of loss and confusion as being untethered by time. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

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## Freedom to boycott is free speech, too

By Froma Harrop

It takes a certain inconsistency to argue, as Elon Musk has, that activists are “trying to destroy free speech in America” by pressuring companies to pause advertising on Twitter, the social media platform he just overpaid for. A “free speech absolutist,” as Musk describes himself, would surely understand that activists saying their piece to corporations are also engaging in free speech. Wouldn’t he?

The makers of Cheerios, Centrum vitamins or Chevy Silverados have zero obligation to advertise anywhere they don’t want to. Same goes for Musk’s Tesla car company, which does not advertising at all.

But as major corporations suspend their ads over concern that Twitter has gone toxic, the platform is suffering a “massive drop in revenue,” Musk notes in a martyred tone. He then threatened to “name & shame” the companies that paused their advertising. Well, step right up, Elon. That, too, is free speech.

Musk’s apparent decision to open the barnyard door to creepy crawlies wallowing in bigotry and disinformation has scared the ad buyers. For them, this is a business decision.

In advertising, as in real estate, it’s location, location, location. A Twitter without some moderation is one ugly neighborhood. And

it’s not like there aren’t other platforms to patronize.

The ad withholders are doing the smart thing. Yours truly is only one consumer, but typical of many. There’s a reason she will not buy a pillow from a certain treasonous pillow peddler. And when looking for salted peanuts at Costco, she does not want the peace of the moment spoiled by a pillow display reminding her of attacks on the democracy. That’s why Costco and other chains stopped selling the brand.

Yours truly would like to make a few things clear, however. One, she does not necessarily buy into all the activists’ visions. Agreeing with them is not the point. Also, she has not wiped conservative commentary from her field of vision. If it is fact based and intelligent, she follows and even pays for some of it.

As a moderate user of Twitter, I’ve tolerated some of the antisocial banter that does get through, but as already implied, I do draw the line at calls to violently overthrow the U.S. government — promulgated by Donald Trump and others seeking to destabilize American society. I can’t stop them from sending this detritus into the cyberspace, of course, but I’m allowed to refuse delivery. The people who used to run Twitter understood this.

Another thing that attracted me to Twitter: It is free. The minute anyone asks for my credit card number, I’m out of there. What did

Musk think he was offering — a town hall with ornate chandeliers that could charge admission?

Musk now wants prominent users to pay him for the privilege of getting that blue check, again his right. If they submit, he’s made a few bucks. If they don’t, there goes his free content.

There are alternative theories of what Musk is up to. Perhaps he has made a calculation that torching a \$44 billion investment is worth the fun of putting on a grand opera in which he stars as diva, tenor and set designer: He’s doing it for the joy ride of commandeering the world’s attention.

This might also be a political play to ingratiate himself with elements on the right, which have accused Twitter of serving as a clubhouse for the left. Or Musk is out to please the authoritarians running China, where he does considerable business.

As for accusing “activists” of muzzling free speech by speaking, well, that’s not going anywhere. It’s hard to believe that Musk thinks that, but face it, he is one self-interested man.

*Froma Harrop is a syndicated columnist who writes about politics, culture and the economy.*

## Instagram needs a better way to report death threats

By Sherry Hakimi

Friday, Oct. 14, was an eventful day for me. It started with a meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and it ended with death threats.

I was one of a small group of Iranian American women invited to meet with top State Department officials to discuss the female-led protest movement that is gathering strength in Iran. Beforehand, the secretary’s office asked for our consent to have news organizations present while the secretary made a statement. Not anticipating any harm, I said yes.

Unfortunately, I was mistaken. Over the following week, I learned firsthand how the policy and design decisions of social media platforms, such as Instagram, directly affect users’ personal safety.

Soon after photos from the State Department meeting appeared in the news, my Twitter mentions — normally nonexistent, because I barely use Twitter — ratcheted up. I saw tweets containing misinformation, hate, harassment, violence and vile insults. That night, the attacks spread to Instagram. The next morning, I woke to a slew of message requests to my private Instagram account. Alongside hateful and harassing messages were death threats.

As someone who readily introduces herself as a “policy nerd” — certainly not a public figure — I was stunned.

Not knowing how to deal with the death threats, I followed the platform’s user interface, hoping it would guide me to appropriately respond. Instagram gives three options at the bottom of message requests: block, delete or accept.

Clearly, “block” was my only viable option. It would make no sense to “accept” the hate and threats, and to “delete” without blocking would allow these criminals (or bots) to return. No, thank

you.

Tapping “block” brings up a menu with options to “ignore,” “block account” or “report.” Tapping “report” leads to a new menu, which says: “Select a problem to report.”

Here, I ran into a new problem (atop the death threats): None of the reporting categories sufficiently captures the severity of a death threat.

So, I reported all the messages under the two closest options: “violence or dangerous organizations” and “bullying or harassment.” Then, I waited. Two days later, despite reaching out to a friend who works at Meta and accepting her offer to submit an internal escalation, no response arrived. The threatening message requests kept coming. Finally, a private security professional showed me how to change my Instagram settings to stop message requests.

It’s worth noting that in many places, local police lack jurisdiction in cases of threats made on social media platforms. When my local officers heard that the death threats had come via Instagram, they told me they had no jurisdiction in the matter, instructed me to contact Meta and hung up.

By Wednesday — four days later — I’d still heard nothing from anyone at Meta who wasn’t my friend or a friend of a friend. Coincidentally, Nick Clegg, Meta’s global affairs president, was speaking that Friday at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), of which I am a member. So, by a combination of coincidence, privilege and some courage, I had the opportunity to ask Clegg why Meta doesn’t have a “death threat” option in its reporting process.

I am grateful that he took my question seriously. He seemed genuinely sorry and at a loss for what to say or do, and his team quickly followed up. Yet, the larger problem with the reporting process should be solved at scale.

There are at least three ways that Meta’s approach and choice architecture could be redesigned to better uphold its community guidelines and ensure greater user safety:

First, add a “death threat” option to the reportable problem categories. For example, Twitter’s reporting process includes a category specifying “threatening me with violence.” In most jurisdictions, a death threat is a criminal offense — especially when delivered in writing. It should be catalogued as such.

Second, assemble a team dedicated to monitoring and handling reports of death threats. If local police lack jurisdiction over its platform, Meta must step up. Users who threaten harm should be identified and banned from platforms without delay. Moreover, in addition to enforcing its own community guidelines, the company should work with law enforcement to ensure that incidents are properly reported and local laws are upheld.

Third, perhaps the simplest and quickest action: under Settings Privacy Messages, set the default to “don’t receive.” Receiving messages from others should be an opt-in setting, not an opt-out one. In his remarks at the CFR, Clegg mentioned that Meta employs nudge theory principles to steer users toward optimal practices. It took three days for me to learn that I had the choice to not receive message requests from people I don’t follow. At a minimum, “don’t receive” should be the default for users who have private accounts.

Speaking as someone whose life was upended by death threats on a Meta platform, I have one more ask of the company: Please move fast and fix things.

*Sherry Hakimi is the founder and executive director of genEquality, an organization that promotes gender equality and inclusion.*

## Democrats and selective outrage

By Larry Elder

Days before the upcoming midterm elections, a hammer-wielding mentally ill man — who, according to the New York Post, was illegally in the U.S. — broke into the home of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and attacked her husband, Paul.

Mr. Pelosi suffered a fractured skull, underwent surgery and is expected to make a full recovery. At the time of the attack, Speaker Pelosi was in Washington, D.C. The media claimed the attacker believed in “right-wing” conspiracies and, in a blog, criticized left-wing politics. But the New York Post wrote: “(The attacker) lived with a notorious local nudist in a Berkeley home, complete with a Black Lives Matter sign in the window and an LGBT rainbow flag, emblazoned with a marijuana symbol, hanging from a tree.” So, there is a lot we do not know of the attacker now in custody. Authorities have not yet publicly offered a motive.

The media and Democrats immediately connected the attack to the alleged “hateful political rhetoric” of “MAGA Republicans,” the leader of whom is, of course, the reviled-by-the-Left former President Donald Trump.

An op-ed in the left-wing Washington Post said: “Pelosi — whom Republicans have long demonized as the face of progressive policies and who was a target of rioters during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol — emerged as the top member of

Congress maligned in political ads, with Republicans spending nearly \$40 million on ads that mention Pelosi in the final stretch of the campaign, according to AdImpact.”

Trump promptly condemned the attack, as well as rising crime, stating: “With Paul Pelosi, that’s a terrible thing, with all of them it’s a terrible thing. Look at what’s happened to San Francisco generally. Look at what’s happening in Chicago. It was far worse than Afghanistan.” The chairwoman of the Republican National Committee said: “This is a deranged individual, you can’t say people saying, ‘let’s fire Pelosi’ or ‘let’s take back the House’ is saying ‘go do violence.’ It’s just unfair.”

So, by making Pelosi the face of the Democratic Party, Republicans encouraged violence against her and her family? Sigh.

If a mentally ill intruder broke into Mar-a-Lago and struck Trump in the head with a hammer, not only would the Trump-deranged Left barely contain their laughter and glee — for they’d deem it retribution, as they felt when Trump contracted COVID-19 — they’d recruit the thug for Congress.

Where was the media and their fellow Democrats when longtime Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said about Trump Cabinet members: “If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them, and you tell them they’re not welcome anymore, anywhere.”

Where was the media and their fellow Democrats when, during the Trump administration, then-Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., stood outside of the Supreme Court Building and, referring to Trump’s court nominees Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch, said: “I want to tell you Gorsuch. I want to tell you Kavanaugh. You have released the whirlwind and you will pay the

price. You won’t know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.”

Why didn’t the media and Dems connect the dots to “hateful rhetoric” when, during former President Barack Obama’s second term, two New York cops, three Baton Rouge, Louisiana, cops and five Dallas cops were killed execution-style by three different black men — all motivated by the lie of anti-black police “systemic racism”?

Is there a connection to the deaths of these officers and Obama’s rhetoric on cops and race — from “the Cambridge police acted stupidly,” to racism is in America’s “DNA,” to embracing the anti-cop group Black Lives Matter, an organization that promotes the lie of anti-black police “systemic racism,” to welcoming the race-hustling Rev. Al Sharpton to the White House over 80 times, to pushing the “hands up, don’t shoot” Ferguson lie in a speech before the U.N., to “if I had a son he’d look like Trayvon”? Is there blood on Obama’s hands?

About the attack on Paul Pelosi, Obama condemned politicians who “stir up division to make folks as angry and as afraid of one another for their own advantage.” Yet Obama was silent when his ex-Veeep, now-President Joe Biden, recently claimed backers of Trump supported “semi-fascism”?

None dare call this yet another classic case of left-wing hypocrisy, double standards and selective outrage.

*Larry Elder is a bestselling author, talk radio host and former candidate for California governor.*

## Unusual term

Dear Editor:

Regarding Joan Niertit’s letter of Nov. 3:

She wrote that, “Undergrounding high voltage transmission lines would help reduce fires, and replanting damaged areas using pyrolized brush would make reforestation an immediate carbon sink.”

I’ve been a volunteer with the U.S. Forest Service for many years, and have read many communiques and bulletins they have produced, and I have never encountered the word “pyrolized.”

Of course, the word “pyro” refers to burning. Carbon sinks are a result of reforesting with live plants, thus I fail to see how pyrolized brush could be used to that end.

Incidentally, I could not find the word “pyrolized” in my rather old edition of Webster’s Dictionary, and have never seen it used in the Patriot before.

**Jack Russell  
Downey**

## Questions remain about fire station closure

Dear Editor:

If this fire station was remodeled last February under Measure S, who did the work and who did the inspection?

Any contractor doing work for the city had to put up a performance bond to insure that the work was done properly. Whatever a former assistant city manager did or didn’t do has no bearing on the contract. The contractor who accepted the money from Measure S is still liable.

If he can’t complete the work, then his bonding company must pay someone else to do the work satisfactorily. Responsibility is the key to this issue.

**Donald Souza  
Downey**

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# Memories of early Downey

By Bobbi Bruce  
Downey Historical Society

*This is the fifth and final installment in a multi-part series on family history given to the Downey Historical Society by Dorothy Dimmitt Gaston. The narrative gives a good description of what times were like in the 1920s and 1930s.*

Uncle Frank (Joseph Franklin Porter) was born in Washington County, Arkansas, Feb. 19, 1896 and died Nov. 2, 1963 in Riverside. He was married to Aunt Beth (Julia Elizabeth Trexler) on March 30, 1926. She was born in Corona, April 10, 1903 and died in Riverside June 22, 1984. They raised two children, Franklin "Gene" and "Lori" (Beth Lorraine).

He served in the Army during World War I. He was gassed while in action, causing lung damage. Doctors advised him to live in a warm, dry climate and he settled in Riverside. He and Uncle George owned and operated Porter's Courtesy Corner on Mongolia Avenue. The building housed a grocery market, a gasoline service station and later, an ice cream parlor. The business began in 1927 and is still going strong. A highlight of our visit to Riverside was Uncle Frank's treat of ice cream cones or malts from his ice cream-making machine.

When Uncle Frank and Aunt Beth came to visit our family, my mother always insisted I play the piano for them. Uncle Frank would throw pennies on the keyboard as I played.

Uncle George (George Mayes Porter) was born Sept. 29, 1908 in Downey and died Nov. 18, 1980 in Riverside.

He was an expert mechanic and kept busy repairing automobiles. He was the youngest child of the family.

He married Marian Lucille Bevington Oct. 27, 1929. She was born Feb. 14, 1908. They raised two sons, Russell Wayne and Bobby.

Uncle Bill (William Henry Porter) was born July 23, 1906, and died Aug. 25, 1992 at 86 years of age. He was married to Edith Evangeline Post, born Feb. 22, 1909 and died March 13, 1988. They were married in Bellflower in her home. My little sister, Betty Jean, 4-years-old, was their flower girl along with cousin, Viola Belle Barton. They had three children: Patsy, Ernie, and Linda.

Uncle Bill worked in the oil fields, drove a milk transport truck for California Milk Transport, and at one time operated a dairy in Helendale. They divided their time between their home in Bellflower and their home in the desert. They built a home there on Porter Road in Joshua Tree and had a small farm. They enjoyed the desert and the farm life. Even into his 80s, Uncle Bill would get out on his tractor and work the land.

One of my most memorable times with Uncle Bill was the day he went with me to Joshua Tree National Monument. As we drove through, he told me the stories relating to the different areas. He knew the desert area well.

Aunt Edit was very artistic. She worked many years at Evelyn's Flowers in Bellflower making floral arrangements. She painted beautiful scenes of the desert and made handcrafted articles.

My mother's only sister, Minnie Belle Porter Batson was born March 18, 1898 and died Dec. 1, 1974 (76 years). She married Uncle Roy (Latta Le Roy Batson) Jan. 23, 1917. He was born Aug. 21, 1892 and died Nov. 21, 1958 at 66 years.

We often visited them in their home at 720 W. Elm Street, Compton where they lived and raised three children. Howard, the oldest, died when only 16 years of age from lockjaw. He had a hand injury which became infected and blood poisoning set in. The other two, Viola and Jerry, were cousins we played with often.

The family moved to Downey on Foster Road, just east of Clark Avenue. This was in the vicinity of Grandpa Porter's farm and home place.

Aunt Minnie was a devout Baptist, faithfully attending Sunday School and church. For many years after they moved to Downey, she drove back to Compton to attend church. She continued to keep up their home following Uncle Roy's death.

Aunt Minnie worked many years at Marker's Kitchen in Downey helping in preserving fruits, making jams, hand-dipping chocolate candies, and packing their specialty gift packs. She made beautifully decorated packages with big ribbon bows. After 15 years of widowhood, she married Jobe Barnett, a longtime friend, on March 25, 1973 and moved to Missouri where she died Dec. 1, 1974.

Uncle Clarence, Uncle Elbert and Uncle Jim

Clarence Raymond Porter, 1900-1967, married Florella Ball.

Elbert Ray Porter, 1892-1949, married Minnie Stockton.

Jessie "Jim" Claude Porter, 1904-1957, married Cozy \_\_\_\_\_.

Their work kept them at a distance from the family.

## The Man in My Life

Edwin Richardson Gaston was born April 6, 1911 in Emington, Illinois. His father, William Thomas Gaston, was a farmer there. His mother, Elizabeth Ethel Wright Gaston was born in Ipswich, England, Dec. 21, 1882 and came to the United States when an infant. His grandfather, William Gaston, was born in Ireland.

Their farm in Emington (near Dwight) produced corn and wheat and utilized all the family able to work. At threshing time, local farmers pooled their labor and helped each other. The wives would provide meals for the workers. Home-made bread, pies and cake, and big, meat and potatoes meals were served.

Getting up before dawn, farmers' wives would prepare breakfast and start the baking for the day. A wood-burning stove provided heat for cooking and baking.

In January, 1921, the family sold the farm at public auction and moved to Southern California and the Los Angeles area. Eventually, they moved to Belgrave Avenue, Huntington Park, then to rented houses on Clara Street in Bell.

Edwin went to work early in life, due to his father's death and the need for a bread-winner to help provide for the family. As a young boy, he delivered newspapers, riding his bicycle. In young manhood, he began working as a delivery man/truck driver for Price-Pfister Brass Manufacturing Company in Los Angeles. Later, he became head of the shipping department.

He had a great admiration for horses and, as a young man, had a small herd that grazed in the Los Angeles riverbed during the summer months. The river banks provided little security in keeping the horses corralled. Occasionally, the animals would wander out of the river bed to greener pastures, which happened to be my dad's alfalfa fields. My dad got tired of that and impounded a couple of horses in his corral. When Edwin came to retrieve them, our family became acquainted with him, and eventually, his family.

My brother and I often would saddle up our riding horses when we got home from school and ride with him. One summer day, we rode to the Montebello hills where the fellows discovered an abandoned barn and windmill. Curious as they were, they wanted to explore. However, to reach this find was to jump our horses across a rift in the earth. We did it! Then, again to start our ride back home.

In a few years, a casual friendship between Edwin and me "matured," and we were married March 24, 1940.

Our first home was an apartment at 5620 Everett Avenue, Maywood. In July, 1940, we moved to 5539 Clara Street where we lived 32 years and raised our two daughters, Evelyn and Barbara.

He was a hard-working man and a good provider for his family. He saw his two daughters through college, began their teaching careers, get married and each bear her first child.

Weekends, his relaxation came from spending time enjoying his avid interest in horses. Besides his riding horses, he raised colts from his quarter horse stock and owned thirteen horses when he died.

In 1943, he and a friend, Frank Wilson, head herdsman for Rockview Milk Farms, joined in a dairy operation in El Monte, selling milk to Carnation Farms. He continued with his job at Price-Pfister. The work load at the dairy proved to be too much for two men to handle and, because of low volume, the dairy business was dissolved a year and a half later.

Eventually, about 1945, he began hauling fresh-cut alfalfa for Rockview Dairy in Downey. We had to be in the field to receive the

greenfeed at 4:30 a.m. I drove the truck while he stacked the hay from a power loader. This venture proved to be detrimental to his health with bronchial problems and pleurisy.

In the fall of 1946, we went to Malin, Oregon (near Klamath Falls) to haul potatoes with the expectation of earning big money. We rented a house trailer in Los Angeles and pulled it to Oregon where we lived in it in a migrant laborers' camp. It was quite an experience in a small trailer with two little girls. Laundry was done by hand in a community laundry room. We ate well - plenty of potatoes and wild pheasant. However, it was not the windfall we expected. When the first snow fell, we loaded up and returned home. He took a night shift job at Armstrong Linoleum factory in Cudahy.

In 1947, he put his truck to work to help a friend. He hauled clay fire brick, ground clay and silica and sewer pipe for Gladding, McBean Company's Southgate plant. The friend, unable to continue, dropped out and Edwin began hauling the products full time, doing business as Gaston Transfer. At one time, he utilized three trucks and hired help. He continued in this business until May of 1972 when emphysema caused health problems and, eventually in September, his untimely death. We were married 32 years until parted by death. He was the love of my life.

## Our Daughters

How excited we were on learning we were to have a child and become a family! As the months passed, we decided our first child would be a boy. We would name him William Thomas in honor of Edwin's father whose death was a great loss to Edwin, as well as all the family. A son bearing his father's name would be a tribute to him. Plans were made, boy things prepared, we could hardly wait.

However, a beautiful, precious girl was born on April 24, 1942 and we named her Evelyn Ethel Gaston; Evelyn for Edwin's sister and Ethel for his mother's middle name. She won our hearts the moment she arrived and "William Thomas" faded quickly from the scene.

She was the first grandchild on my side of the family and the first grandchild in several years on the other side. She was the center of attention!

Her Grandma Dimmitt lived close by and came often to see her. As she grew into a little girl, her grandma would come to get her to ride along to go shopping or do errands. Grandma's car had an armrest that pulled down in the center of the backseat. It was there Evelyn rode in Grandma's car. She and her grandma spent many hours and days together, through the years, talking, sewing together and making braided, wool rugs.

Evelyn was an adorable, precocious child with curly, blonde hair. She captured hearts everywhere. Aunt Mary, who was a personal friend of Shirley Temple's family, once said, "She's a second Shirley Temple."

She always made us proud of her. Early in grammar school days, she won first prize, dressed as a Dutch girl carrying a mop and pail, marching in the Clean-Up Parade. Feeling quite smug, she told her daddy, "I'm going to make the Gaston name famous."

She was an honor student all through school. In grammar school, she served on the student council and was elected "Queen of the May" at the annual May Festival.

In the five years in Girl Scouts, she worked for merit badges and was given the Curved Bar award - the highest award for Girl Scouts. In junior high school she maintained top grades. Awards were: Rotary Club Certificate of Merit, Certificate of Achievement, and the American Legion Certificate of Distinguished Achievement.

In senior high school she was active and held offices in Girls' Athletic Association, California Scholastic Federation, Youth for Christ, Pep Club, Drill Team and water ballet. She was also active and held offices in Girls' League (President her senior year), Red Cross, Future Teacher's Association, Student Body, member of Junior Steering Committee, California Girls' State Representative, an honorary member of the Ephebian Society, was one of the top ten graduates and received the three-year Rotary award, Elk's Club leadership bond and a local scholarship.

When a teenager, in July, 1955, she became a charter member of the Rainbow Girls (Masonic affiliation). She served many offices and, in September, 1958, was installed Worthy Advisor. Her devotion and hard work brought appointment as a Grand Officer in 1959 and merited the Grand Cross of Colors.

Following graduation from high school, in 1960, she attended University of California at Santa Barbara one year, and graduated from Biola College in 1965. Biola was not an accredited college so off she went to Fresno State College for her teaching credential. She began her teaching career with a sixth-grade class at Viking Elementary School in Fresno. In the 1960-70 school year she taught at Valley View High Elementary School in Whittier. Following her marriage and relocation to Colorado and earning her Colorado teaching credential, she continued to pursue the teaching career.

On July 12, 1945, our second girl arrived. She was named Barbara because her mother liked the name and Belle after her great grandmother, Mary Belle Porter. The name "Belle" has been used many times in the family. In spite of the cherished significance of the name, she has been teased about it. From the day she was born, her Uncle Watson has called her "Ding-Dong."

We welcomed our second sweet little baby girl and now big sister had a playmate. They played well together sharing toys, their bedroom and a playhouse built by Uncle Mack.

Barbara was born with a six-inch long tress of brown hair on top of her head. As she lost her baby hair, it lightened, then turned brown. She may have inherited her brown eyes from her great grandmother Porter.

Barbara was a quiet child often playing by herself. So quiet in fact, we would find her curled up in a corner fast asleep.

Barbara was not to be outdone by her older sister. They were never competitive - just willing and ambitious to do their best.

In grammar school she was an honor student, served on the Student Council, was an "office helper," was in the court of attendants at the annual May Day Festival and won prizes in the flower show. One Halloween parade she was dressed as a scarecrow; another time, a gypsy.

In 1954, she became a Brownie Girl Scout and as she matured, became a full-fledged Girl Scout, earning merit badges. In 1955 she became a charter member of the Rainbow Girls and served many offices advancing to the position of Worthy Associate Advisor when the order was disbanded.

Barbara has perfect attendance throughout her 13 years of schooling. Her diligence paid off and she was an honor student all through school. In junior high school she was a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

She graduated from high school one of the top ten students. She was well-liked and active in every aspect of school life. She served as Student Body secretary, was a candidate for Charger Queen, was a three-year member in California Scholastic Federation, was a member of Sigma Epsilon, was active in Youth for Christ, Girls' Athletic Association,

the 72 Club, Pep Club, drill team, and song leader. Awards were Thom McAn Leadership Award, Service and Merit Award.

Upon graduation in 1963, she pursued her ambition to become an elementary school teacher. First attending East Los Angeles College, then Fresno State for her teaching credential.

She began her teaching career in Los Angeles Unified School District in San Fernando Valley, where she lived following her marriage. The birth of her first child changed her life's priorities to being a full-time mother. On moving to Northern California with her family, she returned to teaching.

## My Life

My first 21 years were spent in growing up as a farmer's daughter and doing my best to please my parents. I graduated from Montebello High School in 1936, after completing 12 years of schooling. That summer, I went to work for Montebello Land and Water Company with George S. Dodge as my boss. In just a few months, I was called to B.F. Goodrich tire plant in East Los Angeles to work in the Control Office of the tire-building department. My boss there was Larry L. Higgins. My placement at both of these jobs was through referral of the high school administrators.

Needing transportation to and from work, I bought my first automobile, a Model A Ford coupe for the total of \$295 from an auto dealership located on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles - the auto dealers' marketplace.

In 1937, the domestic water

service business, operated by my parents and my uncle, became a big enough operation they hired me to work full-time in the business office. In 1942, following my marriage in 1940 and expecting the arrival of my first baby, I retired to being full-time wife and mother. That was a good move. In later years, my daughters said, "We always knew mother would be home."

In the spring of 1938, my cousin Virginia and I traveled on the Union Pacific's Railroad's new diesel powered "Streamliner" to the east, visiting Dad's relatives. We went to see the Dimmitt farm in Iowa, where our fathers were born and the schoolhouses they attended.

32 years of my life were given to pleasing my husband and two daughters. I was the best kind of wife and mother I knew how to be (Life, as a wife and mother, comes without instructions). I helped my husband with his work, kept my house clean and did all the necessary work. That included ironing; lots of ironing, almost unheard of these days. I kept books and records for my husband's business, filed income tax returns and shagged truck parts when he was doing repairs. During the summer, I canned peaches, pears, and tomatoes and even made pickles a couple of times.

As the girls grew up, I was active in their school functions - room parties, programs, field trips, and P.T.A. activities. My girls were always the first to raise their hands to volunteer mother's help, whenever and wherever needed - cookies, cupcakes, punch, transportation for field trips or sewing of costumes.

Continued on page 11

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**The Downey Patriot**  
10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/3/22, 11/10/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00416  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ASHLEY TAGLE WILLIAMSON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) ASHLEY TAGLE WILLIAMSON to Proposed name (1) ASHLEY MANALANG WILLIAMSON  
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: DECEMBER 12, 2022, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD, NORWALK CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT, INC. OCTOBER 14, 2022  
JUDGE MARGARET M. BERNAL  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**SELF**  
ASHLEY TAGLE WILLIAMSON  
11923 LINDORA ST.  
NORWALK, CA 90650  
562-706-1200  
ASHLEY.MANALANG@GMAIL.COM

**The Downey Patriot**  
10/20/22, 10/27/22, 11/3/22, 11/10/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00450  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MARCOS SALCEDO RODRIGUEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) MARCOS SALCEDO RODRIGUEZ to Proposed name (1) MARCOS RODRIGUEZ

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: JANUARY 9, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD, NORWALK 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, DOWNEY PATRIOT NOVEMBER 8, 2022  
JUDGE MARGARET M. BERNAL  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
MARCOS SALCEDO RODRIGUEZ  
9523 CARRON DR  
PICO RIVERA CA 90660  
(562) 708-1189

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/10/22, 11/17/22, 11/24/22, 12/1/22

**PROBATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ELVIA I. McVAY aka ELVIA IRMA McVAY**  
Case No. 22STPB09826  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ELVIA I. McVAY aka ELVIA IRMA McVAY  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Marlene Madrid in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Marlene Madrid be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have

waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on Nov. 29, 2022 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 29 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written

objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under

section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the files kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the

court clerk.  
Attorney for petitioner:  
JOHN A BUNNETT ESQ  
SBN 107690  
LAW OFFICE OF  
JOHN A BUNNETT APC  
8136 2ND ST  
DOWNEY CA 90241  
CN987859 MCVAY Nov 10, 17, 24, 2022

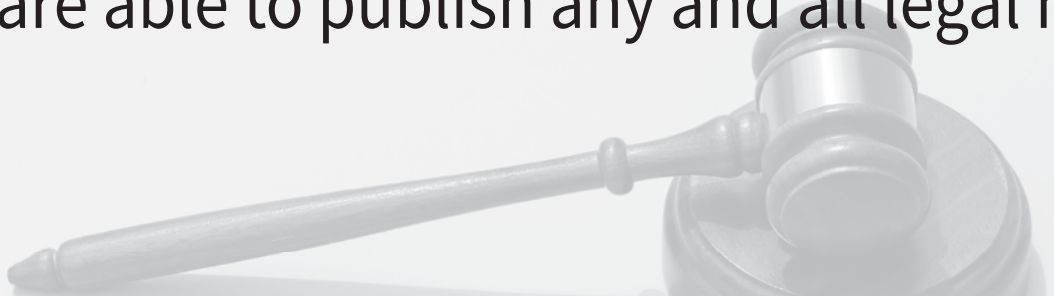
section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the files kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the

section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the files kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the

section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the files kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the

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## The Downey Patriot

Thursday, May 25, 2017

**HEALTH**  
Taking tetanus serious  
SEE PAGE 7

**FEATURES**  
Perfect attendance  
SEE PAGE 2

**NEWS**  
Commencement speaker  
SEE PAGE 3

**NEWS**  
Gang member sentenced  
SEE PAGE 4

### City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support

By Eric Pierce, Editor

**DOWNEY** – The Downey City Council on Tuesday agreed to pay \$150,000 to ensure the downtown Stay Gallery remains open for at least another three years.

The city's agreement with Downey Art Vibe – operators of Stay Gallery – was mildly controversial in that it's the city's third such contract with Downey Art Vibe.

In 2012, the council agreed to subsidize the gallery's monthly rent (then \$2,000) for two years to help the facility get off the ground. The subsidies were extended an additional three years in 2014, and were scheduled to expire June 1.

On Tuesday, about a dozen supporters spoke in favor of Stay Gallery and its importance to the community.

"I know we're asking for a lot, but the overall cost is minimal for what we do for the community," said Liz Viktor, a Downey Art Vibe board member. "We stand here to ask for your support one more time."

Valentin Flores, the former executive director of Stay Gallery and a current Downey Art Vibe board member, said the increasing popularity of downtown Downey has led to a nearly 50% rise in the facility's monthly rent.

"We're a victim of our own success," Flores said.

Downey school board member D. Mark Morris also spoke favorably of the gallery.

"We're all talking about here," he said. "We're talking about the heart and soul of Downey."

Others, however, questioned the wisdom in giving financial support to a gallery that after five years is still not self-sustaining.

"If there's a market for art, the gallery cannot be rented

out as a nightclub, but can be used for family functions such as birthdays and weddings, walk a little bit, according to Quinceanera and baptisms, however, are prohibited.

The city of Downey retained Dixon Resources Unlimited to review the downtown parking situation in response to the area's recent growth of retail and residential projects.

The firm concluded that "a parking shortage in Downtown Downey is not identified" but still offered recommendations to ease current time limit signs with new signage that includes exceptions for weekends and holidays.

They also recommended increased enforcement officer and a shared parking agreement between downtown businesses and churches.

Paid parking meters are not being considered at this time.

Council members voted unanimously to accept the recommendations.

A revised ordinance banning all forms of smoking at Downey parks is expected to come back before the council next month.

"There's no shortage of

**Weekend at a Glance**

Friday 70°  
Saturday 71°  
Sunday 76°

**THINGS TO DO**

**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
Monday - Downey Cemetery, 11 am  
Downey open solemn services to fallen heroes at Downey Cemetery. Free shuttle from Green Line station.

**FROM OUR FACEBOOK**

City continues financial support of Stay Gallery

Thanked PapaJohns: The franchisee paid out of this...  
I know people see this as a waste...  
I understand they know that the...  
creativity coming out of this...  
gallery had led to them being a...  
success. It's 2017 people, open...  
your minds to thinking outside...  
of the box.

Geoffrey Casarez: I appreciate the fact it gives...  
the city an opportunity...  
our city has the resources for...  
to show us that staying...  
opportunity in the arts.

Devinne Schneider: The Stay...  
Gallery's facility provides many...  
opportunities for Downey schools...  
and PTA's. Students are able...  
to show us that staying...  
from school, it hosts PTA...  
events, fundraisers, and...  
submissions and also hosts the...  
Foundation's music programs...  
on Saturdays.

Melody Morton: And yet...  
the city should be...  
frequency of the...  
save \$40,000, I...  
need...  
on the...  
has created a...  
reaches the...  
hospital or...  
services.



# Growing up in Downey Dr. John Garcia, a 21st century school superintendent

Continued from page 7

I served as P.T.A. program chairmen two years, and publicity chairman an unknown number of years. I wrote newspaper articles for two P.T.A.s, Girl Scouts, Rainbow Girls and City Coordinating Council. I also composed, mimeographed and distributed notices about elementary school P.T.A. activities to be sent home with the children.

One summer I went camping in the mountains with the Girl Scouts. In 1959 I accompanied the Rainbow Girls to Grand Assembly in San Jose. I received the Juliette Lowe award for work with the Girl Scouts, the Grand Cross of Colors for work with the Rainbow Girls and Honorary Life Membership awards for work with the Parent-Teacher Associations in the schools.

In December 1961, I went to work for Montebello Unified School District. I have Lois Mack, a school secretary, to thank for getting me started. On seeing how much gratis work I was doing, she said, "You should be getting paid for this. I'll get you a work application." I began on a part-time basis as a substitute office clerk being on call on an as-needed basis.

In April 1962, I was temporarily assigned to Suva Elementary School. The summer of 1963 I worked full-time at the District Psychological Department at Vail School site. In August 1963, I went to work at Bandini Elementary School in Commerce, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 30, 1965, I was moved to Live Oak Primary School working 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. where I stayed until April 1971. At my request, I was transferred to Suva Elementary School. I worked there until September 1972, when my husband's critical illness forced my resignation when I was denied a 30-day leave of absence. In March 1973, I was re-hired and assigned to Suva Elementary School, and in September 1975, to Bell Gardens High School where I retired from the School District in December 1978.

Being at home most of the time, after retiring, I was available to babysit my grandchildren - truly some of the most enjoyable times of my life.

In 1976, Evelyn and family moved to Colorado and, in 1981, Barbara and family to Northern California taking my beloved grandchildren with them. Finding myself with time to spare, I decided to go back to work - for a while. I answered an ad in the paper for part-time secretary in a private Christian school. I was hired Sept. 15, 1986 and am in my eighth year.

Thanks to my mother, I learned to play the piano, mostly for personal pleasure. My first piano teacher was Bessie Carrigan who came to our house and, for \$1, would teach nearly an hour. In later years, Mrs. Hague in Bell was my teacher. For a short time, I discontinued lessons then began again with Bert Miller teaching. I played Piano for Sunday School when I was a young girl, for the Rainbow Girls and Eastern Star work and church. Probably the highlight of my piano years was when I played Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" at a recital in 1938. Soon, I became pre-occupied with marriage and children.

Since 1972 - 22 years of my life - I have lived alone, after relocating in Downey. I have made new friends with whom I enjoy social times. I have traveled nearly every summer seeing as much of the United States as I can...but that's another story.



■ Downey Unified superintendent Dr. John Garcia was the guest speaker at a Downey Coordinating Council meeting.

By Lorine Parks Society Editor

**DOWNEY** - "I'm a Downey kid," said Dr. John Garcia, superintendent of the Downey Unified school system, speaking at the Downey Coordinating Council November meeting.

"I went to Downey schools, played for Downey High's football team, and when the opening for superintendent came along," said Dr. John, "I fought for it. I really believe in what we are doing for our Downey schools. We are going to make our students globally competitive, with 21st century tools.

"We're in the 21st century now" said Dr. John. "Education is different. When I graduated in 1985 there were shop classes, like wood, and metal, and home education. These have morphed into technical classes that require more knowledge. Now there is a high technical level of technology for plumbers and electricians. We offer a course in construction technology, on a rigorous academic

track." "It's exciting," said Dr. John, "to see that half of the classes offered today weren't even invented before the 21st century. K-5 Schools offer computer science, and 3-D design and green screen. In middle school there is Animation, and Automation and Robots. Courses for Medical Detectives."

No high school curriculum before 2000 ever offered Bio Med and Sports Medicine, Dance/Chorus, or Game Programming. But Downey High School sectors now include Auto Technology, Graphic Design, Law Enforcement, Film and Video, Manufacturing, Construction, Education, Arts and Media, Fashion and Interior, Health and Medical Technology, and Public Service, Information and Communication Technology.

"Our vision," said Dr. John "is that all our students will graduate with a 21st century education that ensures they are college and career ready, globally competitive, and citizens of strong character."

"Our job is to prepare our students to compete globally. We held an Apple Digital Global Learning Day, and it was attended virtually by educators from 12 states and 9 countries, like

Greece, India, and Mexico who wanted to see what we are doing in Downey. We've placed 5 of our 13 elementary schools as Apple Distinguished Schools, and that means they are recognized for their use of technology to connect students with the world. Our goal, lofty but reachable, is to be All-System Apple Schools. That's how dedicated we are.

"The Covid pandemic taught us some lessons," said Dr. John, "and caused new problems. It opened our eyes to the relative value of virtual versus human learning. Twenty years ago, I would have said that virtual learning was the wave of the future. But now we see that during the pandemic, with remote learning, student scores have fallen abysmally. Drop-outs have increased, and students are one to two years behind the norms. It will take three to five years to catch up. The students need the competition of their peers, the stimulation that a teacher and a classroom can provide."

The DUSD offers the Downey Virtual Academy for those students and parents who do not want their children to return to the classroom, with 300 students, or one and half percent of the 22,000 student enrollment.

"Here in Downey we give

equal emphasis to good character as a citizen," said Dr. John, "and to sound emotional wellness. The pandemic lowered social interaction. We offer a sheltered environment to deal with social emotional needs through inclusion with various clubs and programs.

"There are Character Counts Councils at every elementary school, and WEB [Where Everybody Belongs] at every middle school. There are Wellness Centers where students are offered a one-stop shop for counseling,

clinical therapy and community resource referrals. This sets the students up for success."

And more innovations are coming.

"How do we prepare our students for something that doesn't yet exist?" asked Dr. John. "The ultimate aim of education has always been critical thinking. By adding 21st century tools and technology we will do just that. Our kids deserve the best."

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**Great Opportunity!!**  
2-bedroom 1 bath home with laminated floors, updated windows, granite countertops and multiple upgrades. Small office in the front and small office without a closet in the back. Large bedrooms, small dining area in kitchen. Long driveway and an extended one car detached garage. It needs work! Call Today!!

**Don't Wait!!!**  
Duplex with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath each unit. Separate addresses with separate electricity and gas meter. Each unit offers its own newer kitchen with plenty of cabinets, quartz counters, ceiling fans, newer windows, newer copper plumbing, newer electrical wiring, tiled floors, and inside laundry hookups. This property may be excellent for one unit occupied while having the extra rental income.

**A Must See!!**  
This home is a perfect opportunity for anyone looking to purchase as a first-time buyer or possible investor rental property. Featuring 2 bedrooms - 1 bathroom. Residence also features a front porch, driveway to accommodate two cars, and much more. Call Today!!

**Ranch!!**  
Mixed-use ranch including 3 hd 1bu cinder block cabin, barn, lake and more. Land consists of 5 parcels totaling 903+ acres. There is a well near the lake as well as several natural springs. Property also includes 3.76 acre lot which includes a mine and abandoned rail line. Ranch is registered under the Williamson Act as an environmental preserve Call Today!!

**Won't last!!**  
Nice home located in the City of Los Angeles. Features: 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, laminated floors, tile floor in kitchen, granite kitchen counter, back patio, garage converted, and iron fence in front yard. Call Today!!

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