



THE DOWNEY PATRIOT HAS MOVED

Effective Feb. 1, The Downey Patriot's new office is located at: 10927 Downey Ave., Suite C, Downey, CA 90241

NEWS

City council dismisses Alvarez commissioners

SEE PAGE 2

CRIME REPORT

Suspect arrested for catalytic converter theft

SEE PAGE 7

City manager gets 5-year contract

■ Roger Bradley was awarded a five-year employment deal to become Downey's next city manager. His first day is March 14.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — The Downey City Council officially awarded Roger Bradley a five-year contract to become Downey's next city manager at their meeting Tuesday.

According to terms of the deal, Bradley will be paid an annual salary of \$287,456 plus a \$10,000 annual contribution to his employer sponsored retirement plan and a \$300 monthly car allowance.

The compensation fringe benefits include leaves and holidays; retirement plan; health, dental and life insurance; and long-term disability insurance.

The employment contract can be canceled by the City Council with 30 days' notice. Bradley would be due six months' pay if he is fired without cause.

His contract was approved on a 4-0 vote, with Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez absent.

Bradley will begin work on March 14. The contract runs through March 14, 2028.

Bradley was chosen from a field of 41 candidates. He currently serves as an assistant city manager in Corona.



City leaders have proposed turning the historic Vultee building on Lakewood Boulevard into an "idea incubator." The proposal, however, remains a concept without a timeline. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

Mayor envisions 'idea incubator' for Vultee building

■ Finding a suitable use for the historic property has been a challenge for city leaders.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — What is to become of Downey's historic Vultee building?

Once at the heart of the city's aerospace infrastructure and one of the nation's largest producers of military planes during WWII, the remaining Vultee building has sat empty since Boeing left the property in late 1999, early 2000.

However, conversations surrounding the location and its potential future have begun to resurface over the last several years.

Mayor Claudia M. Frometa says plans have been "in the works for a very long time."

"When I came on council and I learned more about this historic building in our city that has been sitting there for years, I got together with our former city manager (Gilbert Livas) and talked about some of the legacy projects that I wanted to begin work on, knowing that the wheels of government turn ever so slowly," said Frometa. "When we talk about the Vultee building, it's building on our city's aerospace history."

Noting the city's current status as a biomedical hub, the emphasis on STEM within Downey schools, and the Columbia Memorial Space Center, Frometa said that the Vultee building is being "reimagined" into an "idea incubator."

"We looked at, why don't we look at this building, reimagine it, design it to be not just a conference center space and an area where we could potentially house our Downey Museum of Art and have a place for the Downey Historical Society, but also an area where the brightest minds can come and they can develop their ideas in the STEM field," said Frometa. "You have the hospitals and then you have colleges right around us that can come and help these students develop from 'this idea' into entrepreneurial ideas having to do with science, space and technology."

Frometa also spoke of the possibility of bringing in major businesses and organizations in partner and / or mentor roles.

"How about we also get Microsoft, or we get Google, or we get these big companies to come and invest in these ideas of these bright young minds, and develop



them; from becoming an idea, to something that can lead to a business enterprise and a business opportunity," said Frometa.

The city isn't the only entity with vested interest in the building, however, as Downey Unified School District had been approached by the city prior to the pandemic to discuss if the property could be of mutual interest.

"We feel that any opportunity to further build our programs and provide 21st Century educational opportunities for our students, is worthy of discussion," the District said in a statement sent to the Downey Patriot. "We look forward to exploring, along with the City, how this building could further enhance our already robust program offerings for students."

Along with the incubator concept, Frometa said that she believed the site to be big enough to also serve other needs.

"This is a space that is large enough to house your idea

incubator... but it's also big enough to have conference room space," said Frometa. "The city doesn't have conference rooms, besides the Barbara J. Riley (Center) or the Columbia Memorial Space Center, and we have hospitals that sometimes need conference rooms for various things."

"Aside from that, I envision this, an area, a little wing, an area where we can showcase the long lost art pieces that Downey had at some point in time. Because again, to me, Downey is so special, and we have such amazing history; why not showcase those pieces there? And then you've got organizations like the Downey Historical Society that also are passionate about Downey's history. Why not have a space for them as well?"

At the moment, the Vultee "idea incubator" remains a concept without a tangible timeline. Frometa said closed-session discussions were scheduled to take place soon, but could not disclose any details further than that.



Weekend at a Glance

Friday 70°

Saturday 72°

Sunday 71°

ON THIS DAY

1900: The Southern Cross expedition led by Carsten Borchgrevink achieved a new Farthest South of 78° 50'S, making the first landing at the Great Ice Barrier.

1923: The burial chamber of King Tutankhamun was unsealed by British archaeologist Howard Carter; his discovery of the tomb the previous year was one of the most-celebrated contributions to Egyptology.

1937: DuPont chemist Wallace Hume Carothers patented nylon.

1938: Austrian Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg admitted a Nazi to his cabinet, believed to be the first step in the German overthrow of his government.

1945: American paratroopers landed on Corregidor Island in the Philippines during World War II, and within two weeks they recaptured it from the Japanese.

1945: The Alaska Equal Rights Act of 1945, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States, was signed into law.

1957: British TV broadcasters ended a postwar policy in which there was no programming between 6-7 pm; known as the "toddler's truce," the break was designed to help parents put children to bed.

1959: After defeating the forces of dictator General Fulgencio Batista, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba, transforming the island country into the Western Hemisphere's first communist state.

1968: In Haleyville, Alabama, the first 911 emergency telephone system goes into service.

2005: The 2004-05 NHL season was canceled after the collective-bargaining agreement between the owners and the players' union ran out.

2005: The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty aimed at reducing the emission of gases that contribute to global warming, went into effect.

2007: Pop star Britney Spears shaved her head and got a tattoo, the beginning of a public meltdown as she divorced husband Kevin Federline and negotiated custody arrangements for their two kids.

2011: Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" became the Billboard Hot 100 chart's 1000th number one.

2015: Musician Lesley Gore, best known for the '60s pop hit "It's My Party," died of lung cancer at age 68.

Birthdays

Fashion model **Janice Dickinson** (68), "Reading Rainbow" host **LeVar Burton** (66), rapper **Ice T** (65), rapper **Lupe Fiasco** (41), film actress **Elizabeth Olsen** (34) and R&B singer **The Weeknd** (33).

Downey PD gets OK to add third police captain

■ Downey Police traditionally had three police captains until 2013 when one position was eliminated due to budget cuts.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — The city of Downey will spend just shy of \$130,000 to add a third captain to the ranks of Downey Police Department.

Downey Police's request for an additional captain comes at a time when the department says it has seen an "increase in duties," most of which fall upon an already strained administrative bureau.

Police Chief Leslie Murray said she had seen "significant changes" within the city and policing during her career.

"It starts off with the development of the city in itself. The makeup of the city has changed," said Murray. "In recent years, the profession of law enforcement has changed significantly. It's become more complex, and in recent years it's become more challenging just because of legislative requirements, the challenges we are experiencing because of increased homelessness, mental health issues.

"And, you know, we take a lot more time on our calls for service; we employ de-escalation techniques, and there's so many more training requirements."

DPD had previously employed three captains until financial issues in Fiscal Year 2013-14 (stemming from the 2008 Great Recession) led the city to cut several full-time police positions, including one captain, one lieutenant, and ten police officers, along with several professional staff.

Though financial times have improved and Downey Police have added personnel since then, the department has continued to operate "lean" without replacing the supervision, management, and support positions that had been eliminated.

Murray said that the department was at a point where it was "taxed," and that adding a third captain would "set the foundation for moving forward."

"This is just, for me, a first step in looking at the policing needs of our department," said Murray. "In recent years, we took over the servicing of the LA County areas of the Rancho property. We've seen the development of the Kaiser Hospital, the (Downey) Promenade, the (Downey) Landing. So, just the dynamics of the city has changed, and I think we need to look at the future staffing needs, but in order to do so, we need to have the foundation.

"The three captains allows each one of those management positions to really focus on the unique challenges of their divisions."

Downey Police is split between field operations, the detective bureau, and administration.

In total, it will cost the city approximately \$129,278 during the remainder of the current fiscal year to accommodate the addition, with funding in subsequent years included as part of future adopted budgets. Adding a third captain will also open up more opportunities for professional growth and development, creating several promotional opportunities.

The addition was approved unanimously by the city council.

Things you didn't know about Downey

By Bobbi E. Bruce
Downey Historical Society

The following news brief, titled "On the Scene - There's Still Something Free," appeared in the Southeast News on March 8, 1978:

Farmers and gardeners may take advantage of one of the biggest bargains ever offered in the Southeast area when the traveling Circus Vargas gives away free natural, organic fertilizer.

The fertilizer comes from the circus horses, llamas, zebras, sheep and 19 elephants. The free supply will be made available at the Commerce Shopping Center (Whittier and Goodrich) from Friday through Monday.

There is one catch... you have to bring your own shovel and container.

Right Result, Wrong Target

An auto service department employee was called into the boss's office in Downey last week and was told he was being fired for stealing a fellow worker's tool. The employee flatly denied the accusation, despite incriminating evidence.

He persisted in his denials, and then finally blurted: "Oh hell, I might as well admit it. Yes, I took the tools but it was the wrong guy's. I meant to take somebody else's."

Mother's Day

John Bloeser Carpet Company had a Mother's Day advertisement

in the newspaper with interesting facts about the holiday.

The first observance was a church service on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia at the request of Anna Jarvis, a spinster minister's daughter, much attached to her mother. Miss Jarvis was concerned about the neglect of mothers by their adult children and started an intensive letter-writing campaign to ministers and congressmen. On May 8, 1914, President Wilson approved a joint resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In the advertisement, it stated that 29 years earlier on the site of the present Los Angeles City Hall, the John Bloeser Carpet Co. began selling fine carpets and draperies to Southland homes and building a reputation unmatched in the Southland.

Downey 100 Years Ago

The Southeast News dated Oct. 11, 1973 featured a look back at Downey 100 years prior. In this newspaper there are pictures of homes - Cinderella Cottage, Sentinels of the Past, California Spanish Vintage. The pictures captured what life was like in Downey. The old and new have in common practical living, with high ceilings or rambling style that spell elegance. Also wide, sweeping, tree-lined streets. Apartments and condominiums too.

Corn stalks towered over Rancho's former superintendence William Harriman, who pioneered much of the institution's

development. Today's corn doesn't grow as high but it produces a bigger yield. The institution's farming days are long gone but its old work program has evolved into modern rehabilitation therapy techniques pioneered at Rancho Los Amigos.

There is a picture of hay racks lined up along the road into the old County Farm (now Rancho Los Amigos). A storage area, past rows of huge eucalyptus trees to be used for the facility's livestock, is in a 1924 photo. The farm worked at being self-sustaining.

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital used to have its own station on a spur line of the Southern Pacific Railroad, providing direct route for visitors from Los Angeles.

This year 2023 is Downey's 150th anniversary. Learn more about your town's history by visiting the Downey History Center.

Murphy Seed Company

This article appeared in the Downey Live Wire newspaper on April 16, 1942:

The 10-acre flower breeding gardens of the Murphy Seed Company at 605 S. Downey Avenue ships flower seed to all parts of the world, while local gardens and others of the company in San Diego, San Juan Capistrano and Santa Maria are producing much of the seed which formerly came from European countries before the war.

This was revealed in an address before the Rotary Club here Tuesday by Harold Norman, flower breeding specialist with the Murphy company, who resides at the Downey flower farm and commutes to the experimental plots of the company in other sections of the state.

The breeding of flowers in this country is a comparatively young industry, Mr. Norman said, the first work of this kind being started in 1904 and 1905.

There are 15,000 different varieties and types of flowers and 12 years are sometimes required to develop a new type.

Before the recent war, seed grown in this country was shipped in bulk to England or Europe, where it was packaged and returned here for sale to satisfy the desire of growers to have their seed come from "abroad." However, today California supplies 90 percent of the flower seed for the United States and 60 percent of the flower seed for the world.

There are 1,000 varieties of flowers planted in the Downey flower acres of the Murphy company, whose products are sold only in the wholesale markets. At the Downey gardens, there are sample plots of growing flowers for exhibit to the buyers, much as other merchandise is displayed for selection.

A producer of flowers in the world market, Mr. Norman stated he can tell where an order originated by the colors and type demanded. An English order will be a request for pastel shades; one from France for bright reds and yellows, etc.

Mr. Norman had a number of beautiful flower selections on exhibit at the Rotary Club meeting. He was presented before the club by C.C. Carpenter.

Remember to learn something new each day about Downey, Calif.

Bobbi E. Bruce is a docent with the Downey Historical Society.

Council axes Alvarez appointees

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — Following Catherine Alvarez's official removal from office, the city council wiped the District 3 slate completely clean, opting to dismiss her commissioners and other representatives without seeking interim appointments.

While Alvarez's recall became official with the city's certification of election results on Tuesday, questions remained as to what would become of those she appointed to the city's various commissions, boards, and committees.

City staff presented three options to the Mayor and her colleagues, including removal and appointment, keeping them in their positions until an appointment was made, or allowing them to continue to serve until the District 3 Council seat was filled in the upcoming November special election.

At the time of her recall, Councilwoman had 13 representatives across the city's boards and commissions; only the District 3 Planning Commission seat was vacant.

There was some debate over how the city should proceed.

Councilmember Timothy Horn made it clear early that he did not wish to appoint anyone to the seats.

"Whatever we choose... I wish to have an amendment that we do not as a council appoint someone for another district because it is the responsibility of the residents, and I don't want to be in charge of that residency," said Horn.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo suggested that the seats be vacated and reappointed, allowing Alvarez's representatives to reapply should they desire.

"If we're going to consider thanking them all and starting with a clean slate, I would just like to give a chance to those people who were previously appointed and are approved by this body to apply again," said Trujillo.

Trujillo also inquired into appointing just the Planning Commission seat, however added that he was unsure about appointing to lower commissions and boards when the city charter did not allow an appointment to the council seat.

Councilman Hector Sosa expressed concern over issues of quorum should the positions be left vacant, however was reassured that each entity had been stable enough to proceed with city business regardless of District 3 vacancies.

Mayor Claudia M. Frometa said the council was in "uncharted territory," however made the ultimate suggestion to keep the seats empty.

"This is the first recall in the history of our city... We have never had a situation like this," said Frometa. "Having said that, our charter doesn't specify what to do with commissions. However, the charter does indicate and give us the guidance that once a councilmember is recalled, we cannot appoint. That is, now the direction goes back to the residents to fill that seat."

"On the same token, what I would like to suggest...that we thank the commissioners for their service, and we allow for that to go empty until the residents elect a new council member, and that councilmember reappoints."

She added that the councilmembers serve all residents, not just those in their own district.

"I want to make it clear to the residents, just because there isn't a body in District 3, it doesn't mean you're not going to be represented," said Frometa. "We are here to move the business of the people forward."

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Warriors take 19-game winning streak into semifinals

■ St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy faces Buena of Ventura on Friday.

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

DOWNEY — Almost a year to the day, the St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy (PMA) Boys Basketball team saw its dream for a CIF Championship come to an end in the semifinals against Orangewood Academy.

Fast forward a year, and the more experienced team is in the CIF-Southern Section Division 3 AA Semifinals again.

The difference is they are top-ranked, and the young team has grown by leaps and bounds and are

riding a 19-game winning streak.

To get to the semifinals, the Warriors easily defeated visiting Hesperia, 66-41 in the quarterfinals Tuesday (February 14) to advance to Friday's (Feb. 17) semifinals at home.

The Warriors also ran away with both first round and second round victories, defeating Alemany of Mission Hills (90-56) and Canyon of Canyon Country (79-43).

PMA will play Buena of Ventura (27-4), a 72-66 winner over Maranatha, for the chance to get to a CIF final.

"Our defense was fantastic (Wednesday)," PMA coach Donte Archie said. "It's (semi's) big for us. Last year we took down No. 5 Orangewood Academy in the quarters. We knew we beat a good

team and it's time for us to get over the hump (semi's). It's the same team as last year. Everybody's excited."

One big goal, besides advancing to the title game, is to eclipse the school record for wins with 29, which they achieved in their 2020 CIF championship year.

The current team is 27-4 and the 2020 team ended up after the state playoffs with a final record of 29-7.

"That team (2020) was senior heavy and were veterans and were an older team," said Archie of the champs.

With the win over Hesperia (20-11) in the quarters, they seem to be on their way to that record.

Leading the way against Hesperia for the Warriors was 6-6

junior guard Tyrone Riley with a game-high 22 points. Riley also had two 3-pointers, 10 rebounds and three steals.

PMA sophomore forward Douglas Langford added 17 points, 13 rebounds (game high) and three blocks, while sophomore guard Tariq Bridges added 10 points (2 3's). Junior forward Edmari Binion had nine points and six rebounds in his first game back.

Adding one 3-pointer each for PMA was sophomore guard Shaun Fonoimoana and senior guard Andrew Rivas and sophomore guard Emmanuel Gillam had a basket.

As a team, the Warriors connected for seven long-range baskets.

"We hit seven 3-pointers, which

is pretty decent," added Archie. "We try to average 10 per game."

Leading the way for the Scorpions was junior forward Jessie Martinez with 16 points, while junior guard Anggulo Guerra had seven (1 3-pointer) points.

The unsung leader on defense for PMA was 5-8 sophomore Saul Anaya. Anaya, who didn't score a point, hasn't turned the ball over in the playoffs.

"He's the leader on defense in these playoffs," Archie said. "Saul started the engine. He stood next to their guard wherever he went, and he let him know that it was going to be that type of game."

It was a back-and-forth game in the first quarter, with the Warriors stretching the lead out to eight points, 19-11, heading into the second quarter. Riley and Langford led with eight and six points, respectively.

"I knew it was going to be close in the first quarter," Archie added. "We just knew they were eventually going to get tired. We knew what their strengths were - they like to run a lot off of sets."

PMA, which defeated Hesperia on a buzzer-beater in mid-January on an inbounds lob basket by Riley, had ".....a different energy in the second Hesperia game," said Archie.

That energy was especially evident in the second quarter, as the Warriors outscored Hesperia, 17-7.

"We got out on a break and like to run and we just kept stopping (Hesperia) every time," Archie said. "(Hesperia) would score one out of seven possessions and we would score four out of seven."

The third quarter was more of the same for the Warriors, as they again scored 17 points and allowed only nine points on defense.

Langford led with seven points for the Warriors, as they continued to build on the double-digit lead, 53-27.

Hesperia outscored PMA, 14-13 in the final quarter, but it was all but over for the Scorpions.

Riley had three steals in the final quarter for the Warriors.

"A credit to Section 7 in Arizona, as we won the bracket," added Archie, of the off-season program last summer. "They see now that this is the reason why we worked hard."

Downey Girls Water Polo loses in semi's

After a very successful season by the Downey Girls Water Polo team, it all ended with a close, 6-4 loss in the CIF-SS D2 Semifinals Wednesday (Feb. 15) to visiting Murrieta Valley.

The Vikings finished with an undefeated league title and an overall record of 24-3.

Downey to create historic preservation ordinance



■ The ordinance defines historic properties in Downey and creates policy to ensure they are protected.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — Implementation of a historic preservation ordinance will have to wait just a bit longer, as the City Council on Tuesday chose to pursue the creation of an Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation Commission.

At this week's council meeting, city staff presented the city council with a proposed ordinance that would protect Downey's historic landmarks that are either listed or deemed eligible to be listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places or California Registrar of Historical Resources, or recognized as historically significant in the Downey General Plan.

The ordinance sets clear definitions of properties which would be considered historic, minimum maintenance and upkeep standards, as well as enforcements and remedies when violations occur. It also set a review procedure and criteria for any alterations, requiring a permit to demolish or modify a historic resource.

The ordinance originally set the Planning Commission as the review board.

However, The Council opted instead to create a new commission - theoretically composed of individuals with background in historical knowledge and conservancy - to oversee the ordinance, calling it the Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation Commission.

"I want to make sure that we are getting individuals who have the historical knowledge and background that we would like

to be part of this ordinance, and not just go through the Planning Commission," said Mayor Claudia M. Frometa.

City Staff will now need to bring back an amended ordinance that includes the new commission at a later meeting for final approval.

The city currently has six known historic landmarks, including the James C. Reeves House, The Casa De Parley Johnson Assistance League House, the McDonald's Sir Speedee sign, the NASA industrial plant, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Los Angeles County Poor Farm, and Moreton Bay fig tree, and Bob's Big Boy Broiler (former Johnnie's Broiler, originally Harvey's Broiler).

There are also two potentially historic locations, including the Downey Police Department Arch and the Dismukes House.

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DOWNEY ONE DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Join us for the **Downey One Day of Service** event!
Downey One Day is a community service day in which volunteers give back to their community by participating in various projects throughout the City.

9:00 a.m. | Kick Off Rally
Downey Civic Center
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Volunteer Projects

Residents, community organizations, businesses, and churches are encouraged to take ownership of a specific project and give back to their community. Deadline to submit a volunteer project for consideration is **Friday, April 7, 2023.**

To volunteer and/or submit a project, scan QR Code or visit www.downeyca.org/downeyoneday. Any questions, please email citymanager@downeyca.org or call 562.904.7284.

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News Briefs

Sheriff's deputy charged in crash that left 12-year-old boy dead

SOUTH GATE – A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy has been charged with murder and other counts stemming from a high-speed, off-duty crash in South Gate that left a 12-year-old boy dead, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced Wednesday.

Ricardo Castro, 28, is set to be arraigned March 23 on one count each of murder, vehicular

manslaughter and reckless driving causing great bodily injury in connection with the Nov. 3, 2021, crash.

The boy, Isaiah Suarez Rodriguez, died as a result of the collision. The boy's older sister, Alexa, was injured, along with Castro and his passenger, according to the District Attorney's Office.

An investigation showed that

the off-duty deputy may have been traveling at speeds nearing 95 mph in a 25 mph school zone as he approached the busy intersection of Firestone Boulevard and San Juan Avenue, where the boy's sister was waiting to make a left turn at about 3:55 p.m. that afternoon, the county's top prosecutor said at a news conference in South Gate.

"Driving at 95 miles per hour was nearly quadruple the speed limit when school children are present ..." the district attorney told reporters, adding that it shows a "conscious disregard for those children's lives."

Castro's driving history revealed that he has been involved in "multiple collisions" and received several traffic tickets, including for speeding, the district attorney said.

"Mr. Castro was also involved as a passenger in a fatal traffic

collision just three months prior to this fatal collision," Gascón said.

The district attorney noted that Castro received rigorous training through his work as a sheriff's deputy and had significant personal and professional knowledge about the dangers of driving at an excessive speed.

"Mr. Castro's recklessness ended the life of a boy with an entire future ahead of him and destroyed a family," Gascón said. "This tragedy was preventable and should have never happened."

South Gate Police Chief Darren Arakawa said the boy was an "innocent child" who "didn't stand a chance in that crash."

The police chief said the off-duty deputy was driving his Ford pick-up truck at an "unsafe speed far beyond the speed limit" when he broadsided the side of the Mercedes-Benz in which the boy was riding as his sister was negotiating a left turn.

"Despite the valiant efforts of L.A. County firefighters and medical staff at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, Isaiah did not survive this horrific event," the police chief said. "I want to emphasize that this was a preventable incident that was clearly in the hands of Mr. Castro, and that cannot be understated. At the time of the collision, the street was heavily populated with motorists and pedestrians and occurred during a time period while school children were still present."

In an emotional statement, the boy's mother said, "First of all, I want to say that I love my son. I love you, Isaiah, and I miss you every single day."

She said the boy -- who had decided three days earlier to be baptized -- was out that afternoon to get a ruler for a classmate whose ruler had been taken away while being bullied.

The victim's mother, Betsabe Suarez, said the family is "completely broken" by his loss, and said she is thankful that the crash was not brushed "under the rug."

The charges were filed Tuesday.

Castro was arrested at 5:14 p.m. Tuesday by South Gate police and has remained jailed since then in lieu of just over \$2 million bail, according to jail records.

A bail review hearing is set for next Wednesday in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom.

Castro could face a potential 25-year-to-life prison term if convicted as charged, the district attorney said.

Downey police captain is guest speaker at historical society

DOWNEY – Downey Police Capt. Brian Baker will be the guest speaker at the Downey Historical Society on Thursday, Feb. 23, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Baker began his career as a police officer with the Vernon Police Department in 1994. After three years of dedicated service, in 1997 he was hired by the Downey Police Department.

Over the next seven years, Baker was assigned as a patrol officer in the Field Operations Division. During that time he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and was chosen as a Field Training Officer. In 2004, he transferred from the Field Operations Division to the Detective Bureau and worked as an auto theft detective before being assigned as a gang investigator.



Baker was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2006, and over the following six years he had assignments in Field Operations, the Detective Bureau, and Administration.

In December 2012, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and assigned to patrol as a watch commander, with collateral duties overseeing scheduling, the Field Training program, and Special Operations. In 2016, he was assigned to Administration and oversaw Professional Standards, Training, the department's S.E.T. Team, Neighborhood Watch, Records Bureau, along with the Park Ranger and Volunteer programs.

In May 2021, Baker was promoted to the rank of Captain and he currently oversees the Field Operations.

In 2011, Baker completed his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Management. In 2016, he obtained his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from American Military University. He is also a graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership Institute, the P.O.S.T. Management Course, and the Los Angeles Police Department's: West Point Leadership Program.

In his spare time, he enjoys cheering for the Green Bay Packers and boating on the Colorado River with his wife of 23 years and their daughter.

L.A. County performs 213 weddings on Valentine's Day

NORWALK – Love was in the air Tuesday, when Los Angeles County officials performed a whopping 213 wedding ceremonies on Valentine's Day.

Same-day marriage licensing and civil wedding ceremonies were offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the county clerk's Norwalk headquarters. Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan said Wednesday that 140 couples took advantage of those services, while another 73 couples were married at the RR/CC field offices located throughout Los Angeles County.

"It was a pleasure to see so many couples celebrate their love story on Valentine's Day at our Norwalk pop-up chapels, as well as at our branch office locations," Logan said. "We understand some couples prefer an intimate setting for their civil ceremony and we're proud to make their day a little more special."

The county conducted 152 same-day ceremonies at the Norwalk office on Valentine's Day 2020, the last time they were offered. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a normal day at the Norwalk office would see about 30 ceremonies per day, according to the clerk's office.

Marriage licenses and civil ceremonies continue to be conducted on an appointment-based model. Couples looking to make an appointment can visit LAVOTE.GOV for more information.

The county charges \$35 for a civil wedding ceremony. A marriage license costs \$91, but a confidential license costs just \$85.

In Memory of



Dean F. Moren

March 3, 1956 - January 31, 2023

Dean F. Moren, 66, of Prescott Valley, AZ, passed away on January 31, 2023, after a battle with cancer. Born on March 3, 1956, in southern California to Eric Nels and Frances (Jakowski) Moren, Dean was the youngest of four sons. Spending most of his life in Downey, he attended Saint Raymond School, graduated from Warren High School, earned a Political Science Degree from UCLA, and a Juris Doctorate at Western State College of Law.

A claims adjuster at Twentieth Century then a liability investigator at Southern California Edison for a number of years he later earned his teaching credential from Mount Saint Mary's University, and taught Social Sciences at Columbus and Downey High Schools as a well-liked and highly respected teacher and colleague.

Reading multiple newspapers daily, Dean possessed a wealth of information that he used as a gifted storyteller. Family was a priority and Dean was a mainstay at family events. He possessed a joy for life, an easy smile, and an infectious laugh.

A devout Catholic, Dean married his beloved wife, Nancy, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and was an active member in the Knights of Columbus where he served a term as a Grand Knight. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge.

Preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Dennis, Dean is survived by his wife of 15 years, Nancy, his step-children Tom (Bethany), Matthew, Christina (Cole), and step-grandsons Daniel, James, Logan, and Wade. He leaves behind his older brothers Dale (Martha) and Daniel (Brigitte), nieces and nephews Julie (Matt), Eric (Lisa), Allison (Louie), Andrew (Nicole), and great nieces and nephews Parker, Bradley, Henry, Amelia, and Claire, along with many cousins, and close friends.

Dean will be remembered at Saint John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda with a Rosary at 9:30 AM, Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM, followed by a Celebration of Life from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM on Saturday, February 18, 2023.



Educating California One Child at a Time

The first step in helping children with special needs is to find them!

The Downey-Montebello SELPA provides educational services for children with disabilities residing in Downey and Montebello School Districts.

If you suspect an infant, child, or young adult of having a developmental delay or disability, they may be eligible for services, at no cost, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Services are provided on an individual basis in accordance with his or her needs. If you are aware of a child or student who may need services, please reach out to us using the contact information below.

Infants ages 0-3 years old: Downey-Montebello SELPA at (562) 469-6793 or <https://web.dusd.net/selpa/>

Children and students ages 3-21: Downey Unified School District at (562) 469-6500 Montebello Unified School District at (323) 887-7900

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Opinion

Mitch McConnell was right

By Jeff Merkley and Tim Kaine

Jeff Merkley, a Democrat, represents Oregon in the U.S. Senate. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, represents Virginia in the U.S. Senate.

With the United States on the verge of yet another debt limit crisis, numerous paths to avoid default are being floated, including a trillion-dollar coin, steep cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and challenging the constitutionality of the debt limit altogether.

These proposals ignore a simple solution that, conveniently, already exists: the McConnell plan.

In 2011, during the last major debt limit standoff, circumstances were very similar to those of today: a Republican-controlled House, Democratic-controlled Senate and Democratic president, and the risk of default looming because House Republicans refused to raise the debt limit and pay bills that past Congresses had already incurred. When talks between House Republicans and the president faltered, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) proposed a plan for the debt ceiling.

His proposal, which was later included in the Budget Control Act of 2011, allowed President Barack Obama to increase the debt ceiling, subject to a potential override by Congress. If lawmakers wanted to stop it, Congress could pass a joint resolution of congressional disapproval. Congress still had oversight, but the McConnell plan took the weaponization of the debt ceiling off the table.

Let us eat lungs

By Jonathan Reisman

Jonathan Reisman is the author of “The Unseen Body: A Doctor’s Journey Through the Hidden Wonders of Human Anatomy.”

Federal policy in the United States allows butchers to sell virtually every part of an animal’s body as human food, with one notable exception: the lungs. In 1971 the Department of Agriculture declared animal lungs unfit “for use as human food” and banned them from the commercial food supply.

As a doctor who enjoys eating nose to tail, including an animal’s internal organs and entrails, I believe that the lung ban makes no medical sense and accomplishes little to keep the American public safe. The Department of Agriculture should discard the rule.

When people first hear about this rule, even scientists and food law experts I’ve spoken to, they often presume that it is designed to protect us from dangerous infections that can harbor in animal lungs, like tuberculosis and anthrax. But the language of the ban’s stated rationale says little about lung infections. When the Department of Agriculture proposed the rule in 1969, it purported to protect people from eating things like dust, flower pollen and fungal spores that animals (including humans) inhale.

The rule was based on studies conducted around 1970 in which pathologists at the Department of Agriculture cut open the branching airways of animal lungs to study them much more deeply than in a typical post-mortem examination. The pathologists found those inhaled airborne particulates. They also found stomach contents, which may have refluxed up the animals’ esophagi and into their airways before or after death.

Notably, the pathologists did not mention any serious infections, which are generally discovered with a typical superficial examination — the same check that every internal organ undergoes before being U.S.D.A. approved. (Infected specimens should, of course, be kept out of the food supply.)

Still, the Department of Agriculture felt that such impurities rendered lungs unfit for human consumption and banned them outright. Scottish haggis, which includes the organ, disappeared from store shelves and butcher shops in the United States. (Dried lung treats for pets, however, are legal and widely available. Also, the ruling does not extend to those who hunt and slaughter animals for personal consumption.)

To be clear, there is little scientific data to show that ingesting these impurities is dangerous — or, conversely, that it is safe. But a basic understanding of how our lungs clean themselves suggests how nonsensical the Department of Agriculture rule is.

Humans and other animals cannot avoid inhaling particulates, since the atmosphere we breathe is full of them. To clear out these impurities, our airway linings secrete small amounts of mucus, which creeps along the branching air tubes and gathers up inhaled particles. This contaminant-laden mucus eventually moves up the windpipe and into our throats, where we automatically swallow it. We do this all day, every day of our lives.

The operation of this self-cleaning mechanism, called the mucus elevator, means that we are already ingesting the very impurities from which the federal rule supposedly protects us. And furthermore, we are ingesting them completely uncooked, whereas animal lungs are almost always cooked before being eaten. Humans who live in cities or smoke cigarettes most likely swallow

While the broader Budget Control Act had numerous flaws, the McConnell plan itself was a good solution then, and it remains a good solution today.

This month, we introduced the Protect Our Credit Act of 2023, which would make McConnell’s fix permanent.

This legislation would put the power to prevent default in the hands of the president, with Congress acting as a check. In other words — just as McConnell proposed, the bipartisan Congress passed and the Obama administration implemented in 2011 — Congress could only stop the president from raising the debt ceiling if a veto-proof two-thirds majority of lawmakers agreed it was the right thing to do.

In 2011, McConnell himself said: “It’s extremely important that the country reassure the markets that default is not an option, and reassure Social Security recipients and families of military veterans that default is not an option.”

McConnell had it right in 2011. A dozen years later, the clock is ticking to protect jobs; interest rates for mortgages, car loans and student loans; and our broader economy from unnecessary and self-inflicted disaster. We would do well to make this proposal permanent. We could finally end this episodic crisis by putting a stop to using the debt ceiling as a tool for political blackmail.

far more — and more toxic — substances from their own lungs than they would by eating those of livestock.

As for the stomach contents that turned up in the studies, there is no good reason to believe they pose a danger, either.

To sum up the Department of Agriculture’s 1971 rule’s apparent justification: Some people think that eating lungs is yucky.

Virtually all other developed countries lack such a rule. Last month I formally petitioned the Department of Agriculture to discard it. (The petition is currently open for public comment.)

In recent years, there has been a welcome resurgence in the United States in the eating of overlooked body parts. Many restaurants offer foods like heart and bone marrow on their menus. This development follows a century of declining interest in offal. The 20th century saw the large-scale industrialization of meat production as slaughtering moved from backyards to factories, and efficiency drastically improved. Meat became cheaper and more available, and a growing middle class increasingly preferred the most desirable cuts. Eating certain internal organs became stigmatized, and traditional offal dishes became the purview of poor country bumpkins.

These changes contributed to the decline of traditional ethnic cuisines and dishes, without, in my opinion, making people any healthier. When my grandmother, an Ashkenazi Jewish immigrant from Lithuania, switched in the 1960s from using schmaltz (chicken fat) in her cooking to using partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, her food likely became not only less tasty but also less healthy. The trans fats she adopted — heavily promoted at the time by doctors and nutrition experts as a healthier option — are now widely recognized as the most dangerous kind of fat or oil to ingest.

And when lungs disappeared from her kosher butcher shop after the 1971 federal rule came into effect, she could no longer make traditional lungen stew, a dish her children loved.

The American palate is now expanding once again. There is growing interest in local food, in knowing where fruits and vegetables are grown on the land and in knowing where and how an animal’s body parts functioned during its life. There is also greater interest in sustainability and the ethics of eating: If we are going to kill animals for food, it makes sense to use every body part.

That should include lungs, too.

California should join other states in protecting seniors from insurance companies

By Dr. Monica Sanchez

Dr. Monica Sánchez is a resident and Councilmember for the City of Pico Rivera and works as an educator for the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Her advocacy and policy making work focuses on women, children, and public health.

My mother retired recently. It was a long time coming, but not something I felt sure could happen because of how expensive it is to live here in California. She worked for more than 45 years and was fortunate to have health insurance through her employer. While my mom would be the first person to tell you that it was time to leave her job, it was hard for her to leave knowing that without it, she can’t afford medication to control her high blood pressure.

My mom isn’t alone—more than 60% of Americans have at least one chronic disease and high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is one of the most common. It’s amazing to see the new advances in medicine that allow people like my mom or others who have treatable chronic illnesses like diabetes, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, and hemophilia to live longer and healthier lives. But what good are new solutions if they all have the same problem: affordability?

Until recently, patients and families have in the past relied on pharmaceutical manufacturers and nonprofits to support them with copay assistance savings cards, vouchers and coupons, to help reduce out-of-pocket payments until they hit their deductible.

But a few years ago, health insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) felt that patients shouldn’t be allowed to get

Rio San Gabriel Park

Dear Editor:

Can we please get a paved walking path that goes from the south end of Rio San Gabriel Park (basketball court) to the north end of the park (Pico Vista Rd.)? It can run right in the middle between the two baseball diamonds.

Currently if you want to get from one side of the park to the other side of the park, you have to walk on the grass and get your shoes and pants all muddy. It’s also a pain in the butt to ride a bike on the grass.

If that can’t be done for whatever reason, can we get a path that surrounds the outer edges of the park similar to what Furman Park has? Rio San Gabriel Park is getting very outdated and needs some updates please.

Also, please tell Downey PD to kick out the fentanyl and meth dealers who hang out under the Firestone Boulevard underpass in the riverbed. There’s also another group of gangsters who sell drugs and intimidate cyclists under the Telegraph Road underpass in the San Gabriel Riverbed bike path.

I don’t know if that’s considered Downey or Santa Fe Springs, but it’s annoying either way. It’s also disgusting and full of trash and tents. They even put their belongings in the middle of the bike path sometimes which is dangerous for cyclists trying to use the trail.

Rob Mendoza
Downey

Mayors’ endorsement

Dear Editor:

Thank you for keeping us up to date and informed on what is going on with our Downey City Council. As a longtime resident of Downey, I rely on the Patriot for local news. I look forward to getting your paper every Friday.

I am writing because I am concerned about the upcoming election in District 1. I read in your paper that the Former Downey Mayors Coalition is supporting Elvira Meraz. What are the former mayors thinking?

Haven’t we been through enough with what just happened in District 3 and the recall of Catherine Alvarez? Why are the former mayors, including the current mayor Claudia Frometa, supporting a woman who had a mutual restraining order issued against her by a court of law? That is not becoming of a future Downey city councilperson. If she is elected, this will bring further embarrassment to our city.

Thank you again for informing us about the backgrounds of the candidates. We must be diligent and do our homework to have as much information about candidates as possible. I would think that the former mayors would know better.

I wonder if the Former Downey Mayors Coalition is running backgrounds and checking court records before they agree to endorse a candidate? It sounds like they are not and that is disappointing. We certainly do not want to end up in another expensive recall. Politicians should be held to a higher standard.

This situation reminds me of the Luis Marquez situation where his ex-lover showed up at a city council meeting and spoke during non-agenda comments about his paternity of her child. Do we really want the ex-wife of Ms. Meraz’s husband showing up to Downey city council meetings to discuss the inner happenings of their family? Why would the former Downey mayors put us in this situation?

I hope they read this and care to answer.

Elizabeth Hernandez
Downey

Suspicious move

Dear Editor:

It seems I remember Eric Pierce mentioning the 3rd Street Coffee shop in an article he previously wrote in the Patriot.

Now, with the Patriot’s recent move to the corner of Downey Avenue and 3rd Street, one wonders if it’s a coincidence that the new location is just a very short distance from the coffee shop.

I don’t know about this. This seems highly suspicious to me.

Jack Russell
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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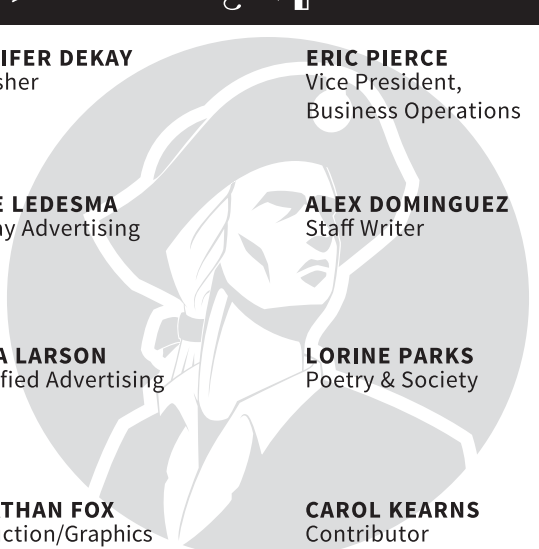
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The Regift

■ A short story about a mother's love and a cherished family heirloom.

By Mario Amado Castaneda Contributor

Why do we share stories with strangers? Hopefully so the story will live again in our *corazon*. Throughout my life and "the end" of her loving existence, I admired this resilient woman who was my dear mamá. She was a complicated *mujer* but I love the thoughtful gift she left behind.

After her funeral, when everybody was gone, my dear aunt Refugio Duran and her family made a short stay in our apartment before their long journey back to El Paso, Texas. I saw my aunt looking around our living room with delight. It was her first time there. She was curious about why my mamá's favorite piece of furniture was there.

My *tia* found a comfy couch and called me over to talk. We talked about the family *chisme*. The expressions on her face reminded me so much of my mamá. I told her the story about the curio cabinet in the best Spanish I knew.

I began flashing back to the 80's when I was around 17 years old. Our neighbor, Mrs. Hook, had died. She was a lovely elderly lady with white hair and fancy gray glasses. Her family had decided to have a garage sale.

I woke up in a daze early the Saturday morning when the sale began in our neighborhood. Near my bedroom I heard some noises coming from the living room. My mamá bought a couple of things for the house from the garage sale. Throughout the day, the only other thing she kept eyeing was an old curio cabinet. Little by little everything was disappearing. The only big thing left was what my mamá admired the most. She did not tell me but I knew.

That very afternoon, I was feeling so hungry I decided to make one of my famous double-decker sandwiches. In my childhood home, the kitchen and dining room led into the living room. When I was making one of my sandwiches, I saw the shadow of somebody walking in the bright afternoon sunlight. It was my mamá. She was pacing in front of the picture window for an eternity. She puzzled me that day because she was always a go-getter and went after whatever she wanted.

I stopped what I was doing and asked her, "*¿Cuánto cuesta?*" (how much does it cost?). The both of us were looking out the front window. I saw a sadness immediately consume her.

I had been saving money for a rainy day and it "rained" that day for her. I went to my room and came out holding my jar of money in my hands. My mamá was trying to stop me from going to the front door.

"*Mijo*, where are you going?"
"I am going to buy something mamá. I'll be right back."

I walked towards the sale, making my way through unsold things scattered all over the yard. The Hook family was putting everything away in black bags. I stood right next to the cabinet and asked them if it was still for sale. The husband looked at his wife. She responded, "Yes, of course!" I showed them the jar of money that I had earned and collected over the years. They both went to the front porch to count it, piece by piece.

While I was waiting for their decision, I turned around and took a closer look at my mamá's beloved old curio cabinet with mirrors inside and glass all around. A tassel was holding the cabinet's old key. I looked back toward my house and could see our lime green curtains moving back and forth. It was my crazy sweet mamá watching me talking to the Hook family this whole time. Her silliness made me giggle.

The Hooks agreed to sell me the cabinet. When we brought the cabinet through the front door of our house that evening, my mamá was beyond excited. She jumped and did a joyful dance right in front of me. She quickly found a special place for it in the corner of our *casita* and put her little



treasures inside; some were old and some were new.

Several decades passed since the garage sale and all of us had moved on in our lives. Even though my parents had moved to Murrieta to enjoy their retirement, we always made time to get together.

It's funny how my mamá always knew the right time to call me; I was stuck on the 605 Freeway, traveling home at a snail's pace. My cell phone started to ring. I recognized the number and answered, "*Hola*, mamá!"

"I am glad I got you, *mijo*. I was thinking it has been a long time since we had a family dinner so I have decided this Sunday we are going to have one. Don't bring anything, just bring yourself and your lovely wife Rosa."

While I was driving to the rancho, I was wondering what my mamá had planned for me that day. My mamá was waiting for us very patiently on the front patio.

"*Hola*, *mijo*, I'm glad the both of you are here."

The expression on her face was telling me something was up.

"Oh silly *mijo*, I forgot one important ingredient for our dinner, the *milanesa*. Can you be a dear and go to the market with your brothers?"

When we came back from the market, I opened the front door and ran into a couple of boxes on the floor.

"Be careful," my mamá and Rosa said. I heard whispering coming from the dining room. She told Rosa, "hurry quickly before he comes in." They were wrapping fragile things inside boxes. I wanted to ask them what was going on but my beloved wife stopped me before I could say anything.

"Amado, come here," my mamá said. "I want to give you a belated wedding gift."

My mamá wheeled herself down the hallway and entered a room unknown to me. In the shadows of the backroom, my mamá pointed at something for me. I entered and opened some curtains to see what she was pointing at. There it was again — the old curio cabinet covered with dust and her beautiful treasures still inside. Right next to it were some empty boxes all ready to be packed up for the long journey back to L.A.

I turned around, got on my knees and gently grabbed her hand. Although no words were said, I understood what was happening because of the loving expression on her face.

When we finished packing up

everything, a familiar voice said, "dinner is ready." After dinner we said our goodbyes. I kissed her on the forehead and went home with our gifts.

A week later, while I was at work, a strange thing happened to me. To describe how it felt - it was like a warm, cuddly blanket that my mamá used to wrap me up in when I was a little baby boy. This strange loving presence stayed with me for a few minutes and then gently went away.

I had plans to visit my mother-in-law's house that evening to have dinner. However, out of the blue, my little brother Oscar phoned me. His disturbed voice was telling me something was wrong. The tears of his sadness were filling my ears and soul. He was trying to put his words together but the only words that came out were, "my mom...mom, they took her to the hospital. Come back to the rancho."

My mamá passed away that evening. I thought about what happened to me at work earlier that day. Was it a coincidence? Was it because I was tired and overworked? But I know what I experienced. I know it happened to me.

As I finished telling my *tia* the

Crime Report

On Jan. 30 at 6:40 pm, officers responded to a robbery in the area of 9400 Firestone Blvd. The suspects had entered a phone store and stole cell phones. The suspects were armed with a sledge hammer and fled the scene on foot.

On Feb. 2 at 3 am, officers responded to the area of 9900 Lakewood Blvd regarding a theft in progress. When they arrived, they located the suspect's vehicle and a short pursuit ensued. Three suspects inside of the vehicle were ultimately arrested for theft of catalytic converters and evading police.

On Feb. 2 at 11 pm, officers conducted extra patrol of Apollo Park and located a male in the park after hours. The male was issued a citation for being in the park after it had closed and advised to leave.

On Feb. 6 at 4:15 pm, officers responded to the area of 9724 Washburn Ave regarding a catalytic theft in progress. Officers arrived shortly after and located the suspect as he was fleeing. The suspect was positively identified by the victim and arrested.

On Feb. 9 at 8 am, officers responded to the area of Birchdale Ave and 5th St. regarding a robbery. The suspects demanded the victim's property and threatened to shoot him if he did not comply. The victim fled the area and detectives were called in to investigate. The suspects' vehicle was located and two suspects were subsequently arrested for the robbery.

On Feb. 10 at 10:10 pm, officers responded to the area of Old River School Rd and Imperial Hwy regarding a stolen vehicle. Officers located the vehicle in the area and the driver was arrested.

On Feb. 12 at 11:10 pm, officers responded to the area of Gardendale Ave and Verdura St regarding shots heard in the area. Officers located five shell casings in the street. Officers canvassed the area and determined there were no injuries and nothing was struck. Detectives are investigating.

story, the emotion of happiness was trickling down on her cheeks. Suddenly she tapped my hand and said something to me that has stuck in my head.

"*Mijo*, your mamá was a very smart woman. She left that old *vitrina* (curio cabinet) in your good hands."

It's hard to say goodbye to the people you love, especially my *hermosa* mamá Virginia Castaneda. When I was growing up I always looked for my parent's approval. I was not a perfect child; far from it. But I was there when my mamá needed me and,

in one of her final actions in life, she gave this precious gift to me.

I will cherish this bittersweet memory for the rest of my life.

Mario Amado Castaneda is a student in the Downey City Library's Literacy Program.

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March 19th - 1:00pm
America's Ideal Miss California

March 22nd - 7:00pm
Downey High School presents:
2023 Viking Awards

April 8th - 8:00pm
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Super Bowl LVII draws second-largest TV audience in US history



■ **TV RATINGS:** Records numbers tuned in for the Super Bowl; not so much for the State of the Union.

By City News Service

Fox's coverage of Super Bowl LVII drew the second-largest audience in U.S. television history, 113.055 million viewers, trailing only NBC's coverage of Super Bowl XLIX on Feb. 1, 2015, which averaged 114.81 million for the New England Patriots' 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

The figure for Sunday's game consists of an average of 112.173 million on Fox and 882,000 for the Spanish broadcast on Fox Deportes and includes digital and out-of-home viewing and viewing on the Fox Sports and Fox Now apps and NFL+ streaming service, according to final figures released Tuesday by Nielsen.

Out-of-home viewing was not included in viewership figures before September 2020.

Super Bowl viewership increased for the second consecutive year after dropping below 100 million for the second time since 2014 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Viewership for the Kansas City Chiefs' 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles was 11.8% higher than the 101.085 million average for the Rams' 23-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI in 2022, which aired on NBC.

Viewership for "Next Level Chef" was the lowest on record for an entertainment program immediately following the Super Bowl postgame shows, the latest example of the decline in viewership for nearly all forms of programming.

The second season premiere of the cooking competition series averaged 15.657 million viewers,

following eight- and 14-minute postgame shows that averaged 88.171 million and 58.474 million viewers.

The previous low was 17.362 million for an episode of the ABC espionage thriller "Alias" which followed Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003 and did not begin until 11:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time because the postgame show included a performance by the rock band Bon Jovi.

President Joe Biden's State of the Union address Feb. 7 averaged the smallest audience for a presidential address to Congress on record, 27.312 million viewers on 16 networks. The previous low was 26.936 million viewers for Biden's speech to a joint session of Congress in 2021.

Viewership was down 28.5% from Biden's 2022 State of the Union address which averaged 38.197 million viewers on 16 networks.

Fox News Channel drew the largest audience for the speech, 4.695 million.

Figures date back to 1993, when then-President Bill Clinton's address to a joint session of Congress in his first year in office averaged a record- 66.9 million viewers.

The speech a president gives to Congress in his first year in office is not considered a State of the Union address.

The three State of the Union addresses and one address to a joint session of Congress delivered by then-President Donald Trump averaged between 37.173 million and 47.741 million viewers.

As is typical for the network airing the Super Bowl, Fox overwhelmed its rivals, averaging 25.04 million viewers for its 17 hours of prime-time programming between Feb. 6 and Sunday, nearly three times the combined

viewership of CBS, ABC and NBC.

CBS averaged 3.96 million viewers and ABC and NBC both 2.94 million, all for 22 hours of prime-time programming.

Fox's most-watched program outside of Sunday was "9-1-1: Lone Star," 25th for the week averaging 3.802 million viewers.

CBS had each of the week's 10 most-watched prime-time programs airing between Feb. 6 and Saturday, topped by "Young Sheldon" which averaged 7.725 million viewers. Only one other prime-time program between Feb. 6 and Saturday topped seven million viewers, the CBS action drama "NCIS," which averaged 7.15 million viewers.

ABC's most-watched program was its State of the Union coverage which averaged 4.405 million viewers, 20th for the week. Its most-watched entertainment program was "The Conners," 23rd for the week averaging 4.209 million viewers.

NBC's most-watched program was "America's Got Talent: All-Stars," 15th for the week averaging 4.838 million viewers.

The CW averaged 380,000 viewers for its 14 hours of programming. Its most-watched program for the second consecutive week was the magic competition series "Penn & Teller: Fool Us," which averaged 619,000 viewers, 163rd among broadcast programs. Its overall ranking was not available.

The lone premiere on the five major broadcast networks, the ABC comedy "Not Dead Yet," averaged 3.606 million viewers, third in its 8:30-9 p.m. time slot Feb. 8, 34th for the week and seventh among comedies. It retained 85.4% of the audience of "The Conners" that preceded it.

A second episode of "Not Dead Yet" averaged 2.882 million viewers from 9:30-10:30 p.m. Feb. 8, third

in its time slot, 55th for the week and ninth among comedies. It retained 89.5% of the audience of "Abbott Elementary" that preceded it.

The 20 most-watched prime-time programs consisted of Fox's coverage of Super Bowl LVII, its eight- and 14-minute postgame shows and "Next Level Chef"; 10 CBS scripted programs and its special, "Super Bowl Greatest Commercials: Battle of the Decades"; NBC's "America's Got Talent: All-Stars"; and four State of the Union-related programs, three on Fox News Channel and one on ABC.

Four State of the Union-related programs on Fox News Channel were the week's four most-watched prime-time cable programs, topped by a 25-minute analysis program that averaged 4.797 million viewers, 17th overall.

Fox News Channel was the most-watched cable network in prime time for the third consecutive week, averaging 2.437 million viewers. MSNBC was second, averaging 1.318 million viewers and ESPN third, averaging 905,000.

The cable top 20 consisted of nine State of the Union-related programs -- four each on Fox News Channel and MSNBC and one on CNN; nine Fox News Channel weeknight political talk shows (five broadcasts of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," three of "Hannity" and one of "The Ingraham Angle"); the MSNBC news and opinion program, "The Rachel Maddow Show"; and TNT's coverage of the Feb. 7 Lakers-Oklahoma City Thunder game where LeBron James became the NBA's career scoring leader.

The fourth season of "You" was Netflix's most-watched television program, with viewers spending 92.07 million hours watching the 10 episodes of the psychological thriller in the first four days they were available, according to figures released by the streaming service Tuesday.

"Your Place or Mine" was Netflix's most-watched movie, with viewers watching the romantic comedy for 51.23 million hours during the first three days it was available.

An episode of the Univision telenovela "Mi Camino Es Amarte" was the most-watched Spanish-language program for the third time in four weeks, with the Thursday episode averaging 1.698 million viewers, 70th among broadcast programs. Its overall rank was not available.

Univision was the most-watched Spanish-language network for the 27th consecutive week and 165th time in 167 weeks, averaging 1.26 million viewers. Telemundo was

second, averaging 940,000 viewers, followed by UniMas (454,000) and Estrella TV (80,000).

ABC's "World News Tonight with David Muir" was the most-watched nightly newscast for the 218th time in the last 220 weeks, averaging 8.289 million viewers. "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt" was second, averaging 7.246 million viewers, and the "CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell" third, averaging 5.289

million viewers.

The week's 10 most-watched prime-time programs were Fox's coverage of Super Bowl LVII, its eight- and 14-minute pregame shows and "Next Level Chef"; and CBS' "Young Sheldon," "NCIS," "Ghosts," "Fire Country," "The Neighborhood" and "Blue Bloods."

POET'S CORNER

Lincoln

There is a silence abroad in the land to-day,
And in the hearts of men, a deep and anxious silence;
And, because we are still at last, those bronze lips slowly open,
Those hollow and weary eyes take on a gleam of light.

Slowly a patient, firm-syllabled voice cuts through the endless silence

Like labouring oxen that drag a plow through the chaos of rude clay-fields:

"I went forward as the light goes forward in early spring,
But there were also many things which I left behind."

John Gould Fletcher

Lincoln's assassination just five days after Lee surrendered his army dramatically affected Black history. Lincoln looked to Reconstruction as a time of healing, but immediately following the Civil War, Southern states passed numerous laws restricting the rights of Blacks. For example, Blacks could not own or rent land outside of an incorporated town. The purpose of this code was to undermine the efforts of the federal government in giving forty acres of land to former slaves. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

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