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## PIH denies lawsuit claims

■ A former nurse claims she was fired after refusing to be tested for the coronavirus and being unable to wear N95 masks.

By City News Service

**WHITTIER** — A lawsuit filed by a former nurse at PIH Health Whittier, alleging she was discriminated against and then terminated in 2021 because she objected on religious grounds to being tested for the coronavirus, should be dismissed for a lack of triable issues, the facility's attorneys argue in new court papers.

Lilia Acevedo-Cosio's Norwalk Superior Court lawsuit alleges wrongful termination, retaliation, discrimination and failure to prevent discrimination and retaliation. The 44-year-old Whittier woman seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages as well as an injunction directing PIH not to engage in future discrimination against employees.

Hospital attorneys filed a motion for dismissal of the suit on June 12 in which they deny the nurse suffered discrimination. They say PIH "worked tirelessly to accommodate Acevedo-Cosio's inexcusable refusal to simply test for COVID during the height of the pandemic," forcing the hospital to accept her resignation.

Acevedo-Cosio refused to test for COVID and appeared for her regular shift "in defiance of the CDPH health orders and PIH's directives," and she refused to answer her supervisors when asked if she had tested, PIH attorneys state in their court papers.

When asked to leave because she refused to answer her supervisors' questions and provided no evidence that she had tested, Acevedo-Cosio called her attorney and she told her bosses that she would continue her shift unless security escorted her out, the hospital lawyers maintain in their court papers.

PIH gave Acevedo-Cosio the chance to work remotely, which would not have required coronavirus testing, but she refused the hospital's offer, the hospital attorneys state in their court papers. A hearing on the hospital's dismissal motion is scheduled Aug. 24.

According to her suit, Acevedo-Cosio was hired by PIH in April 2004 and excelled over the years in case manager roles, earning significant respect and admiration from colleagues, according to the suit.

In August 2021, the CEO of PIH said that all employees had to be vaccinated by Oct. 1 of that year and those unvaccinated would have to wear an indication on their employment badge identifying their exemption status -- a rule that also had the effect of singling out unvaccinated employees, the suit states.

All unvaccinated and partially unvaccinated workers were ordered to wear an N95 mask both in the hospital and in PIH clinical facilities, the suit filed in June 2022 states.

The prospect of having to get vaccinated, which Acevedo-Cosio objected to on religious grounds, caused her to have heart palpitations and anxiety attacks, forcing her to go on medical leave, the suit states.

When Acevedo-Cosio returned from medical leave and the hospital staff was unsatisfied with her explanation regarding testing, she was placed on unpaid leave, according to the suit, which further states that Acevedo-Cosio was terminated on Nov. 15, 2021.

## Is Downey ready for pot?

### Bell Gardens is poised to become the latest city to allow marijuana; could Downey be next?



Workers inside DELI Cannabis in Bellflower prepare to open for the day. Neighboring cities in Southeast Los Angeles County are becoming more receptive to retail cannabis but Downey officials remain hesitant. (Photo courtesy DELI)

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** — With another neighboring city closing in on giving the greenlight to commercial cannabis, could Downey be next?

Last week the Bell Gardens City Council continued discussions on whether or not the city should allow commercial cannabis. The city seems poised to follow through on the matter, with a second reading of the proposed ordinance scheduled for next week.

This caught the attention Downey's residents, some taking to social media to voice their trepidation.

When it comes to Downey's leadership, however, there is little concern.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Trujillo said that there were already

"several neighboring cities that believe Downey already, and we know there are retail sales going on in surrounding cities already," said Trujillo. "So, I don't think that the actions of a neighboring city — at least this one — will affect the quality of life in Downey."

Trujillo added that he didn't believe Downey needed to open its doors to commercial cannabis, and that he didn't see it "in the immediate future."

"I think currently we're very fortunate in Downey that we have a healthy surplus, right? We have a decent amount of reserves in our account," said Trujillo. "I don't think there's any necessity, if you will, to bring marijuana to Downey."

"Cities that have turned to marijuana have done so as a

source of revenue; they need revenue to provide services. Here in Downey, we're very fortunate that we have a healthy tax revenue base from retail without the need for marijuana."

Mayor Claudia M. Frometa said that Bell Garden's impending decision was "a reflection of the current political climate" in those local governments.

Despite the allure some cities may feel due to the potential tax dollars retail cannabis could bring, Frometa argued that dispensaries also came with consequences.

A 2019 research study out of the University of Colorado, Denver found that neighborhoods with one or more marijuana dispensaries saw increased crime rates that were between 26 and 1,452 percent higher than in neighborhoods without any commercial marijuana activity.

For that reason, it's a hard no for Frometa.

"It's not a dialogue I am willing to consider," said Frometa. "I look at this community, and I look at the residents, and I do have my ear to the ground. Overwhelmingly...our residents are concerned about public safety, and are concerned about increased drug addiction."

Of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, only 20 permit retail sales of cannabis, including Bellflower, Commerce, and Cudahy.

According to the Department of Cannabis Control, cannabis retailers can sell goods that have passed testing and quality assurance reviews (such as packaged flower, pre-rolls, topicals, and edibles), cannabis accessories (pipes, rolling paper, vape cartridge batteries), and branded merchandise.

## Judge tosses suit vs. Delta Air Lines

■ A Pico Rivera man said he suffered severe injuries after a Delta Air Lines plane dumped 15,000 lbs. of fuel over Southeast L.A. County.

By City News Service

**PICO RIVERA** — A judge has dismissed one of multiple lawsuits filed against Delta Air Lines over the alleged dumping of fuel by one of its airliners over areas of southeast Los Angeles County in 2020, in this case by a man who said he was doused in Pico Rivera.

On Monday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael E. Whitaker tossed Gerald Castaneda's case after neither the plaintiff nor a representative appeared for a scheduled trial of the case. Whitaker also found the lawsuit was never served on the airline.

The judge's dismissal ruling was "without prejudice," meaning Castaneda is not barred from refiling the suit, which was originally brought in December 2021 and alleged negligence, personal injury and property damage.

A Delta representative

previously said that the pilots were forced to dump fuel over an urban area to reduce the plane's weight before the return landing.

The Delta Boeing 777 jet was en route to Shanghai on Jan. 14, 2020, but soon after takeoff from Los Angeles International Airport for the 13-hour flight, the pilots of Flight 89 declared an emergency and shut down one of the jumbo

jet's two engines because of a compressor stall.

Minutes later, the plane dumped roughly 15,000 gallons of fuel at an altitude of about 2,000 feet over a wide area that also included such cities as Downey, South Gate and Cudahy. The jet made a successful emergency landing at LAX.

Castaneda was at a home

on Myron Street when he was doused with the fuel, the suit states. He suffered "severe and lasting injuries" that required medical care and attention and he also experienced lost income, the suit stated.

Several other lawsuits were previously filed by other plaintiffs against Delta stemming from the fuel dump.

**Weekend at a Glance**

Friday 73°

Saturday 76°

Sunday 74°

**ON THIS DAY**

**1633:** Accused of heresy by the Inquisition, Galileo was forced to recant his support of the Copernican system, which held that the Sun was the centre of the solar system.

**1815:** Napoleon abdicated as French emperor for the second time in favor of his son Napoleon II.

**1941:** Germany violated the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact of 1939 and attacked the Soviet Union during World War II.

**1955:** "Lady and the Tramp," one of Walt Disney's most endearing movies, was released in U.S. theatres.

**1969:** In Cleveland the severely polluted Cuyahoga River caught on fire when an oil slick floating on the surface ignited; although it was not the first fire on the river, the incident garnered national attention and led to antipollution measures that substantially improved the river's condition.

**1984:** "Karate Kid," starring Ralph Machio and Pat Morita, was released in theaters.



**1986:** Diego Maradona scored his memorable "Hand of God" goal (the ball struck his hand, but the referee mistakenly thought it had hit his head) to help Argentina defeat England in a World Cup quarterfinal game; Argentina went on to win the tournament.

**2008:** Comedian George Carlin—whose "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" routine led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gave the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) the right to determine when to censor radio and TV broadcasts—died at age 71.

**2009:** R&B singer Chris Brown pled guilty to assaulting Rihanna the night before the Grammy Awards; he avoided jail time and was sentenced to five years' probation and about 1,400 hours of community service.

**2012:** The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness and Research Centre opened in Melbourne; Newton-John, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, started raising funds to develop the project in 2003.

**Birthdays**

Iconic actress **Meryl Streep** (74), U.S. senator **Elizabeth Warren** (74), pop singer **Cyndi Lauper** (70), basketball hall of famer **Clyde Drexler** (61), author **Dan Brown** (59), football hall of famer **Kurt Warner** (52), and TV host **Carson Daly** (50).

## Concerts in the Park

**When:** Wednesday, June 28

**Time:** 7 pm

**Where:** Furman Park

**Performing:** Latin Nation Band

Latin Nation Band is a newer and upcoming band that is very fortunate to have passionate musicians who have been playing for many years.

The band plays primarily Latin music, including cumbias, salsas, merengue, quebraditas, and corridos. However, they also entertain other genres like pop, oldies, and mariachi.

The band leader, Abel Jimenez, is the lead male vocalist and his daughter, Valeria Infante, is the lead female vocalist.



# Remembering Downey's early Indian settlers

■ **THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DOWNEY:** Most Native Americans had left Downey by 1880, except for one, called Indian Joe by locals.

By Bobbi E. Bruce  
Downey Historical Society

**DOWNEY** — The history of almost any community in North America should begin with the Indians that lived in the area before the white men came. The Indians that lived in Southern California belonged to the Cahullia tribe and seemed to be a little above average in culture and civilization and were somewhat warlike.

Like most of the American Indians, they lived mostly on game and fish. One of their members recounted that their tribe originated near the North Sea and at one time, because of scarcity of food, they started south where they reached the San Gabriel Valley and they decided this was the Garden of Eden - so they made it their home.

At that time there was more rainfall, more trees, plenty of game and a large lake north of Downey that provided an abundance of fish.

During the period of Indians wars, a messenger came from the Indians in Arizona asking for help in driving out the invaders of their land. Many of the able-bodied men went on this expedition and were gone for a period of two years. During these two years

there were heavy rains in this vicinity and the large lake north of Downey broke through its banks and formed a new river flowing to the ocean.

Consequently when the warriors returned they found many things changed. There was very little fish and game because the lake was gone and there was not so much vegetation. Accordingly the Indians decided that the gods were angry because they had undertaken the war expedition and left this part of the country.

One Indian of this tribe stayed around Downey for many years. He was called Indian Joe and lived in a tule hut in the jungle northwest of the Gallatin School, and later in Downey by the railroad tracks.

He helped himself to fruit, nuts, eggs and such things as he needed, wherever he found them, feeling that this was right, and he kept two hunting dogs for retrieving. When he knew a neighbor was butchering, he often went to the home and was given meat.

He was peaceful, molesting no one, and often giving emergency aid in time of sickness by his knowledge of herbs and medicines. During the 80's, he often passed my home, but he always carried a small bundle, presumably of food, tied in a red bandanna handkerchief; another he wore around his head in such a manner as to cover one eye. How he lost this eye was a secret he never divulged.

He died in 1896, supposedly well over 100 years old. He was buried in the northwest corner of the Downey Cemetery where his grave can still be seen.

# From the desert to the sea, Native Americans made their home in SoCal long before Europeans arrived

■ Before their land was taken, Native Americans created ingenious ways to live off the fertile soil of Southern California.

**DOWNEY** — Native Americans have a rich and profound history in Southern California, marked by vibrant cultures, deep traditions, and resilience against immense challenges. They are the original inhabitants of the land, with their presence dating back thousands of years.

Before the arrival of Europeans, Southern California was home to numerous distinct Native American groups. Some of the major tribes included the Chumash, the Tongva (also known as the Gabrielinos), the Juano (also known as Acjachemen), the Luiseño, and the Kumeyaay (Diegueño), among others. Each tribe had its own unique language, cultural practices, and social structures.

The Chumash, who inhabited

the coastal area from Malibu to Paso Robles and the Channel Islands, were known for their sophisticated ocean-faring canoes called tomols. The Tongva, occupying the Los Angeles Basin and the southern Channel Islands, are recognized for their basket weaving and the complex political and economic networks they developed.

The lives of these tribes were transformed with the arrival of Spanish missionaries and colonizers in the late 18th century. Missions were established across California as a means to convert Native Americans to Christianity, often involving forced labor and suppression of native cultures. The Mission period was a time of hardship and disease, leading to a significant decline in the native population.

Despite the harsh conditions, many Native Americans managed to maintain aspects of their cultures and languages. They subtly resisted the colonizers, preserving traditional practices and stories, even while outwardly

adopting elements of Spanish culture.

After Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, the missions were secularized, and the Native Americans found themselves contending with a new set of challenges. During the Mexican period and after California became a part of the United States in 1848, Native American land holdings were further diminished, and their rights continued to be marginalized.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans in Southern California, as in the rest of the country, were subjected to federal policies aimed at assimilation, including boarding schools where children were often forbidden from speaking their native languages or practicing their cultures.

Despite these hardships, Native American communities in Southern California demonstrated remarkable resilience. Over the years, they have worked tirelessly to preserve their cultural heritage,

and secure rights to their ancestral lands.

Today, the tribes of Southern California, including the Chumash, Tongva, and others, continue to be vital contributors to the region's cultural, economic, and social fabric. They share their rich cultures through museums, cultural centers, and festivals. They also play a significant role in the region's economy, particularly through tribal enterprises like gaming and hospitality industries.

The history of Native Americans in Southern California is a story of perseverance, survival, and the enduring power of cultural heritage. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the original stewards of these lands. As we look forward to a future that increasingly acknowledges and respects this rich past, we must commit to ensuring that the stories of these native tribes continue to be a fundamental part of Southern California's narrative.

# Before the iPhone, there was the ballpoint pen

■ **THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DOWNEY:** The history of the ballpoint pen is a story of entrepreneurship and global innovation.

By Bobbi E. Bruce  
Downey Historical Society

**DOWNEY** — One October morning in 1945, more than 5,000 people jammed the entrance to

Gimbel's department store in New York City. They were looking for the latest toy: an innovation called the ballpoint pen, heralded in a full-page ad in the New York Times.

The store sold out its entire stock of 10,000 that day at \$12.50 each. The ballpoint concept, around 1888, had problems. Created as an improvement over messy fountain pens, early ballpoints continued to have a flaw: if the ink was too thick, it wouldn't come out. If it was too thin, it ran out.

Two Hungarians, Ladislav and Geor Biro, had improved the ballpoint pen in the late 1930s and settled in Argentina. Their pens depended on gravity for ink flow, which made the pens awkward to hold. They later used capillary action to move the ink, a major step forward.

When WWII flyers ran across the pens in South America, they loved them; ballpoints worked at high altitudes and didn't require frequent refills. Two writing implement companies, Eberhard Faber and Eversharp, bought the rights to the creation from the Biro brothers.

While the companies continued to refine the Biro design and bring the cost down, Chicago salesman Milton Reynolds vacationed in Argentina. He

saw the pens and quickly began manufacturing them.

Reynolds made the deal with Gimbel's and became wealthy before flaws with his pens were discovered and competitors diluted the market with pens with retractable tips and other improvements. You might still say that Reynolds was really on the ball.

How many people remember writing with a fountain pen?

### The floods of 1868

Floods and heavy rains endangered Southern California in 1868-69 and the Los Angeles Semi-Weekly News on Dec. 3, 1868 reported this devastation in Los Nietos, now Downey:

"At this settlement the losses were severe: E. H. Boyd lost 100 acres; Mr. Parsons 50 acres; Gov. Downey about 200 acres; Mr. Murphy, out of 150 acres, lost 100; Don Pio Pico lost about 200 acres, the river forming a new channel at that place. Some Californians lost about 100 acres.

"On Monday evening, when the river commenced rising, Mr. Murphy and family, fainting the water rising to the floor, undertook to wade to high land. Mr. Murphy and three children got to a place of safety but Mrs. Murphy and her daughter and Mr. Casserly were

caught but succeeded in reaching a drift where they remained from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until midnight when they were relieved by a boat built for the emergency.

"Next morning Messrs. Sharpe and Baker undertook to cross the river in the boat but were swamped. They succeeded in reaching a sycamore tree where they remained until a new boat was built some eight hours later.

"Several houses were washed away, among them Mr. Murphy's with all its contents."

Downey remained plagued by high waters until a few years ago when drains were installed. During the heavy rains, Firestone Boulevard was a river and merchants resorted to sandbags in their doorways to keep the flood out of their stores.

Installation of new drains in the northern portion of this city in the summer of 1957, and other street work contemplated by the new city department of public works, would eliminate flood waters almost entirely.

### Downey's First Library

Downey residents got a library in 1914, which was established in the Gallatin school house. It was later moved to the Woman's Clubhouse on the corner of First (Firestone) and New Street.

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## LEADERS OF TOMORROW

# For artist James Alpert, opportunity awaits

■ Only 20, James Alpert is already an accomplished painter, graphic designer and tattoo artist; his future is in his hands.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** — Imagine having your foot in the door of several promising art careers all at once, with all the time and opportunity to explore each option. James Alpert has that luxury.

The 20-year-old Downey resident found himself at a crossroads: The covid-19 pandemic had shut down the world, and the then Rio Hondo College law student knew that his education would not be best spent in front of a webcam.

“When Covid hit, I’m just really one of those people that need to be there at school, so I just kind of took that opportunity to be inside all the time to practice drawing and more artwork,” he said. “This is a good time to take it serious.”

“Taking it serious” may be a bit of an understatement, as in very little time Alpert has taken his art into not one, not two, but three different mediums: tattoo, graphic design, and painting.

Though Alpert says art has been “with me forever,” he got his professional start doing small freelance jobs.

“I found a gig where I started designing skateboards in Downtown LA, and through that I met a ton of people who were just kind of in the tattoo world I guess, mixed with the skating community,” said Alpert.

Alpert would use these newfound connections to find an apprenticeship at a tattoo shop in Pico Rivera. Alpert has been tattooing for two years now, now out of Iconiq Tattoo Studio in Fontana. Tattooing takes a fair amount of his time; around five days a week.

As he grew his clientele, Alpert would meet a videographer who showed interest in bringing his art into entertainment. This was the beginning of his next venture.



James Alpert was studying law when his love for creative arts pushed him in a different direction.

(Photos by Alex Dominguez)

“I started doing small things on the side for them, like animating,” said Alpert. “Just getting some of my credits in the music world, I guess; the underground scene for sure.”

Through those projects, Alpert caught the attention of digital marketing company Victory House Agency.

“They work with iHeart Radio and all of their clients,” said Alpert. “I got hired as a graphic designer based off of my work.”

“I work on a lot of the podcasts, and a lot of the social media aspect of it, so like the Instagram. I do posters, content creation. And then I do like podcast production assistance, which is like I get the audio, and I write subtitles, and do voice memos; things for people to share, basically.”

In addition to his graphic design and tattoo work, Alpert has entered into the gallery realm, at the suggestion of one of

his mentors.

He is currently working on his first piece; his style leaning heavily into that of realism.

“I love faces and portraits,” said Alpert. “I like putting the soul in the eyes, and looking back at it, for sure. I like subjects, and if I can captivate that; just the person being there.”

His current work is a “peaceful” portrait of a small boy holding an ice cream cone, which he says is an impression of him as a young kid, and of his nephews.

“I notice a lot of painters – I’m not trying to knock on anyone at all, but maybe because I’m younger – a lot of people draw alcohol, cigars, women, things like that. That’s all cool, I’m interested in things like that. But I just kind of wanted to take it a little more back to the more innocence.”

Once completed, the piece



will hang at a show at The Artistry in San Pedro in August; a first for the young artist.

Still, there is no telling where exactly Alpert’s art will take him. And for now, he’s okay with that.

“They all kind of spin together,” said Alpert. “I guess I just like staying busy. So, when one thing is done, another pops up, and I like doing that.”

## Assembly office available to help public Saturday

**DOWNEY** — Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco is hosting an open house this Saturday, June 24, from 12-2 pm at her Downey district office.

Staff members will be available to help with state-related issues, including the DMV, foreclosure prevention programs, consumer

complaints, veterans’ benefits, unemployment and disability insurance, state taxes, professional conduct and licensing complaints, Medi-Cal and Covered California, and more.

Pacheco’s office is located at 8255 Firestone Blvd. in suite 203.

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## Julie Garwood, bestselling romance novelist

Julie Garwood, a bestselling author known for historical and suspense romance novels, died June 8 at her home in Leawood, Kansas, after battling lung cancer. Garwood was best known for her historical romances. They were the first focus of her career, beginning with 1985's "Gentle Warrior," set in feudal England.

She would return to the British Isles many times in her books, setting her stories across history, from medieval times to the 19th century.

Her many historical romances included the Highlands' Lairds series: "The Secret," "Ransom," and "Shadow Music." Another popular series was the Clayborne Brides, set in Montana in the 19th century. That series included "For the Roses," which was adapted into the 1997 TV movie "Rose Hill."

In the late 1990s, Garwood began writing contemporary suspense novels with romantic elements - her first was "Heartbreaker," published in 2000.

She followed it with more than a dozen other contemporary novels, most recently 2022's "Grace Under Fire." Garwood also wrote books for young adults: "A Girl Named Summer" and "What's a Girl to Do?"

Lake, Ontario.

Whitehead was frequently seen on TV in the 1980s, '90s, and '00s. He was a regular recurring character on "Mad About You," playing Hal Conway, the Buchmans' unfriendly neighbor.

On "Friends," he played Mr. Waltham, Rachel's boss at Bloomingdale's. Whitehead had another recurring role on "Ellen" as Dr. Whitcomb, Ellen's therapist.

He starred on the short-lived sitcom "Marblehead Manor" as butler Albert Dudley. His other TV appearances include "Hart to Hart," "Murder, She Wrote," "Law & Order," "3rd Rock from the Sun," "Frasier," and "The West Wing."

On the big screen, Whitehead had a notable role in "Back to School" as Dr. Philip Barby, the nemesis of Rodney Dangerfield's character. His other movies include "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Baby Boom," "Kate & Leopold," and "The Importance of Being Earnest."

## Paxton Whitehead, actor on 'Friends,' 'Mad About You'

Paxton Whitehead, an English actor who worked widely on Broadway and in movies, as well as playing memorable recurring roles on "Friends" and "Mad About You," died June 16 of complications from a fall at a hospital in Arlington, Virginia, at the age of 85.

Whitehead worked on stage for many years before beginning his movie and TV career. After beginning in his native England, he made his Broadway debut in 1962 in "The Affair."

Whitehead was nominated for a Tony Award for his role as Pellinore in the 1980 Broadway revival of "Camelot."

His other Broadway appearances included "My Fair Lady" and "The Crucifer of Blood." In the 1960s and '70s, he was the artistic director of the prestigious Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-

## George Frazier, MLB pitcher

George Frazier, a Major League Baseball pitcher who helped the Minnesota Twins to victory at the 1987 World Series, died June 19 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, after an illness at the age of 68.

Frazier began his professional career with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1979, but it was after a trade to the New York Yankees that his career began to shine.

He went to the 1981 World Series with the Yankees, though they lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Traded to the Chicago Cubs, he won a division title in 1984.

Frazier finally got a World Series win in his second season with the Twins and the final season of his playing career. He was an asset in Game 4 as he pitched two scoreless innings against the Cardinals.

After Frazier's retirement, he worked as a color analyst briefly for the Twins before landing with the Colorado Rockies in 1998, providing commentary until 2015. Later, Frazier worked for Fox Sports.



Teresa Taylor

## Teresa Taylor, rock and roll drummer

Teresa Taylor, a drummer for Butthole Surfers, an influential underground rock band out of Texas, best known for their wild experiments and their crossover hit, "Pepper," died June 18 of lung disease at age 60.

Sometimes performing as Teresa Nervosa, Taylor was a drummer for the influential, often weird Texas rock band Butthole Surfers. Born in Arlington, Texas, Taylor was a marching band drummer in high school alongside founding member King Coffey, who drafted her to join the group in 1983. The band became known for the sensory assault of their chaotic live shows, willingness to experiment with noise, and general disregard for being accepted in mainstream music.

Taylor and Coffey drummed alongside one another from 1983 to 1989, both often using standup drum kits. Thanks in part to this loud combo, the band became legends of the local live scene. Taylor was forced to leave the band in 1989, however, when a brain aneurysm caused her to have seizures during the group's intense strobe light displays. She had brain surgery in 1993.

In 1990, she cemented herself into the counterculture consciousness another way when she appeared in director Richard Linklater's indie darling, "Slacker." Her small role as a woman trying to sell a Madonna pap smear is one of the film's best-known scenes.

Taylor would go on to work at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, while occasionally playing and recording with Butthole Surfers founder Gibby Haynes at his home studio. She rejoined the band in 2008 and 2009 for a tour of the "classic lineup" before again retiring from music.

In 2021, she announced that she had been diagnosed with end stage lung disease.

## Donald Triplett, first person diagnosed with autism

Donald Triplett, the first person ever diagnosed with autism, died June 15 of complications from a fall in March at the age of 89.

Triplett was five years old when he was first seen by child psychiatrist Dr. Leo Kanner regarding his unusually introverted behavior. He had been institutionalized two years before, but his parents brought him home after a year.

Kanner recognized in Triplett some behaviors and symptoms he had seen in other children, and Triplett was the first child officially diagnosed as autistic by Kanner. His case was included in Kanner's landmark 1943 paper, "Autistic Disturbances of Affective Contact."

Triplett became known in his hometown of Forest, Mississippi, for his ability to perform lightning-quick mathematical calculations. He earned a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, where he majored in French, before returning home.

He went on to work at the Bank of Forest - which had been founded by his mother's family - for 65 years, and he enjoyed traveling the world.

## Homer Jones, inventor of touchdown spike

Homer Jones, a Pro Bowl wide receiver for the New York Giants widely credited as the inventor of the NFL touchdown spike, one of the most recognizable celebrations in sports, died June 14 of lung cancer at age 82.

Starting in 1965, the NFL had begun to fine players who threw the ball into the stands after a touchdown. After an 89-yard touchdown pass against the Philadelphia Eagles, Jones was just about to hurl the ball into the stands when he stopped himself and threw it into the ground instead.

The crowd went wild, and the spike was born.

### In Memory of

#### Jennifer Moore

September 17, 1979 - June 7, 2023



Jennifer was a cherished daughter, sister, aunt, friend, and devoted dog mother to Mama. She was a friend to many, always radiating love and a spirit of adventure. She was a big fan of Disney and collected many items over the years. She always ensured that everyone around her was happy and was known for her generosity. Jennifer attended Rio Hondo Elementary, Griffith Middle School, and graduated from Warren High School. She was a Cheerleader and Homecoming Princess. She also attended Cerritos College, and a Past Honored Queen of Bethel 244 Downey. Her life was cut short far too soon, but the memories we shared will forever be imprinted in our hearts. She is survived by her parents Cristina and Russell Baker and her siblings, Bryant, Brittney, Rachel, Jaclyn, Christopher, and her nieces Rosalyn, Jasmine, Madeline, Alice and Margo.

Jennifer's Memorial Services will be on June 24, 2023, at Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel, 5835 W. Slauson Ave, Culver City, CA, Remembering - 9:00 a.m. - Service 11:00 a.m.

### In Loving Memory of

#### John Robert Pinizzotto

September 23, 1964 - May 27, 2023



John lived in Downey all his life. He went to St. Raymond's Catholic school. There he served as an Alter Boy for 4 years. He then went on to Downey High school, graduating with the class of 1985. After graduation he started working with his father at Bob's Welding. Then he went into his own Construction business. John worked 5 days a week at his regular job and then on weekends he was always helping friends and family. If you needed something done John knew how to do it, and he was always willing to help he could never say no to anybody in need.

He spent the last 2 years battling Cancer and living life to the fullest. City of Hope was amazing helping John through weekly chemotherapy treatments. He tried everything to beat this horrific disease, for a second time but unfortunately, he lost his battle.

John was able to take quite a few adventures in the last two years while he was undergoing treatment. In the summer of 2022, he was able to visit the island of Kauai with family. Touring the Napali coast, Waimea falls, and all the beautiful waterfalls and beaches the island had to offer. He also enjoyed trips to San Diego and Vegas.

John died at the young age of 55 due to Stage 4 Esophageal cancer. He is survived by his sisters Margie, Karen, Lisa, Mary, brother in laws Gabriel and Robbie, niece's Megan, Kayla, Krista, and nephew Joey. Great nephews include Roman, Abel, Tabias, and his great niece, Giada.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church at 11:30 am on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

22508 Copper Hill Dr, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Celebration of life will follow at the Koontz house in Valencia. All are welcome to the funeral services.

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## City elections are 5 months away but political mudslinging is just getting started

By Eric Pierce

*Eric Pierce is editor of the Downey Patriot.*

As we look towards the city council elections this November in Downey, it is impossible to ignore a growing trend that threatens to undermine the integrity of our democratic process: the surge in political attack advertisements.

These ads, which focus on undermining opponents rather than advocating for policies or qualifications, are a worrisome distraction from the issues that truly matter.

In Downey, the attacks have already started.

Increasingly, the political landscape resembles a battleground rather than a marketplace of ideas. Candidates spend more time attacking opponents than outlining their visions for Downey. The politics of personal destruction threaten to eclipse substantive policy debates, and the loser in this scenario is invariably the voter.

Political attack advertisements foster a culture of negativity

and cynicism. Rather than engaging voters with meaningful discourse, they rely on emotional manipulation and half-truths. They erode trust in the democratic process, discourage civic participation, and may even influence the outcome of elections in ways that do not reflect the will of the people.

It's time we move away from this unproductive rhetoric and urge our candidates to run clean campaigns. Clean campaigns focus on issues, not personalities. They celebrate differences of opinion as a necessary ingredient of a vibrant democracy, not a bludgeon to be wielded with hostility. They rely on truth, not misinformation. In short, clean campaigns respect voters' intelligence and their right to make informed decisions.

Running a clean campaign is not just the moral choice—it's a practical one. Voters are increasingly wary of political mudslinging. They are tired of the noise, the smears, and the endless scandal-mongering. They crave authentic, truthful discourse about the issues that affect their lives, such as infrastructure, education, public safety, and economic development.

Downey's city council candidates have a unique opportunity

to lead by example and commit to running clean campaigns. It is an opportunity to demonstrate that Downey's politics can rise above the national trend of negativity and place the emphasis back on what truly matters: serving the people. It's a chance to restore faith in our electoral process, engage more citizens, and cultivate a more inclusive political environment.

As citizens of Downey, we also have a role to play. We can demand better from our candidates, reject attack advertisements, and focus on the substance rather than the scandal. We can also encourage friends and family to do the same, promoting a culture of informed voting in our communities.

Finally, we must remember that our political process is only as good as we make it. Let's strive for a city council election that reflects our values as a community, our commitment to fairness, and our desire for a brighter future for Downey. Let's demand clean campaigns from our candidates and show the nation that in Downey, we choose substance over slander, ideas over insults, and people over politics.

## New Alzheimer's drug is a problem for FDA

By Jerry Avorn

*Jerry Avorn is a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School*

The Food and Drug Administration is slated to soon give full approval to Leqembi, a new medicine for Alzheimer's disease that offers only modest benefit, could pose worrisome risks and stands to cost the nation \$2 billion to \$5 billion per year. But the agency has an all-or-nothing problem. Even when evaluating a drug that's minimally effective or could carry considerable risks, the FDA's decision nearly always comes down to accept or reject.

Under this pass-fail system, a drug that the FDA disapproves remains mostly unavailable, except to subjects in research studies, while one that is approved can generally be prescribed to anyone. Certain risks may be described in the official product labeling, which few physicians read, or in educational risk management programs that are not designed to measure a drug's effectiveness. But the decision is almost always a binary one that is ill-suited to the way science works — and to the needs of patients.

The Leqembi decision illustrates the problem. In clinical trials, the drug did not improve patients' memory, but it slightly reduced their rate of cognitive decline — a small change that might be welcome to some patients but unnoticeable to many others and their families. Yet the drug didn't do nothing clinically, and that makes it nearly impossible for the FDA to disapprove.

The treatment requires ongoing intravenous infusions every two weeks, it can cause cerebral swelling and bleeding, and it will be priced at \$26,500 a year, not including physician charges. This raises the question: How much minimal improvement in dementia is worth what level of patient burden and risk of complications?

Similar questions come up for other drugs to treat muscular dystrophy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). For these medicines, the FDA has granted "accelerated approval" based not on patients' clinical improvement but merely on small changes in lab tests. After accelerated approval, drugmakers are asked to do follow-up studies to prove that their drugs actually help patients. But the government may allow many years to complete such studies, and they are often started late or done poorly, my research group has found.

The FDA faces enormous pressure from patients and their families — and from drug companies — to grant full approval to these drugs with thin credentials, and many others like them, including cancer treatments. But what happens if the medicines don't fulfill their promise, or their side effects turn out to be worse than expected? It has proved difficult to get such products out of circulation. In 2011, a medication meant to prevent premature birth, Makena, was approved on an accelerated basis, but then was never clearly shown to work. Getting it off the market took until this past April.

Medicine has been dealing with tough benefit-risk trade-offs for well over a century. The FDA's simple all-or-none decision framework is a poor fit for this evolving scientific reality. The agency should instead create a new status for some drugs that is neither full approval nor outright rejection — a conditional approval that would allow a new drug with ambiguous credentials to be used only in a limited way until better evidence is collected. This would let doctors and patients learn how well it works in typical use outside of trials.

Then, in two or three years, the FDA could evaluate a richer portfolio of evidence to decide whether to make the drug

available to all patients without restrictions. This would save tens of millions of dollars wasted on ineffective or unnecessarily risky drugs — and thousands of preventable adverse events.

The Medicare program has said it will create registries to track Leqembi use and outcomes. But it will not require that any untreated comparison patients be enrolled in these registries, rendering this approach nearly useless in measuring whether the slight reduction in decline that was seen in the drug's single clinical trial is borne out in typical use.

A more nuanced approach to final approval could also influence the price of a new medicine, though cost is not the FDA's direct responsibility. The Medicare and Medicaid programs are usually required to buy most FDA-approved drugs at whatever price the manufacturer sets, regardless of any questions about their relative value, efficacy or safety. At an industry conference in Boston this month, FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf admitted that companies that receive accelerated approval for their drugs often fail to complete the needed follow-up studies promptly to fully define their actual benefits and risks. He suggested that it might make sense for the prices of such drugs to be set lower until their true worth is better established.

Medical science is not an all-or-none, once-and-for-all endeavor: Knowledge evolves as evidence and experience accumulate, and that's wonderful. But the FDA's all-no or all-yes framework doesn't fit the way our understanding of prescription drugs develops. For some drugs, the agency needs to become nonbinary to better reflect this reality.

## AI can't solve our national debt crisis

By Mitch Daniels

*Mitch Daniels is a senior adviser to the Liberty Fund, president emeritus of Purdue University and a former governor of Indiana.*

The Treasury Department announced last week that the national debt had passed \$32 trillion for the first time. Yet even as the biggest domestic threat to the nation's future increases, our political class offers no answers beyond a periodic scuffle, as with the one recently concluded in Washington, over raising the debt ceiling. Don't look for answers from a president and a leading contender for that office who compete in their pledges to make things worse.

But wait! Technology to the rescue! Because human intelligence, at least the American variety, has proved incapable of squaring federal spending and future promises with any conceivably available resources, I thought we might repair to our new oracle, intelligence of the artificial kind. I put the question of our monstrous national debt to ChatGPT.

I'll say one thing for this gizmo. It is as quick and articulate as advertised. When I posed the first of what turned into several questions, the reply from the new friend I decided to think of as "Artie" was instantaneous and well-expressed. Asked "What are the odds of a U.S. federal debt crisis?" Artie began with a

disclaimer: "As an AI-language model, I cannot predict the future, but I can provide you with some information and analysis," going on helpfully to note that the United States has "one of the largest burdens in the world."

Undeterred by this Artful dodging, I tried again: "What are the chances on a scale of 0 to 100%?" Artie was too clever to fall for that: "I cannot provide a definitive probability ... many experts believe the risk is relatively low in the short term, but it could increase if the federal government fails to address the underlying issues." You don't say.

I attempted one more angle, asking for an estimate of a crisis in the next 30 years, but Artie stuck resolutely to the script. "I cannot give a precise estimation ... it is challenging to predict the likelihood ... it is essential to monitor the situation."

Giving up on that approach, I switched from the likelihood (which without major policy change is mathematically certain anyway) to the consequences, inquiring, "What would a federal debt crisis look like?" I got back a short economics lecture on investor confidence, higher interest rates, a default on obligations, followed by recession, inflation and high unemployment.

At the end of that reply came a flicker of recognition of the worst danger, when Artie mentioned "social unrest, particularly if the government has to implement severe austerity measures." But even here, there was no mention of the entitlement programs that are powering the nation toward the edge of the canyon. The most Artie had to offer was "It's crucial for governments to address the underlying issues driving the rise in debt to avoid such a scenario."

Gradually, it dawned on me that conversing with Artie was just like talking to a standard-issue American politician. The P in the acronym means "pretrained," and, boy, is Artie well-trained in political-peak, presumably from devouring jillions of words of what passes for modern public discourse. Artie has learned all the tricks of the trade.

Don't like the question? Duck and address the one you wanted to be asked. Scared to deal with the heart of the problem? Just leave it out of your answer. Confronted inescapably with a stark and dangerous reality? Acknowledge the issue but avoid recommending solutions that some might find unwelcome. Stay "on message" no matter what.

I made one last attempt, asking, "What actions should be taken to avert a national debt crisis?" Here at last, after proclaiming that "the U.S. national debt is a complex issue with no easy solution," Artie coughed up some specifics.

The choices were instructive — and tellingly biased: higher taxes so that the wealthy and corporations pay "their fair share," a carbon tax "to address climate change" (who asked about climate?); "address income inequality" with a higher minimum wage and progressive taxation (as though the United States didn't already have the developed world's most progressive tax system). Finally, almost perfunctorily, came a mention of spending

reduction of "unnecessary programs" and the entitlements that dwarf all other debt drivers — and whose current promises cannot possibly be kept.

The unimaginable mountain of debt we are on track to dump on future generations is the test of our maturity as a self-governing people, and we are flunking abysmally, as skeptics throughout history have predicted politics like ours inevitably will. The economic damage will be severe, but the sense of social betrayal even worse.

AI might well bring miracles and solve problems far more complex than paying our national bills, but apparently Artie is too well-trained a politician to step up to this one. If our republic is to remain free and successful, I guess it will have to be old-fashioned human intelligence that pulls it off. There's the old saying "Now that the money has run out, we shall have to begin to think." For ourselves.

## Pemberton will be good for Downey

Dear Editor:

In his letter to the Editor (6/15/23), Mr. Guillermo Rodarte criticizes Dorothy Pemberton for having led the historic and unprecedented recall of Catherine Alvarez. He should thank her instead.

The effort was historical and unprecedented because we had never elected a councilwoman who carried so much baggage and hid her record of accomplishments.

Just to recall, Ms. Alvarez:

1. Has criminal record of shoplifting
2. Has committed welfare fraud
3. Has been evicted twice for non-payment
4. Had arrest warrants for not showing up in court
5. Has been cited for inhumane treatment of her son.

Ms. Alvarez justified her criminal action by stating she stole "only" \$20 which is a little money. Ms. Alvarez thinks that being a little pregnant is not being pregnant.

I don't live in District 3 so I won't be able to vote for Ms. Pemberton. If Mr. Rodarte lives in District 3 I urge him to get his head out of the sand and recognize that the voters of District 3 overwhelmingly voted to recall Ms. Alvarez and should vote for Ms. Pemberton.

With her record of service and involvement on civic matters, she will be a great addition to the city council.

**Jorge Montero Downey**

**The Downey Patriot** STAFF

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.  
 1st Tue., 4:00pm: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.  
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.  
 3rd Tue., 6:00pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.  
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.  
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.  
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.  
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.  
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.  
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Mel Sanchez 562-665-4125.  
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.  
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.  
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park, email scoutmaster@downeyboyscouts.com.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.  
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.  
 3rd Tues., 12 pm: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.  
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.  
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

#### WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.  
 10:30 am: Ballroom dance class, at Downey Community Center, call 776 7270.  
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.  
 7 pm: Royal Rangers Outpost 132, at Desert Reign Church, call 562-861-6011.  
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.  
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.  
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.  
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.  
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.  
 2nd Wed., 7 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 484-8415.  
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.  
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.  
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezhualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.  
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.  
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

#### THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.  
 7:30 am: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.  
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.  
 12 pm: Bingo, at Woman's Club of Downey - Proceeds benefit Rancho.  
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.  
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.  
 7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 351, at Furman Park, contact 562-500-5093 for more information.  
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.  
 1st Thurs., 6 pm, All other Thurs. 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 283-2335.  
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Amateur Radio Club, EOC room Downey Fire Station #1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
 2nd Thurs., 12 pm: Creative Purposes, call Bill Wallace 923-2311.  
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.  
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.  
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.  
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.  
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

#### FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.

#### SATURDAYS

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

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

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**BUILDING BLOCKS: A well-structured puzzle**  
 by Gary M. Larson

**ACROSS**

1	Louvre's <i>Venus</i> ___	73	Kenyan people
7	Recurring themes	74	___ <i>Faire</i> (jousting venue)
13	Docs	75	The depleted ___ Sea
20	How police may act	76	High-strung
21	Skillful	77	Opposite of 44 Across
22	Paint remover ingredient	78	"Swell!"
23	Performance in outdoor public spaces	80	Pass by
25	One far from a star	82	Food court locale
26	Become absorbed in thought	83	Small bay
27	Actress Thurman	84	Website with Throwback Thursday crosswords
28	Uncanny glow	85	Weep
30	Take a crack ___	90	Skiers' transportation
31	Bovine bellows	92	JFK commanded one in WWII
34	Kind of roast	94	Significant others, these days
36	Mid-March VIP	95	Tiny taste of tea
37	Bit of baby talk	96	It's southwest of UConn
38	Assist	97	Job openings
39	Dubbed ones	98	Fusses
41	Sits in hot water	100	Do a vet's job
43	Long tales	101	Calligraphy mishap
44	Traditional in nature	102	Arrived
47	Be furious	103	Sign of a stage hit
48	Hold back, as breath	104	Bugs Bunny's girlfriend
49	Unsatisfactory	107	Gave as a bonus
50	Loud speaker	109	Ginger ale mocktail
52	Choose	115	Lower body exercise
54	Stash cash	116	Deep dish
57	Quick cuts	117	Postponed discussing
58	Sentry's command	118	Garden lattice
60	Mid-body joint	119	Gave the OK
62	Do not exist, informally	120	Green-lighted
63	Choreography, essentially		
64	Work hard		
65	Wrestler/actor John		
66	One concerned with nest eggs		
67	Midwest hub		
68	Saldaña, in <i>Star Trek</i>		
69	Angler's spool		
70	Those, in Spain		
71	Penpoints		
72	Part of the media		

**DOWN**

1	Preceder of Windows	9	Walks heavily
2	AMA member specialty	10	Slightest trace
3	Scratch up	11	Giant's interjection heard by Jack
4	Lines on an invoice	12	Military board game
5	In ___ of (replacing)	13	Plaid cotton fabric
6	Decides (to)	14	Sparkling success
7	___jongg	15	<i>Agnus</i> ___ (Mass prayer)
8	Concert hall	16	Appointment confirmation
		17	Dairy product with curds
		18	Central New York lake
		19	Some mattresses
		24	What a brat might be called
		29	The Senate, for instance
		31	Opponent of Chiang
		32	Squeak silencer
		33	Eccentric
		35	GI support group
		36	What some tickets reserve
		39	Advance soldier
		40	Denny's alternative
		42	Ensnare
		43	Popcorn topping
		45	Shells out
		46	Solitary ones
		48	<i>Twilight</i> heroine
		51	Ready to harvest
		53	Would-be singer's obstacle
		54	Sort of sword
		55	Up and about
		56	Girl in Archie Comics
		57	Particle not radioactive
		59	Haughtiness
		61	Monty Python member knighted in 2019
		63	Actor LaBeouf
		64	Postgraduate projects
		65	Treetop bed of rhyme
		67	Sandwich spec
		68	Ornate vases
		72	Pig of tots' TV
		73	Sheds, as feathers
		75	Off-road riders, for short
		76	Polynesian tubers
		77	Fabricated
		79	Predict
		81	Doctor's orders
		82	Paltry
		86	Venerable movie channel
		87	African snake
		88	Southwestern creek
		89	Work coverly
		90	Cousin of Juliet
		91	With less tread
		92	Factories
		93	Repaired, as a roof
		97	Bradbury books
		99	Parcels (out)
		100	Brazilian dance
		103	iPhone voice
		105	Tom Hanks title role of '23
		106	Pipe problem
		108	Weaken with water: Abbr.
		110	Successor of 31 Down
		111	California's ender for Angel
		112	Work hard
		113	Either of two Virginian Declaration signers
		114	Teacher's deg.

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

interview.  
 the drink "ticky" in a 1986 NPR  
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# Service clubs offer benefits to people, communities



■ Downey residents have their choice of service clubs, and their benefits are proven to enhance our community.

**DOWNEY** — Service clubs, or volunteer organizations, form a vital part of our communities, fostering a spirit of service and togetherness. These clubs, which include groups such as Rotary, Soroptimist and Kiwanis, among others, are responsible for mobilizing community members to make a positive impact on their surroundings. The benefits derived from such organizations, for individuals and communities alike, are profound, ranging from personal development and emotional well-being to community welfare and economic impact.

In the context of individual benefits, service clubs provide a fertile ground for personal growth and skill acquisition. Members are often involved in various tasks, from planning events to leading service projects, all of which require diverse skills. Whether it be project management, public speaking, problem-solving, or team collaboration, individuals find opportunities to cultivate and hone these abilities. This environment of constant learning and application acts as a catalyst for personal development.

Complementing personal growth, service clubs also provide a platform for leadership development. Members are often offered the chance to take on leadership roles, such as organizing initiatives or leading teams. This exposure to leadership responsibilities fosters essential qualities such as decision-making, resource management, and motivational skills.

Moreover, involvement in service clubs can prove to be a stepping stone for career advancement. The skills and experience acquired through volunteering are invaluable in the job market. Employers often perceive community service as an indicator of a candidate's initiative, commitment, and team spirit. Hence, service club membership can prove to be a significant career advantage.

In addition to the tangible benefits, service clubs also contribute to emotional well-being and social connections. Such organizations bring together people from diverse backgrounds and interests, creating an enriching networking environment. The bonds formed in these groups often extend beyond professional relationships, blossoming into lifelong friendships.

Studies also suggest that volunteering can lead to improved emotional well-being. Serving others and contributing to a cause larger than oneself instills a sense of accomplishment, which in turn, boosts self-esteem and reduces stress levels. Further, being part of a service club provides individuals with a sense of purpose, an invaluable source of fulfillment and contentment.

Just as service clubs enrich individuals, they also significantly benefit communities. One of the critical roles of these clubs is identifying and addressing local needs. Whether through organizing food drives, assisting with educational initiatives, or aiding the elderly, service clubs make a tangible difference to community welfare.

Moreover, these organizations foster a sense of unity and

collective responsibility. By encouraging community members to collaborate towards common goals, service clubs promote social cohesion. This unity strengthens community bonds, building a sense of belonging and togetherness.

The economic impact of service clubs cannot be overlooked either. These clubs invest substantial time and resources into their communities. This investment, when evaluated in economic terms, can be substantial, serving as a testament to the far-reaching impact of service clubs.

Service clubs offer a win-win proposition, benefiting both individuals and communities. They are platforms for personal

and professional growth, networking, and emotional enrichment. Simultaneously, they improve community welfare, foster unity, and contribute economically. As we continue to face a multitude of societal challenges, the role of service clubs is increasingly pertinent, reinforcing their importance as agents of positive change.



# Eastside Pride returns to Montebello

**MONTEBELLO** — Eastside Pride is back and better than ever in Montebello.

Riding on the massive success of its inaugural year in 2022, the producers of the event decided to double up on the shows and the vendors.

This year, Eastside Pride will consist of a 5K run organized by the City of Montebello called Stride for Pride, a drag show brunch, and a more risqué 18 & over drag show at 8 pm.

Angry Horse returns as a community partner and will host a Pride Ball where entrants will compete for best dressed, best runway walk and best vogue.

Also returning is Queer Mercado, showcasing some of the best LGBTQ+ small business owners on the Eastside of LA.

"When we created BLVD MRKT our goal was to create spaces where our community felt seen and connected to each other," said founder Barney Santos. Spaces that honored the people that make up the very fabric of our neighborhoods. "I believe it is so important to create safe spaces to celebrate our LGBTQ+ family on the Eastside. In Latino communities a lot of toxic perspectives still exist surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. Having a day like Eastside Pride, allows people in our community a chance to feel free, a chance to be celebrated, and a chance to feel seen."

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**Santa Fe Springs Dance Center presents: Power Up!**

July 1st- 12:00pm & 6:00pm  
**Onstage Dance Center presents: In The Zone**

July 30th- 5:30pm  
**Art Dance Academy presents: Fight for your Dreams**

August 20th- 4:00pm  
**Dances of Peru 25 Year Anniversary**

August 27th- 2:00pm  
**Con El Alma**

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Box Office: 562-861-8211  
www.downeytheatre.com











## Horacio Ortiz accepts Nonprofit of the Year award on behalf of Kiwanis

**DOWNEY** — Downey resident Horacio Ortiz traveled to Sacramento recently where he accepted a state Nonprofit of the Year award on behalf of Downey Kiwanis.

The award is presented annually by California Assembly members and senators to recognize people and organizations working to address a wide range of issues, including homelessness, healthcare, workers rights, education in underserved communities, the arts, and the environment.

Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco awarded the recognition to the Kiwanis Club of Downey. Ortiz, a member of the club, traveled to Sacramento to accept the award.



## Elvira Meraz presented award for work with chamber of commerce

**DOWNEY** — Downey resident Elvira Meraz was presented a certificate of recognition last week after concluding a successful year as a Downey Chamber of Commerce ambassador.

Meraz is pictured with Downey Councilman Timothy Horn and chamber president Carmen Gonzalez.

The award thanks Meraz for her “invaluable contributions to our community” and is signed by Mayor Claudia M. Frometa and the rest of the city council.

## Amateur radio operators participating in public exhibit this weekend

**DOWNEY** — Members of the Downey Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 24th-25th at the Downey Fire Department’s training tower located near the east end of Independence Park in Downey

Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio.

The public is invited to come, meet, and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air. To learn more about the Downey Amateur Radio Club visit our website at [darcarc.wordpress.com](http://darcarc.wordpress.com).

## POET'S CORNER

### Thoreau in the Rain

He liked bad weather best. He would keep walking when others hurried home, then he would be the only one on a road or a pathway or trespassing through an orchard, lifting his boots and putting them down among the windfall apples.

Rain beat on his cape. He felt it urging him to deepen like a bush or a wildflower, to change his shape, to smooth away his crotchets and quirks, and as he walked through cloudbursts or almost balmy feathers of mist when the wind would sigh and sweep its long curtains and scarves and pleated skirts and antimaccassars and tassels across his home away from home, he would sit content, absorbed, on his favorite furniture, all morning long, on a stump like a toadstool.

David Wagoner, *Collected and New Poems, 1999*

*A leading poet of the Northwest, Wagoner's move from Gary, Indiana to the Pacific Northwest in 1954, changed both his outlook and his poetry. "When I drove down out of the Cascades and saw the region that was to become my home territory, I had never seen or imagined such greenness, such a promise of healing growth." Wagoner died in 2021 at 95. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.*

# 'Taste of Rio' raises record \$107K for Rio Hondo College



**WHITTIER** — The Rio Hondo College Foundation’s signature fundraising gala, “A Taste of Rio,” dazzled guests with an impressive array of artisan cuisine, craft beer and wines, exquisite gift baskets and lively entertainment on June 9.

This year’s event brought in the highest amount in the history of the fundraiser, and raised \$107,603 for scholarships and student support services.

On a cool and breezy spring evening, the Foundation hosted more than 350 Rio Hondo College (RHC) patrons, who noshed on freshly prepared culinary delights and curated spirits provided by nearly two dozen local vendors, including La Crosta Pizza, Tepeyac Sports Grill, The Crooked Gaff, JDO Mediterranean, Whittier Brewing

Company, Mi Burrito, Clearman’s Steak & Stein, and the College’s own Roadrunner Brewing.

Among the dignitaries who attended ‘A Taste of Rio’ were Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, South El Monte Mayor Gloria Olmos, Pico Rivera City Councilmember Dr. Monica Sanchez, as well as a host of representatives and elected officials from the Rio Hondo College Community College District and its K-12 partner districts.

Rio Hondo College Superintendent and President Dr. Marilyn Flores presided over her first-ever “A Taste of Rio” fundraiser, mingling with guests, and marveling over the extraordinary community support for RHC students.



“What makes ‘A Taste of Rio’ such a special event is that all who attended gathered for the primary purpose of ensuring our students have the resources necessary to attend college and graduate,” Dr. Flores said.

“This is our primary fundraiser to provide scholarships and support services for students. The enthusiasm shown by those who donated helped to propel us to our biggest year ever. We are extremely thankful for this heartfelt support.”

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, “A Taste of Rio” continued its popular tradition of conducting a silent auction, which featured 54 items and raised more than \$15,000 for the Foundation as guests vied for the chance to win Dodger tickets, see live performances at the Pantages

Theater and Musical Theatre West, or take a weekend getaway to Palm Springs.

“Resources generated from this event will help continue to increase graduation rates, close the achievement gaps and provide basic needs, food and housing, to our students,” Board of Trustees Clerk Oscar Valladares said.

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**122 REVIEWS ★★★★★**

## DOWNEY FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

Dear Downey Patriot Valued Reader,

On behalf of The Downey Patriot, I am thrilled to announce the establishment of the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism, a non-profit foundation launched by the Downey Patriot newspaper. As a cherished member of our community, I wanted to share this exciting news and invite you to be part of our journey.

For several years, the Downey Patriot has been dedicated to providing reliable and unbiased news coverage, championing the principles of journalism, and serving as a beacon of truth in our community. We strongly believe that independent journalism is a cornerstone of a thriving democracy, and it is with this conviction that we have founded the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism.

The Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to ensure the sustainability and integrity of local news reporting, fostering an informed and engaged citizenry. Our mission is threefold: to support the training and professional development of journalists, to promote investigative journalism, and to enhance access to reliable local news for all residents of our community.

To achieve these goals, we are seeking tax-deductible donations from generous individuals like yourself who share our commitment to independent journalism. Your support will play a crucial role in empowering local journalists, enabling them to cover important stories, hold those in power accountable, and provide unbiased information to our community.

With your contribution, we will establish scholarships and training programs for aspiring journalists, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to uphold the principles of ethical and accurate reporting. We will also dedicate resources to support investigative journalism projects, fostering in-depth reporting that uncovers truths, reveals corruption, and sheds light on critical issues affecting our community.

Additionally, the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism aims to address the challenge of access to local news in underserved areas. We will explore innovative approaches, such as expanding our digital presence, partnering with community organizations, and launching initiatives to bridge the information gap for those who face barriers to accessing reliable news sources.

We kindly invite you to contribute to the Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism and become a vital part of our mission. Your tax-deductible donation, no matter the size, will make a difference in supporting local journalism and nurturing a vibrant democracy.

Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to the ideals of independent journalism. Together, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that our community remains well-informed, engaged, and empowered. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide further information on how your contribution will be utilized. Please contact our office at (562) 904-3668 or jennifer@thedowneypatriot.com.

We look forward to your support and the possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer DeKay*

Jennifer DeKay  
Chief Executive Officer  
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism

**Donations can be mailed to:**  
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