



EYES ON OUR SCHOOLS
Message from DUSD board president

SEE PAGE 2

FEATURES
I ate lunch at Ojos Locos (for journalism)

SEE PAGE 2

NEWS
Spooky Science Night returns to space center

SEE PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT
Comedy thriller 'Deathtrap' opening in Long Beach

SEE PAGE 7

Feliz Navidad: Jose Feliciano playing Downey concert

DOWNEY – Nine-time Grammy Award winner Jose Feliciano will perform his hits – including the popular Christmas song “Feliz Navidad” – at the Downey Theatre on Dec. 13.

The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are on sale now at the Downey Theatre box office and online at downeytheatre.org.

Recognized as the first Latin artist to effectively cross over in the English music market, Feliciano has opened doors for other Latin artists who now play an important role in the American music industry.

He's been awarded over 45 gold and platinum records, 19 Grammy nominations, nine Grammy Awards, and the “LARAS Award for Lifetime Achievement,” all while being blind since birth.

He is perhaps best known for the hit “Feliz Navidad,” one of the most played Christmas songs in the United States.

Hawaiian singing trio kicking off concert series

DOWNEY – The Makaha Sons, known internationally for their commitment to keeping traditional Hawaiian music alive, will perform at the Downey Theatre on Friday, Oct. 20.

The concert is one of four performances comprising the Aloha Everywhere Concert Series, presented by Hawaiian Island Creations.

The other concerts include Robert Cazimero on Jan. 28; The Dennis Kamakahi Music Festival on April 7; and Mark Yamanaka, Kupaoa and Hoku Zuttermeister on May 18.

Boasting a catalog of 22 albums, The Makaha Sons's melodious symphonies have resonated in concert halls around the globe. They have performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and before the President and Vice President in Hawaii. The group tours internationally, with performances in Mexico, Canada and Japan.

The group is comprised of Jerome Koko as frontman, vocals and 12-string guitar; Kimo Artis on vocals and electric bass; and Hanale Ka'anapu on vocals and 6-string guitar.

The trio has been described as “a blend of melodic intricacies, syrupy boldness of harmonies, and of vibrant musical Hawaiian storytelling.”

They have earned numerous Na Hoku Hanohano Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2013, the group was inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame.

“We are excited to bring the Aloha Everywhere Music Series to Downey,” said Patrick Landeza, executive director of HIC Lifestyle. “Hawaiian music fans will enjoy our upcoming lineup as we bring culture, dance and aloha everywhere.”

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$55 per concert or \$200 for the four-concert season. Tickets can be purchased at the Downey Theatre box office and online at downeytheatre.org.

Mexico seeks extradition of Downey man accused of murder

■ Downey resident Bryant Rivera is accused of killing a Tijuana strip club dancer.

By City News Service

DOWNEY – A formal extradition hearing in February was scheduled Wednesday for a Downey man who is being held in federal custody in downtown Los Angeles in connection with serial murders targeting Tijuana strip club workers.

During a brief hearing, U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Stevenson set the Feb. 11 hearing for Bryant Rivera at the request of attorneys in Los Angeles. The judge previously ordered Rivera jailed without bond while extradition proceedings take place in federal court.

Rivera, 30, was arrested in July at the request of Mexico on a femicide charge, authorities said. Femicide has been used to describe the current spate of violence against women in Mexico.

Rivera is accused of murdering at least one sex worker in Tijuana. Mexico may add additional charges when prosecutors submit further documents, according to a criminal complaint.

Rivera allegedly beat and strangled Angela Acosta Flores to death on Jan. 24, 2022, in a room



Authorities say this surveillance image from Tijuana's Hotel Cascadas shows U.S. citizen Bryant Rivera with Angela Carolina Acosta Flores on Jan. 24, 2022. Acosta was later found dead inside Rivera's hotel room.

at Hotel Cascadas, next to the Hong Kong Gentlemen's Club in Zona Norte, a red light district in Tijuana, the complaint says.

Late last year, Baja California Attorney General Iván Carpio Sánchez described the then-identified killer of Flores and at least two other Tijuana sex workers as displaying “violent and psychopathic behavior”

comparable to serial murderer Ted Bundy.

Flores, 20, had been working as a stripper and occasional prostitute at the Hong Kong bar for about five months, her mother told investigators.

On the night of the murder, the victim texted her mother that she was going with a client to a room at the hotel for 30

minutes. Security cameras caught a man and Flores together before entering the room, according to the complaint.

When the mother began to worry, Flores' boyfriend went to the bar to look for her. He could not find her, but one of the workers said Flores had been with “a male client with a light brown complexion, an acne-scarred face,” who stood about 5-foot-5 and had brown hair, according to the document.

“The woman added that she knew the victim's client as ‘Bryant Rivera,’ and that he was a ‘gringo,’” the complaint states.

Flores' mother and boyfriend went to the hotel seeking information, and remained there until learning that a woman had been found dead in room 404, the complaint says.

A dancer at the bar told investigators that she had met with a man matching the suspect's name and description hours before the murder and went to a hotel room with him. She said that at about 10 p.m. that night, she saw the man she knew as Rivera leave the bar with Flores, according to the complaint.

Just after midnight on Jan. 25, 2022, Rivera returned to the United States on foot at the San Ysidro port of entry, the document states, citing border control records.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 76°

Saturday 80°

Sunday 80°

SOMETHING TO DO



WHAT: Enjoy a three-course dinner while listening to a live singing performance of Phantom of the Opera music. \$95 with proceeds benefiting the Downey Symphony. Contact Pat Gil for tickets at (562) 879-3029

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 24, 3:30-6:30 pm

WHERE: Downey Woman's Club

ON THIS DAY

1840:

While experimenting with gallic acid, a chemical he was informed would increase the sensitivity of his prepared paper, William Henry Fox Talbot discovered that the acid can be used to develop a latent image on paper, leading to a revolution in photography.

1937:

English writer J.R.R. Tolkien's “The Hobbit,” a coming-of-age fantasy that became a classic, was published.

1957:

The TV series “Perry Mason,” which was based on a mystery series by Erle Stanley Gardner, debuted and became hugely popular, especially noted for Raymond Burr's portrayal of the title character.

1972:

President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in the Philippines, beginning a period of harsh authoritarian rule.

2004:

Green Day released its iconic “American Idiot,” which later won a Grammy Award for best rock album and was adapted into a rock opera.

BIRTHDAYS

Horror author **STEPHEN KING** (76), actor **BILL MURRAY** (73), “Full House” star **DAVE COULIER** (64), “Curb Your Enthusiasm” star **CHERYL HINES** (58), country singer **FAITH HILL** (56), talk show host **RICKI LAKE** (55), stage actor **BILLY PORTER** (54), “Fresh Prince” star **ALFONSO RIBEIRO** (52), film actor **LUKE WILSON** (52), rock singer **LIAM GALLAGHER** (51), reality TV star **NICOLE RICHIE** (42), and R&B singer **JASON DERULO** (34).

International Food & Music



Downey's International Food and Music Festival drew thousands to Downtown Downey last week. The annual event featured a lineup of food trucks, live musical entertainment, vendor shopping, and more.

I ate at Ojos Locos (for journalism)

■ Controversial bar and restaurant Ojos Locos is open for business.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Well, I did it. I ate at Ojos Locos.

What has proved to be one of the more controversial businesses to set up shop in Downey officially opened its doors last week on Sept. 15, despite the kicking and screaming of some residents, and even some city council pushback.

While I wouldn't consider myself a prude by any means, Ojos Locos is definitely not my usual type of restaurant. For reference, I've only ever been to a Hooters once (and even that was only because I was attending a comic book convention and my food options were extremely limited).

As such, I had never intended to ever eat at Ojos Locos. But my editor Eric Pierce asked me to go and write about my experience, so I did.

(You best believe I asked him to tag along; if I was going down, he most assuredly was coming with me).

Ojos Locos is already kind of an enigma: from what I've seen, most people either hate it or don't care. At the very least, the restaurant has become a regular punchline on the Downey Memes Instagram page and in other Downey-based social media comment sections.

Upon entering, I immediately turned to Eric and laughed.

"So much for the dress code."

The city council passed a city-wide dress code in March last year in direct response to Ojos Locos' impending arrival, worried that the restaurant would bring

servers clad in nothing but bras and panties, if not even less. The ordinance barred food handlers from exposing any portion of the midriff, any portion of the chest three inches below the clavicle, and/or any portion of the leg less than three inches below the buttocks.

That didn't happen.

The female staff weren't dressed in the lingerie that critics have been so up in arms about, but they weren't wearing much more than that, either; their mini-skirts were about as "cheeky" as the jokes Eric and I were making to one another to try and break the awkwardness we were both feeling.

I made a joke that we should see if we recognized any of the patrons already seated inside. I jinxed us. We were escorted to a barstool table right in front of the main entrance. Nowhere to hide.

Most of the customers were – unsurprisingly – men. To our right was a large party of over 10. Just to our left, the bar, with a couple of stragglers seated. Walking in not long after us, two separate parties including children, drawing a couple of chuckles and comments of disbelief from my counterpart and I.

We had just been looking over our menu for a few minutes when our waitress approached and introduced herself. Eric ordered a chicken plate and a pineapple aguas frescas. I ordered a burger and fries and a coke.

Service was slow and not great, but to be fair I don't think many are coming for the service. It took about 10 minutes for Eric to get his drink, and it was several minutes after that before it was even acknowledged that I hadn't gotten mine.

Continued on page 3

Eyes on our Schools



It's September and our schools are running full speed ahead into the new year. I want to start by congratulating our newest principals for doing an amazing job so far this school year as they took the helm of brand new campuses and have worked hard to keep the positive momentum moving forward: David Cid (Gallatin Elementary), Tami Francis (Lewis Elementary), Rose Zeisel (Rio San Gabriel Elementary), Garry Naval (Unsworth Elementary), Scott Fleming (Doty Middle), Kathy Estevez (Griffiths Middle) and Allison Box (Stauffer Middle).

As we happily welcomed our students and families back to our campuses, our schools have been busy hosting their Back to School Nights these past few weeks, with a few more scheduled before the end of September. If your child's night hasn't been held yet, remember that this is the perfect opportunity to get a preview of what your child's school year will look like. From meeting their teacher(s), learning about the curriculum, and understanding expectations; this night serves as a way to prepare yourself with ways to better support your child throughout the year.

Another great way to get connected with your child's school is to attend PTA meetings or Coffee/Chat with the Principal. These dates are shared by your child's school and serve as a way for you to get a closer look into what's happening on campus and meet the staff that work hard every day for your child. Our Superintendent also hosts coffee meetings where he invites families from across the district to join him to learn about the various things happening across this district. Coffee with the Superintendent is held three times a year with the upcoming one being held at Gallatin Elementary on Oct. 11 at 6pm. Follow Downey Unified on social media to get more information on these districtwide meetings families are invited

to and make sure to check your emails as your child's school/PTA send out information often.


As we look forward into October, there are a lot of exciting things happening at all of our schools as well as at the district level. Our annual State of the Schools breakfast is being held on the morning of Friday, Oct. 6. This event brings the entire Downey community together to see why Downey Unified is an amazing district. If you're interested in attending, please visit the district's website for more information. Also, in just a few weeks, it's the game we wait for every year... the Downey vs. Warren football game. Come out and support our student athletes from both high schools and join in on the excitement as we root for our students as they compete in one of the biggest games of the year. Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 13th at 7pm and get your Red (Downey) or Blue (Warren) ready.

Wrapping things up, I want to remind our families that all of our Downey Unified students are encouraged to participate in the PTA Art Reflections Program. This year's theme is "I am Hopeful Because..." Entries are being accepted in six differed categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Music Composition, Dance/Choreography and Film Production. Submit an entry for one category, or all six!... The sky is the limit. Please check your school's website for more information on how to register.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the various fun events that are ahead of us as we wrap up September and head into October.


Sincerely,
Giggy Perez-Saab
Board of Education President

Vera Wells
Birthday: September 23, 1923



Here's to an incredible century of memories and experiences! You have done more than most people could ever dream and are such an inspiration to your family and friends. You've accumulated a lifetime of memories over your century on this earth, and that's something to truly treasure. ... We are all so grateful to have you in our lives and we will cherish every moment we have spent with you.

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Eyes up: My experience at Ojos Locos

■ Ojos Locos sees an opportunity to be successful in Downey.

By Eric Pierce
Editor

DOWNEY – The tacos were terrible.

Yes, I know, nobody goes to Ojos Locos for the food. But please let me vent.

The carne asada was unseasoned and the tortillas raw. The sole purpose of the accompanying refried beans is apparently to keep you from choking on the steak.

Strangely, the Spanish rice tasted like literal nothing. I took a covid test to make sure it wasn't me. Nope, negative. It was the rice. Is this what baby food tastes like?

To be fair, my colleague Alex Dominguez ordered a cheeseburger and fries and it looked tasty. It resembled an entrée you'd be served at Red Robin or Chili's. Maybe on a Thursday night hanging out with



the fellas, a baseball game on the TV.

In fact, that's how I would describe Ojos Locos: a Chili's but with women. Flirtatious, attractive, scantily-clad women who leave little to the imagination.

You'd be mistaken if you think they are just eye candy. They were hustling – taking orders, balancing plates, serving food, refilling drinks and checking on customers. My food may have been terrible but that was no fault of the women.

Still, as I sat inside Ojos

Locos and tried to keep my gaze at eye level, I was bothered by a nagging question that I struggled to answer: why did Ojos Locos choose to open in Downey?

For years and years Downey residents have openly longed for a Trader Joe's, Whole Foods or Sprouts. And for years and years we have been rejected. It's not for lack of opportunity. I'm not a commercial realtor but the former Vons in north Downey looks like an ideal location for an upscale grocery store. What used to be Big Lots across from the mall has Trader Joe's written all over it.

Spooky Science Night returns to Downey space center

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center will host its annual Spooky Science Night in conjunction with International Observe the Moon Night on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 5-9 pm.

There will be activities and demonstrations throughout the night, including a Slime Zone.

New this year is the Spooky Sensory Yard, a hands-on experience to test your perceptions and awareness. Participants who are brave enough will feel their way through several mystery boxes.

Traditional guest favorites like the creepy robotics lab and a costume parade are also on the night's agenda. Guests are encouraged to dress in their favorite costume.

Admission is \$5 (free for space center members). Presale tickets will go on sale Oct. 3.

For more details, call (562) 231-1200 or visit columbiaspacecenter.org.



Mayor Claudia M. Frometa will be guest speaker for the Downey Historical Society on Thursday, Sept. 28.

The event will take place at the Barbara J. Riley Center, located at 7810 Quill Drive at Rives Avenue from 6pm to 8 pm.

For more information, call the Historical Society at 562-862-2777 or the Barbara J Riley Center at 562-904-7223.

Ojos Locos is not for me

Continued from page 2

In the meantime, Eric was told his chicken would take about 15 minutes to prepare. Around 10 minutes later, our waitress came by to tell him the same thing, again. He changed his order to the tacos.

Eric and I had different experiences when it came down to our food. While nothing world-changing or spectacular, my burger and fries were tasty; I might even eat them again, if it weren't for where I got them from.

Eric on the other hand seemed to labor through his plate. His meal concluded with him remarking that he wouldn't order the tacos again. While we ate, a chicken plate was carried past us and looked alright; maybe he should have just held out.

As far as ambiance, Ojos Locos is a typical sports bar, with music

playing and televisions everywhere. One cool feature was that the booths had their own personal tv screens built into them.

Overall, the experience was okay; I got exactly what was expected from my visit and neither Eric nor I burst into flames walking in or out of the restaurant.

Am I thrilled that it's in Downey? No. I don't love its location and I share the same concerns that many have had about safety.

But the fact remains that it's here despite the best efforts of its critics. At the end of the day, it's a business that saw an opportunity in Downey; all we can do now is choose whether or not to personally patronize it.

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October 14th- 8:00pm

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POET'S CORNER

Height

Each year I lose a little more of it,
the spaces between the vertebrae
slowly sighing closed
like an accordion that after
a full day of playing dances
lets out a long atonal breath—
the exhalation
of every song it ever made
as the musician prepares
to lay the instrument
gently in its box.

Julien Strong, THE SOUTHERN REVIEW

"Poetry shows us connections and patterns," says Strong, "that we hadn't seen before. It helps us to slow down long enough to really see what's being shown." Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks

Friends of Downey Library's September silent auction prizes

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library hold a silent auction fundraiser each month and bids close at 12 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month. This month's auction will close on Saturday, Sept. 30.

In addition to in-person bids, bids are also accepted by calling (562) 299-6790. Winner need not be present to win. All proceeds pay for library programs and services.

This month's silent auction items include:

- The New York Times 36 Hours Europe**, edited by Barbara Ireland. With 130 expert itineraries from The New York Times's popular 36 Hours column, this updated and revised 3rd edition of the best-selling book reveals the continent's brightest gems and best-kept secrets, including 20 new stories. Minimum Bid \$15
- The Best American Short Stories of the Century**, edited by John Updike and Katrina Kenison. This book brings together the best of the best - fifty-five extraordinary stories that represent a century's worth of unsurpassed accomplishments in this quintessentially American literary genre. Minimum bid: \$12
- The Classic Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes**, by Arthur Conan Doyle. Faux leather covers have gilt decorations and lettering, gilt page edges, and an attached silk ribbon bookmark. This beautiful edition makes an indispensable cornerstone for any home library. Minimum bid: \$12
- Women Who Dared: 52 Stories of Fearless Daredevils, Adventurers, and Rebels**, by Linda Skeers. The perfect introduction for learning about women throughout history who dared to do the extraordinary! Inspire our new generation of women to explore, discover, persist, succeed, and fight like a girl! A great gift for youth age 9 and up. Minimum bid: \$9
- I Love Lucy: Celebrating Fifty Years of Love and Laughter**, by Elisabeth Edwards. Jam-packed with never-before-seen photos, fan letters, and fun facts, this coffee-table volume is an official guide and a definitive celebration of the iconic show. For fans of the show, this generously illustrated commemorative collection is nothing short of an essential historical document. Minimum bid: \$12
- The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Steam & Rail**, by Colin Garratt and Max Wade-Matthews. Written by experts in the field and illustrated with over 1500 photographs, this is an exhaustive reference work to the world's most remarkable locomotive engines and railways, and is a book to inspire rail enthusiasts and armchair traveler alike. Minimum bid: \$10
- The Illustrated Cat: A Poster Book (1976 printing)**, by Jean-Claude Sures and Seymour Chwast. Almost one hundred paintings, etchings and illustrations, including 33 poster-size plates, trace the artists' visions of the cat from ancient Egypt to 20th century America. A book to treasure for its insights into the eternally fascinating nature of the cat. Minimum bid: \$8
- The Beatles Anthology**, by The Beatles. Interwoven with The Beatles' own memories, this book features over 1300 images. The iconic group opened their own archives just for this project, allowing the unprecedented release of photographs, documents, and other memorabilia from their homes and offices. (Note: covers show slight wear). Minimum bid: \$15



Martha Sodetani with a Hug-A-Bear in front of the Assistance League's Second Tyme Around Thrift Store.

Assistance League donates teddy bears to Maui wildfire victims

DOWNEY – When longtime Assistance League of Downey member and former president Martha Sodetani learned of the destruction of her late husband's childhood church, Lahaina United Methodist Church, and saw pictures of families and their children who had lost everything in the wildfires, she was galvanized into action.

After consulting with fellow members, Sodetani helped coordinate the shipment of two dozen Hug-A-Bears to Pastor John Crewe, senior pastor at that church.

Hug-A-Bears is a long-standing program of the Downey Assistance League, and it is one of the primary philanthropies of the Assistees, the teen auxiliary for high school kids.

Typically, these bears are distributed to local police and fire departments to be given out to children who have undergone a traumatic event, such as loss of a home in a fire, involvement in a catastrophic car crash, or death of a parent to help provide comfort at a difficult time.

Sodetani and other Assistance League members decided the bears could provide some small comfort to children in Maui who have been impacted.

Pastor John, when contacted, agreed, and the bears are now wending their way to Maui.

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Elon Musk is no superhero

The richest man in the world may be a genius but he's also toxic.

By Nicole Hemmer

Nicole Hemmer is an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University.

For much of the past two decades, journalists, politicians and investors have lauded Elon Musk for his creations: PayPal's seamless financial transactions, Tesla's stylish electronic cars, SpaceX's space-related strides. And while "his creations" deserved an asterisk — his businesses emerged through absorption of other people's technologies, ideas and start-ups — Musk entered the mid-2010s as a bright-eyed innovator pushing for new green technologies and for new extraterrestrial frontiers.

His reputation glowed: all that innovation, all that wealth, was going toward The Good. No wonder he became the model for Robert Downey, Jr.'s superhero character Tony Stark. In a world of super-wealthy supervillains, Musk chose a different path.

Then in 2022, Musk bought Twitter, and the other part of Musk, the one referred to by his former partner Grimes as "demon mode," took center stage. Whatever his previous reputation, he now emerged as a force of destruction, stripping the social media site of its value, its reputation and then, ultimately, its name. In recent weeks, he has been using the rebranded "X" platform to attack the Anti-Defamation League, an organization that fights antisemitism and extremism. Musk has repeatedly been criticized for enabling and boosting antisemitic content on the platform.

In his new biography of the world's richest man, "Elon Musk," Walter Isaacson tries to square these two Musks. He rummages through Musk's violent and chaotic childhood in South Africa (though, as Jill Lepore notes in *The New Yorker*, he focuses solely on the Musk family's chaos: "There are no other people, and there are certainly no Black people...."). He dissects Musk's many combative, combustible romantic relationships and the many children they produced, often in secret. He charts the ruptured business partnerships and dismissed employees and impossible deadlines that seemed tailor-made to increase human suffering. And Isaacson decides that this is the cost of innovation.

It is an old story, the backbone of American lore: the driven inventor, dismissive of human frailties like emotion, personal commitments and the need for sleep, whose seemingly superhuman drive is not a kind of villainy but rather vital to keep humanity driving forward. Isaacson, a biographer who has written about such

innovators and geniuses as Albert Einstein, Benjamin Franklin, Leonardo da Vinci and Steve Jobs, sees in Musk an affirmation of that story. Musk's demon mode may be unpleasant, but it is the price of genius.

As Isaacson writes in the closing sentences of his 600-page tome, "Sometimes great innovators are risk-seeking man-children who resist potty training. They can be reckless, cringeworthy, sometimes even toxic. They can also be crazy. Crazy enough to think they can change the world." Crazy, cruel, immature: these aren't failings; they're features of creative genius.

That is Isaacson's thesis, anyway. But it relies on a narrow understanding of genius. Genius for Isaacson can be measured in patents and profits. Musk runs several companies and is the richest man in the world. His genius is a given. All the rest, no matter how harmful, must be understood as an essential ingredient of that genius.

That's quite an impoverished view of genius, one that perpetuates the "great man" theory of history, in which the course of the world is shaped by a few brilliant men who thrive under the systems of their time. It overshadows genius generated through collaboration, which, though present throughout Musk's career, takes a backseat to the force of his singular personality throughout Isaacson's book. And it leaves little room for the transformative power of people such as racial justice and LGBTQ movement leaders who divined a new way of being in the world, which requires a sort of emotional and moral understanding absent from Musk's career.

Musk's apparent cruelty is at least in part an offshoot of the fact that his companies seem to be more real, more alive, to him than human beings. In Isaacson's telling, when Musk is anxious that a company might collapse, he doesn't warn that it might fail, he warns that it might die. ("We either do this or we die," he tells Tesla executives concerned about the potential misuse of customer deposits; "I believed if we couldn't do it in three, we deserved to die," he tells Isaacson about his first three failed rocket launches for SpaceX.)

Yet when Tesla drivers using the car's autopilot mode are killed when the technology fails, Musk appears more annoyed by the bad press than the dead customers. As Isaacson describes it, Musk "held a conference call with reporters in October 2016, and he got angry when the first questions were about the two deaths. If they wrote stories that dissuaded people from using autonomous driving systems, or regulators from approving them, 'then you are killing people.' He paused and then barked, 'Next question.'"

As that incident suggests, having the skill to develop technologies is not the same as having the judgment to use them. This became clear in Musk's deployment of the Starlink satellites. Musk owned the satellite communications network that Ukrainians relied on in their efforts to battle back a Russian invasion. Musk, believing he knew best how to prevent escalation, denied Ukrainians access to the network after discussions with

senior Russian officials. Though he seems stunned by his involvement in the conflict — "How am I in this war?" he asks Isaacson — he involved himself, relying on his own judgment about how the war should be conducted (judgment that does not, to put it mildly, seem up to the task).

After the publication of excerpts from the book, Musk posted his own version of these events to X. Isaacson has since clarified in subsequent posts that "Musk did not enable it [Starlink], because he thought, probably correctly, that would cause a major war" and that he believed "mistakenly" after talking to Musk the version of events portrayed in the book. Musk responded, thanking Isaacson for the correction and elaborating that the "onus is meaningfully different if I refused to act upon a request from Ukraine vs. made a deliberate change to Starlink to thwart Ukraine."



ELON MUSK

The book also problematically portrays Musk's lack of empathy as a function of undiagnosed and untreated mental illness and neurodivergence. Isaacson makes clear in the text that Musk and his colleagues believe he has Asperger's, obsessive-compulsive disorder and bipolar disorder. This, too, fits into an unexamined trope of the brilliant genius: that to seek medical and psychological support would blunt the brilliant mind and stymie innovation. Isaacson and Musk both buy into this — Isaacson concludes that "crazy" is what makes Musk innovate to try to change the world — apparently preferring the romantic and mystifying concept of "demon mode" to describe what could be better explained as a lack of treatment and restraint.

There were clearly better ways to approach a Musk biography than Isaacson's fog-machine of demon mode and distant genius and man-child superhero. Musk is a product not only of apartheid South Africa but also of Silicon Valley, which has produced more than its share of innovators like Musk, who feel unconstrained by laws and regulations, who sell utopian visions that devolve into corporate money-machines with miserable employees and questionable contributions to society. Even Musk's recent turn — minimizing the pandemic, ranting about the "woke mind virus," promoting far-right conspiracies — keeps him in line with techno-compatriots like Peter Thiel.

A richer analysis of Musk would help make sense not only of his chaotic career but the culture and politics that made it possible. But that would require shattering myths, not perpetuating them. And that is a task neither Elon Musk the person nor "Elon Musk" the biography is interested in.

Data shows a recession on the horizon

Disposable income levels are dropping and Americans are taking on more debt.

By Nicole Hemmer

Nicole Hemmer is an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University.

While US economic growth has defied expectations this year, clouds are gathering on the horizon. The all-important US consumers have stood their ground and continued to spend, and most data underlines spending strength. But some emerging information suggests that consumers may eventually stumble, which could drive the US into a brief recession.

To be clear, gross domestic product (GDP) growth has been surprisingly robust this year — and that's largely due to strong consumer spending over the first half of 2023. First quarter GDP expanded by 2% and in the second quarter grew by 2.1%. At the end of last year, most economists expected the economy to contract over that period because of severe inflation and, in response, rapid interest rate increases. But rising wages, a war chest of pandemic savings and low debt levels have kept US consumers active this year despite these pressures.

So, what's there to worry about?

Real personal income was flat in July, real disposable personal income (real personal income minus taxes) dropped in July for the first time in 13 months and the personal savings rate dropped in July. Meanwhile, consumer spending jumped in July, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. That all suggests that US consumers may be getting out over their skis with their buying habits.

To be sure, the tight labor market is still driving incomes up, but not as quickly as last year. And the Fed is intent on softening up the labor market to further curb inflation by targeting wages.

So, if spending growth is starting to exceed income growth, how are Americans paying for things? The answer is debt and savings, neither of which is sustainable.

During the second quarter, outstanding credit card debt rose to more than \$1 trillion, and auto loans to nearly \$1.6 trillion — both all-time highs. Granted, Americans are earning more, but the total household debt-to-annual personal income ratio is now back up to its pre-pandemic level, according to our calculations. Credit card delinquencies have also steadily climbed and are now back up to 2019 levels. Furthermore, interest rates on debt are higher than they've been in years, making monthly payments on rising balances even higher. Thus, further debt-fueled buying could be challenging for Americans. Most of us have run up credit cards at one point or another; paying them down usually requires sacrificing some spending.

US consumers have also leaned on their pandemic-fueled savings. Pandemic-relief money from the government and spending that people skipped early in

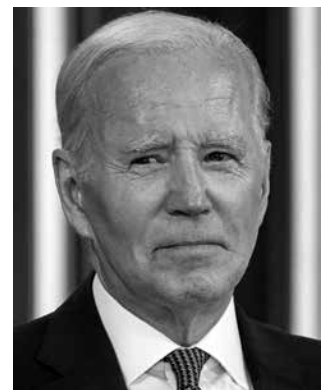
the pandemic resulted in a national savings war chest of about \$2.1 trillion, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco study. Those savings are rapidly being spent and are currently estimated to have dropped to just \$190 billion. Without a more balanced relationship between spending and income growth, these savings could be wiped out by the end of the year.

Further evidence of an increasingly stretched consumer can be seen elsewhere. Hardship withdrawals from 401(k) accounts have jumped, retail theft is spiking and retailers report that consumers are increasingly focused on discount brands.

None of this bodes well for future spending, nor do the mandatory student loan repayments set to resume in October. Indeed, following a three-year hiatus, millions of Americans will have to start diverting a part of their monthly paycheck back to these payments. This could potentially lead to a spending cut of about \$9 billion per month, increasing the probability of recession.

How do Americans feel with all this going on? Not that great. Consumer confidence dropped in August, erasing most of the gains seen over the summer period. Worries about future employment are rising, as are concerns about incomes and finances. Consumers' assessment of their present situation fell, as did their future expectations. Indeed, the index that tracks expectations fell to just above 80, which indicates that recession may be near.

As we approach the end of the year, we'll continue to see mixed data, some stronger and some weaker. But the balance will most likely shift toward the latter. Income growth will continue to cool, savings will fall and debt will rise, and eventually the US consumer will have to pull back. A brief recession is the most likely outcome.



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The Downey Patriot STAFF

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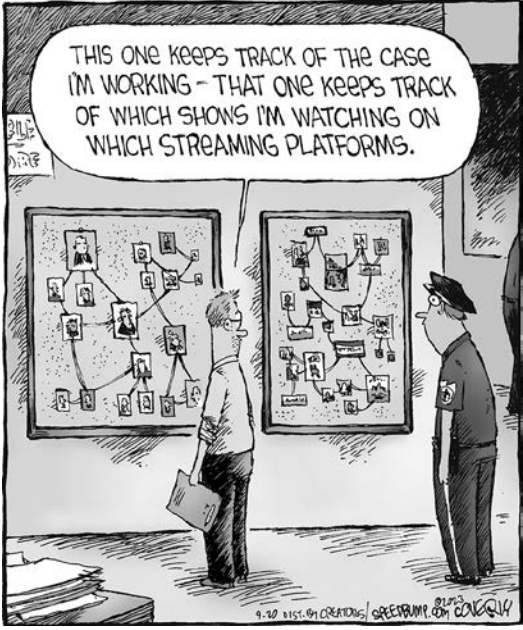
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SPEED BUMP



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 Cites of Downey, at Barabara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (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.

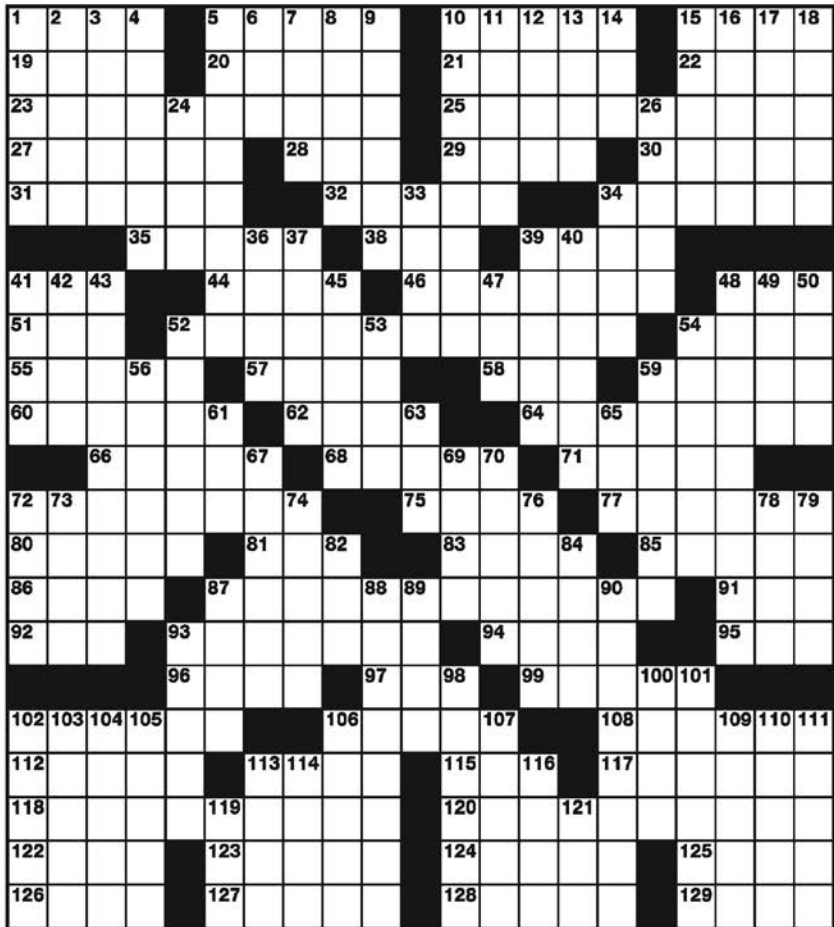
The **DOWNNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER** Report graffiti to this number. **923-4484**

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
DOUBLE-HEADER: Words & phrases with two "head" ends
 by Mark McClain

- ACROSS**
- 1 All the time
- 5 Taken (startled)
- 10 Testy
- 15 Generator measure
- 19 "Don't look now..."
- 20 Scrub in the tub
- 21 Eagle's nest
- 22 Cyberactioneer
- 23 Person on safari
- 25 What many keys will open
- 27 Spotted
- 28 Orange veggie
- 29 Book jacket blurbs
- 30 Song sung at a reunion
- 31 Gung-ho
- 32 East (UN member)
- 34 Sports surprises
- 35 Garden tool
- 38 Danson on TV
- 39 Church niche
- 41 Scottish surname
- 44 Flock cries
- 46 Comparatively cool
- 48 Release, with "go"
- 51 "Price negotiable" letters
- 52 Phase of the moon
- 54 Arithmetic, for instance
- 55 Peach (dessert serving)
- 57 Cool
- 58 Puppy's cry
- 59 Slow tempo
- 60 Five-petaled flowers
- 62 Meager
- 64 Display of days
- 66 Off the mark
- 68 Geologic time period
- 71 Part of USNA
- 72 Stony fragments
- 75 "Just one sec!"
- 77 Make the call
- 80 Instruments for minstrels
- 81 B'way buys
- 83 Very small bit
- 85 Of the kidneys
- 86 Cab alternative
- 87 Numbers on business cards
- 91 Double-curve
- 92 Suffix for sonnet
- 93 Sign swiftly
- 94 Visa alternative
- 95 "Steady as _ goes"
- 96 Trail mix morsels
- 97 Industrial vessel
- 99 Mops, as the deck
- 102 Most October babies
- 106 Hiding, with "up"
- 108 Change genetically
- 112 Put up with starter
- 113 Fan's sound
- 115 Penpoint
- 117 Affix with heat
- 118 Jigsaw puzzle spec
- 120 Gale, for example
- 122 Lost altitude
- 123 Deep valley
- 124 Chopin selection
- 125 Biblical twin
- 126 Sea swirl
- 127 Ran in neutral
- 128 Showered love (on)
- 129 Proofreader's direction
- DOWN**
- 1 Boring tool
- 2 Tibetan city
- 3 Gusto
- 4 Tax agcy.
- 5 Mideast capital
- 6 Prohibit by law
- 7 Many a DOJ employee
- 8 Rule breaker
- 9 Muppet amphibian
- 10 Laos neighbor
- 11 Broadcast once more
- 12 What "ish" can mean
- 13 Takes a chair
- 14 Take a look at
- 15 Oil sources
- 16 "Humble" home
- 17 Implied but unsaid
- 18 Little folks
- 24 Unruly pile
- 26 Rodeo participant
- 33 List of options
- 34 PC purchaser
- 36 Mend with needle and thread
- 37 Moves carefully
- 39 Storage area
- 40 Ersatz Frisbee
- 41 May honorees
- 42 Busy as _
- 43 Runner's refresher
- 45 No longer fresh
- 47 Cook in oil
- 48 Cell ancestors
- 49 James of jazz
- 50 Marvel Universe superhero
- 52 Kotton far and wide
- 53 Cottony cleaner brand
- 54 Clear and present danger
- 56 Range device
- 59 Crowbars, essentially
- 61 Long-running NBC show
- 63 Cut the grass
- 65 Little guy
- 67 Succeed in working out
- 69 Flowerpot flaw
- 70 Ado
- 72 Stick with it
- 73 Gullible person
- 74 Processes, as flour
- 76 Proton holders
- 78 Short run
- 79 Besides this
- 82 Sundial's noon
- 84 From the top
- 87 Major burden
- 88 Played gleefully
- 89 Mideast flier
- 90 Looked at closely
- 93 Thunderstruck
- 98 Became anxious
- 100 Small town
- 101 Stashed away
- 102 Minor error
- 103 Homeric epic
- 104 Mix well
- 105 Unsteady
- 106 Rely (on)
- 107 "Same here"
- 109 Ouzo flavoring
- 110 Melodic
- 111 Provide with some trait
- 113 What lathes work on
- 114 Throw hard
- 116 Champagne spec
- 119 Film FX
- 121 Lyrical homage

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Beyond the Book Festival returns with packed lineup

■ The third annual festival returns Sept. 30 to the Downey City Library.

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library’s third annual Beyond the Book Festival, a celebration of local artists, writers, makers, crafters, musician and the creative explorers who give rise to the community’s do-it-yourself spirit, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, from 12-6 pm.

The event begins with music provided by the Los Angeles chapter of Chulita Vinyl Club (CVC), a group of DJs made up of women who strictly play off of vinyl records.

CVC will play sets throughout the event, leading to a live performance by local jazz ensemble The Neighborhood Orchestra at 5 pm. Catch both groups on the main stage just outside the library’s main entrance.

The all-ages festival will feature a number of activities for attendees to do, including origami demonstrations, a caricature artist, crafts in the children’s area and hands-on interactive activity sessions in the library’s makerspace – the Workshop.

The library will also play host to more than two dozen local community organizations, makers and crafters showcasing their unique talents, selling their products and sharing resources.

The library will host four discussion panels that afternoon, curated around the idea of finding or creating community and identity through various mediums.

The discussions kick-off with



Authors and illustrators from book publisher Lil' Libros will take part in a panel discussion at the Beyond the Book Festival in Downey next week.

independent book publisher Lil' Libros and their panel, "We are the New Storytellers," which features Lil' Libros authors and illustrators sharing about their Latino/Latinx identities and experiences and how they bring it to life in their work.

Another panel discussion is led by The L.A. Project, a street photography collective of skilled photographers who aim to capture and tell the stories of the streets of Los Angeles. They will display their work and talk about their experiences as urban photographers.

Capocollo, Salami, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich \$7.99
Hall Of Fame Market & Deli
10846 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241

The third panel discussion will feature owners of three independent book stores – MiJa Books, IBookPark and Con Todo

Press – sharing their experiences opening independent bookstore, why indie bookstores continue to be relevant and the importance of children’s books.

Lastly, poets Vickie Vertiz and Olga Garcia will host a poetry reading session, titled "Why We Write" with students from WriteGirl, a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winner providing creative writing and mentoring services for more than 700 teen girls, youth and young adults annually.

The festival will also feature a live performance by The Bob Baker Marionette Theatre of their special seasonal show, the Halloween Spooktacular, at 4:30 pm in the Children’s area of the library.

Food trucks will be on-hand throughout the event.

Admission to the Beyond the Book Festival is free. To learn more, visit downeylibrary.org/beyond-the-book

Broadway hit 'Deathtrap' opens next month in Long Beach

LONG BEACH – Just in time for Halloween, the Tony Award-nominated comedy thriller "Deathtrap" opens Oct. 20 at International City Theatre in Long Beach for a three-week run.

Sidney Bruhl is a playwright desperately in need of a hit. Just in time, a former student sends him the manuscript of his first play, a murder mystery called "Deathtrap."

Sidney smells a hit...but he's never been that fond of sharing credit.

"I wanted to direct a piece that not only keeps me on the edge of my seat but makes me jump out of it," explained director Jamie Torcellini. "Deathtrap is a wonderfully crafted play with beautifully written characters that are multi-dimensional and full of surprises."

"The main draw is working with the actors to explore all the layers of these rich characters, while finding the thriller aspect intertwined with the dark comedy edge."

"Deathtrap" holds the record for longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway and was described by Cue Magazine as "two-thirds a thriller and one-third a devilishly clever comedy."

Tickets are \$49 for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and \$52 for Sunday matinees. Purchase tickets online at internationalcitytheatre.org.

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- STAY HEALTHY** and protect against illness
- Protect **HIGH RISK** loved ones
- Keep schools and gatherings **SAFE**
- AVOID DISRUPTIONS** to events and activities

Ask your health care provider which vaccines you need.

PublicHealth.LACounty.gov/Vaccines

EVERYDAY SAFE

Downey Theatre presents:

Queen of the Night! Remembering Whitney

Queen of the Night! Remembering Whitney, starring Trina Johnson Finn is a 90 minute live entertainment show that brings the top selling hits of the late Whitney Houston to the stage. Queen of the Night! transports the essence and persona of Whitney for a night showcasing fan-favorite songs from Whitney Houston's past albums along with snappy dialogue providing personal insight behind each song.

8:00PM Thursday, October 5, 2023

DOWNEY THEATRE

8435 Firestone Blvd., Downey CA 90241
Box Office (562) 861-8211
www.downeytheatre.org

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 PRESALE TICKETS
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DOWNEY HAPPENINGS



COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM

The CBO Funding Request Program is designed to help assist local non-profit organizations in providing community benefits to Downey residents.

The application period will begin September 1, 2023 and conclude on September 30, 2023.

Apply Now

Applications Open Through Sept 30, 2023

For More Information Please Visit www.downeyca.org/CBO or Call 562-904-7238

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Ribbon Cutting, 11 am. A ribbon cutting ceremony for new chamber member The Gypsy Trip, 7824 Florence Ave.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Excursion to see Les Miserables, 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. Take an excursion to see "Les Miserables" at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Cost is \$65 for Downey residents and includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

Masquerade Garden Party, 3:30-6:30 pm. A live singing performance of Phantom of the Opera music with piano. Plus appetizers, 3-course dinner, champagne, wine, raffle, and live and silent auctions. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in masquerade attire. \$95 with proceeds benefiting the Downey Symphony. Contact Pat Gil for tickets at (562) 879-3029 or patgil1031@gmail.com. Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Collaborative Meeting, 10 am. Local non-profits are invited to share information about their organizations at this collaborative meeting. Everyone will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and distribute flyers. The Whole Child, 8630 Florence Ave.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Havana Nights, 6-9:30 pm. Downey's premiere Cuban celebration returns to Downtown Downey with live music, food vendors, shopping, family activities, and more. Located on Downey Avenue between 2nd and 4th streets

Swingin' with the Mouse, 8 pm. Join the SWTM Band as they celebrate the magic of your favorite film/TV Disney music, featuring original jazz renditions of classic and beloved songs. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Beyond the Book Festival, time tba. A celebration of all things you're able to do at the library outside of books. The all-ages event will showcase art, music, and feature panel discussions, food vendors, artist and maker workshops, live music, and more. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Hello Gorgeous! A Live Tribute to Barbra Streisand, 3 pm. Actress and singer Rebecca Clark becomes Barbra Streisand in this live one-woman musical delivering the greatest hits of this legendary singer. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Ricky Galvez Memorial Golf Tournament, 11 am. Presented by Gangs Out of Downey, the Ricky Galvez Memorial Golf Tournament raises money to fund college scholarships for Downey students. Sign up online at downeygood.org. Rio Hondo Golf Club, 10627 Old River School Rd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Ribbon Cutting, 6 pm. A ribbon cutting ceremony for new chamber member Dream Life Realty, 8077 Florence Ave., Suite 202A

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, 7 am. Wrestling hall of famer Tully Blanchard is the keynote speaker at the 35th annual prayer breakfast. For tickets, call Mark Maciel at (562) 531-0117. Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd.

Fair Housing Workshop, 2 pm. Learn how you are protected under fair housing laws, what your rights and responsibilities are as tenants and landlords, and how to deal with tenant and landlord disputes. Plus discussions on state and federal fair housing laws, state and federally protected classes, notices, security

deposits, rent increases, Covid-19 protections, and more. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Whitney Houston Tribute, 8 pm. Singer and actress Trina Johnson Finn captures the essence of the late Whitney Houston in this fast-moving, high-energy show. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

State of the Schools, 7 am. Enjoy breakfast while listening to keynote speakers share the Downey Unified School District's achievements and strategic direction. Last day of RSVP is Sept. 29. L.A. County Office of Education West Conference Center, 12830 Columbia Way

Holiday Boutique, 8 am to 2 pm. Halloween, fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas decor, rare Sandra Collins dolls, "Wizard of Oz" memorabilia, Fitz and Floyd collectibles, jewelry, and more. Proceeds to benefit Assistance League of Downey. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Excursion to Apples & Art Orchards, 7:30 am to 5 pm. Take an excursion to the Apples & Art Orchards in Julian, where you will learn about apples as you pick your own 5 lb. bag. You'll also have the opportunity to make your own cider. Cost is \$16 for Downey residents and includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

Embroidery Workshop, 10 am to 12 pm and 2-4 pm. Explore the basics of embroidery in this free workshop. The class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Crosstown Kickoff Festival, 3-9 pm. A family-friendly festival with laser tag, corn maze, pedal car racing, shopping, athletic competitions, and more. Brookshire Avenue between Firestone and 5th Street

Paso de Oro Company Presents: Fiesta de Los Muertos, 6 pm. Paso de Oro Dance Company presents an enchanting evening dedicated to honoring cherished traditions - the harmonious fusion of Dia de Muertos and Halloween. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Coffee with the Superintendent, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Gallatin Elementary, 9513 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Mulch Giveaway, 8-11 am. Downey residents can receive up to 32 gallons of free mulch, while supplies last. Bring your own containers (no bags and no truck beds). City Hall parking lot, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Document Shredding, 8-11 am. Downey residents are invited to bring their sensitive documents for free, on-site shredding. Up to three banker-sized boxes per resident. City Hall parking lot, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and become familiar with peripherals, programs, files, browsing, emails, and more. Free but registration is required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Tides of Love," the concert features performances of "Dances in the Canebreaks" by Florence Price and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, with a special appearance by baritone Anthony Moreno. An art show by the Downey Arts Coalition precedes the concert. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

Rancho Golf Classic, 9 am. Now in its 33rd year, the Rancho Golf Classic raises funds for Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Sign up online at RanchoFoundation.org. Friendly Hills Country Club, 8500 Villaverde Dr.



HAVANA Nights

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DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Managing Your Medication Class, 11 am to 12 pm. Learn the importance of sticking to your medication regimen and get tips on what to ask your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new prescription. Led by the LA County Department of Mental Health. Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr.

Fright Carnival, 5-9 pm. Celebrate Halloween early at Fright Carnival in Downtown Downey, with games, music, vendors, and more

Spooky Science Night, 5-9 pm. Science themed activities, a costume parade, slime zone, creepy robotics lab, and other family fun. Come dressed in your favorite costume. \$5 admission. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

Miss Downey Pageant, 6 pm. Young ladies will compete for the title of Miss Downey, Miss Teen Downey, Junior Miss Downey and Little Miss Downey. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

State of the City, 12 pm. Mayor Claudia M. Frometa will deliver Downey's State of the City address at this public event sponsored by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Rio Hondo Event Center, 10627 Old River School Rd.

Book Club, 12-1 pm. Join other book lovers in a discussion of "When In Rome" by Liam Callanan. New members welcome. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Job Fair, 10 am to 2 pm. Bring your resume and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews with employers in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, hospitality, aerospace, trade and logistics, business and professional services, and more. Apollo Park, 12544 Rives Ave.

The Makaha Sons, 8 pm. Boasting an impressive catalog of 22 CDs, The Makaha Sons' melodious Hawaiian symphonies have resonated in concert halls around the globe. See them perform live in Downey. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and become familiar with peripherals, programs, files, browsing, emails, and more. Free but registration is required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Chamber Anniversary Gala, 5-9 pm. A gala event celebrating the Downey Chamber of Commerce's 120th anniversary. Themed "Taste of Downey," sample cuisine from Downey's finest restaurants. Plus music, a wine garden, dessert table, and more. For details, call (562) 923-2191 or email sarah@downeychamber.com. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Excursion to Dia de los Muertos, 10 am to 6 pm. Take an excursion to the Museum of Latin America Art's Dia de los Muertos Festival, featuring live performances and activities to enjoy. Cost is \$15 for Downey residents and includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

Downey Dia de los Muertos, 11 am to 8 pm. Now in its 10th year, Downey Dia de los Muertos features live music, ballet folklorico, Aztec dancers, car altar displays, papel picado, calaveras, face painting, food trucks, and more. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Pumpkin Patch, 5-8:30 pm. Family-friendly games, activities,

costume contests, candy, and more. Downey Adult School, 12340 Woodruff Ave.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Crochet Workshop, 10 am to 12 pm and 2-4 pm. Explore the basics of crochet in this free workshop. The class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Sugar Skull, time tba. Sugar Skull is a touring bilingual, bicultural musical. Using traditional regional music and dance from Mexico, it tells the story of 12-year-old Vita Flores, who things her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. But when a spirited candy skeleton springs to life, Vita finds herself on a musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Dia de los Muertos. This musical is intended for young audiences and families. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Ceremony, 10 am. Join the City of Downey in honoring our nation's military veterans. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

5K for a 5 King, 7 am. A 5K run/walk organized by the Friends of the Downey Police K9 Foundation. Sign up at downeypoa.org

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, 6:30 pm. Get in the Christmas spirit early this year with the beloved TV classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" as it soars off the screen and onto the Downey Theatre stage. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Book Club, 12-1 pm. Join other book lovers in a discussion of "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng. New members welcome. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Small Business Saturday, 3-9 pm. Join Downtown Downey in celebrating and supporting small businesses and all they do for their communities.

Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait, 8 pm. Direct from Las Vegas, "Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait," starring Sally Olson as Karen Carpenter and Ned Mills as Richard Carpenter, takes the audience back in time to an old fashioned Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Crochet Workshop, 10 am to 12 pm and 2-4 pm. Explore the basics of crochet in this free workshop. The class is intended for beginners with no previous experience. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and become familiar with peripherals, programs, files, browsing, emails, and more. Free but registration is required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Downey Christmas Parade, 1 pm. Downey's annual Christmas parade returns with floats, marching bands, classic cars and, of course, Santa Claus.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6-8:30 pm. This free event features entertainment from local schools, a snow play area, arts & crafts, photos with Santa Claus, and more. Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Intro to Computers, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Learn the basics of using a computer and become familiar with peripherals, programs, files, browsing, emails, and more. Free but registration is required by calling (562) 904-7366. Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave.

Downey Posadas

5-9 pm. Celebrate Las Posadas at this free, outdoor festival in

Downtown Downey, featuring shopping, food trucks, family activities, and more

Apollo Lighting, 6-8 pm. The Downey space center's annual Christmas tradition returns with the lighting of its Apollo capsule. Plus an appearance by TubeChristmas. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Excursion to LA Zoo Lights, 4-9 pm. LA Zoo Lights brings you a winter wonderland, featuring seasonal magic, wildlife-inspired displays, fantastic photo ops, immersive interactive experiences, and dynamic projections and lights. Cost is \$40 for Downey residents and includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Jose Feliciano, 7:30 pm. Jose Feliciano takes the stage to perform "Feliz Navidad" and his array of hits from an iconic six-decade career. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Robert Cazimero in Concert, 3 pm. Robert Cazimero is a Grammy-nominated recording artist who has performed from the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York to stages in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle. See him live at the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Coffee with the Superintendent, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Sussman Middle School, 12500 Birchdale Ave.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

TLC 5K, 8 am. Save the date: the TLC 5K run/walk returns with proceeds benefiting Downey Unified School District's TLC Family Resource Center.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Downey Symphony Concert, 8 pm. Titled "Springtime," the concert features performances of Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 "Italian," and Mozart's Piano Concert No. 20 in D minor with Cameron Akioka on piano. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

The Dennis Kamakahi Music Festival, 3 pm. The Rev. Dennis Kamakahi is considered one of the most prolific Hawaiian songwriters of all time. Watch him perform live at the Downey Theatre, joined by special guests. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Coffee with the Superintendent, 6 pm. Join Downey Unified School District superintendent Dr. John Garcia for coffee and conversation. Lewis Elementary, 13220 Bellflower Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Carpenters Legacy, 8 pm. Direct from Las Vegas, Carpenters Legacy is the definitive show celebrating the music and legacy of the famed brother-sister duo. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Mark Yamanaka, Kupaoa, Hoku Zuttermeister in concert, 7 pm. An authentic Hawaiian concert featuring three talented, award-winning recording artists. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

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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



DOMESTIC TERRORISM

The new **Domestic Terrorism, Mind Control**

What is happening is a mind controlling of people. This is the most dangerous thing anyone could have done to them. Mind controlling by terrorist is very dangerous because the people being affected are unaware, they are under a mind controlling spell. I began noticing the mental change with my friends around June 2022. It began with Officer Nadal from the Signal Hill Police Department. Nadal and his police friends tried to sneak up on me and enter my house. I was gone on that day. He tried again. I looked out the window. I wouldn't let him in my house. I told him I would speak with him when I hired a lawyer. Since that time, I've been unable to hire a lawyer. I'm still trying to hire a lawyer. I spoke with lawyers that will take my money. Then they make up excuses why they won't work for me. This is in my book: Donald Trump's Koward Kommunist K**ts.

I tried many different ways to advertise my political book, *The Washington Mafia*. The book is PG rated. The Long Beach newspaper, the beachcomber, was the only newspaper that I could get into to place an ad. The Downey Patriot is the second newspaper that would let me place an ad.

The mind controlling of people affects my family and friends. I can't talk about my book. I'm hated by everyone. I'm afraid of speaking with the police about this. I tried talking with the Washington DC Capitol Police, twice. The Signal Hill Police Department are terrorist. I told the Signal Hill City Council about their police. They did nothing. The Signal Hill City Council are terrorist. All the lawyers that have been mind controlled, turn their backs on me. Everyone that has been affected by this mind control won't, or can't, talk to me about my book. Once you're affected, or infected, it's terminal. It's very dangerous. I have evidence since April 2022 of what I'm writing here about. I have tried every day to contact higher law enforcement to help me with this. I'm asking everyone reading here to get me the California Attorney General Rob Bonta and every higher-level law enforcement. This communism, and terrorism, are real. It has to be exposed. It has to be stopped. It is very dangerous to everyone.

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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
 Chief Executive Officer
 Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism

Donations can be mailed to:
Downey Foundation for Independent Journalism
10927 Downey Avenue, Suite C
Downey, California 90241

Crime Blotter

On 8/23/2023 at 8:20 PM, officers responded to the area of Lakewood Blvd and Vista Del Rosa regarding a suspect with a knife. Officers arrived and located the suspect who fled on foot. The suspect was captured and ultimately arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

On 8/24/2023 at 1:00 AM, officers on patrol observed a stolen vehicle in the area of Firestone Blvd and Stewart and Gray Rd. Officers stopped the vehicle and learned the driver was also wanted for other crimes out of Westminster. The driver was arrested.

On 8/26/2023 at 3:35 AM, officers responded to the area of 9200 Cedartree Rd regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated the suspect demanding property from him while pointing a gun at him. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

On 8/27/2023 at 12:20 AM, officers responded to the area of 12100 Downey Ave regarding a male shooting a firearm. Witnesses described the suspect as he fled in a vehicle. Officers located the suspect as he fled the scene in the vehicle and recovered several pieces of evidence at the scene. No injuries were reported. The suspect was arrested for negligently shooting a firearm in public.

On 8/31/2023 at 12:25 AM, officers responded to the area of Lakewood Blvd and Gardendale St regarding a male causing a disturbance. Officers arrived and the male threw an object at a police officer's vehicle. The male was arrested for felony vandalism.

On 9/1/2023 at 7:40 PM, officers responded to the area of 7300 Florence Ave regarding shots being fired. Officers arrived and discovered an upstairs resident had fired a single gunshot through the floor into the apartment below it. No injuries were sustained. The occupant of the above apartment was arrested for negligent discharge of a weapon.

On 9/2/2023 at 4:25 PM, officers responded to the area of 12000 Downey Ave regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated he was attempting to sell a video game console to the suspect when the suspect pointed a gun at him. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle with the stolen property. Detectives are investigating.

On 9/3/2023 at 5:00 PM, officers responded to the area of 10200 Lakewood Blvd regarding a robbery. The victim stated two suspects entered their business and selected several items. As the suspects exited the store without paying, one of the suspects brandished a knife and threatened the victim. The suspects fled in a vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

On 9/6/2023 at 1:40 AM, officers responded to the area of 12400 Lakewood Blvd regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated three suspects approached him and demanded his property while holding a handgun. The suspects took the property and fled the scene. Detectives are investigating.

On 9/7/2023 at 12:55 PM, officers responded to the area of 8300 Vista Del Rio regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated a relative had threatened to stab him at the location. Officers arrested the suspect at the scene.

On 9/8/2023 at 3:20 AM, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Imperial Hwy and Rose Ave. During the officer's investigation, they located several drugs and a loaded firearm inside of the vehicle. The driver was arrested.

On 9/8/2023 at 1:50 PM, officers responded to Sunglass Hut in the Stonewood Mall regarding a grand theft that just occurred. The suspects had stolen approximately \$25,000 in merchandise and fled the scene in a vehicle. Detectives began investigating and were later notified the vehicle was located in Beverly Hills. The two suspects located inside of the vehicle, along with the stolen merchandise, was brought back to Downey where they were arrested.

On 9/11/2023 at 10:40 AM, officers responded to the area of Brookshire Ave and Alameda St regarding a person armed with a handgun. The suspect had threatened to shoot the victim while displaying a handgun and drove away. Officers checked the area, located the suspect and placed him under arrest.

On 9/15/2023 at 3:20 AM, officers were patrolling when they observed a stolen vehicle being driven in the area of Firestone Blvd and Old River School Rd. Officers stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver.

On 9/15/2023 at 12:40 PM, several concerned residents contacted Downey City Hall regarding door to door solicitors posing as City of Downey Water Department employees throughout the city. Several solicitors had asked to enter residents' homes to check water filters. The Downey Police Department distributed a social media post indicating Water Department employees do not check water filters and that residents should always be suspicious of any stranger asking to enter their residences.

On 9/15/2023 at 9:40 PM, officers responded to the area of Firestone Blvd and Patton Rd regarding a report of a suspect with a gun. The victim stated the suspect had brandished a firearm while confronting the victim. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle. No injuries and not shots fired. Detectives are investigating.

Robert Lopez named Cerritos city manager

CERRITOS – Robert A. Lopez has been appointed Cerritos city manager, replacing Art Gallucci, who is retiring.

Lopez will assume the position Nov. 4.

"Robert grew up in and is a resident of Cerritos, and he has devoted his career to serving our great city," Cerritos Mayor Bruce Barrow said in a news release. "His extensive knowledge, education and dedication to the City of Cerritos will make him an outstanding city manager."

Lopez has worked for Cerritos since 2002 and held various Planning Department roles prior to being promoted to redevelopment manager in 2005 and planning manager in 2009. He was appointed community development director in 2020 and public works director in 2022.

Lopez received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering with a minor in urban studies from Stanford University, and his master of public administration and master of planning degrees from USC.

A lifelong Cerritos resident, he was a valedictorian of his graduating class at Whitney High School.

Gallucci announced his retirement in December 2022. He has served as Cerritos city manager since 1991.

"I am honored to have been appointed the new city manager for the city of Cerritos," Lopez said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the City Council, city employees and the community on the continuing growth and success of Cerritos."

Suspects escape after brief chase in Compton

COMPTON – Two California Highway Patrol officers were involved in a shooting with multiple suspects during a traffic stop in the Compton area, and authorities were searching for the suspects Tuesday.

The incident began about 11:20 p.m. Monday, when officers saw a white Kia Optima that was speeding east on Alondra Boulevard near Main Street, according to the CHP.

The officers stopped the Kia near Alondra Boulevard and Maple Avenue, and during the traffic stop, the Kia allegedly accelerated toward the officers, the CHP reported.

"While the suspect was accelerating the Kia towards the officers, one of the officers fell on his back, causing (an) officer-involved shooting," a CHP officer told reporters. "Both officers fired their weapons multiple times at the Kia, and then the Kia fled eastbound on Alondra Boulevard from Maple Avenue."

"The officers were able to return to the patrol vehicle, and a short pursuit ensued," the officer said. "However, they lost the suspect vehicle at or around Alondra and Wilmington Avenue."

About 11:45 p.m., Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies found the abandoned Kia on Cypress Avenue west of Aprilla Avenue with several bullet holes in its windshield, according to the CHP and KABC.

Stay Gallery hosting group art exhibit

DOWNEY – Stay Gallery will present The Local Group Show 5, an annual group art exhibition highlighting the creative diversity of LA County, on Friday, Oct. 6, from 5-10 pm.

Sixty-eight local artists are slated to participate.

Other highlights include a local artisan vendor market, craft beer by Brewjeria, drinks by Liquid Death, DJ set by NICEGUYXVINNY, art workshop by GUERRA, live painting by Nia Simone and Angel Acordagoitia, and raffle prizes.

Downey Doodle-icious prints by Don Lamkin will be available for purchase.

Admission is free with RSVP but donations are encouraged. For details, visit staygallery.org.

Downey loses arts advocate

By Lorine Parks, Society Editor

DOWNEY – The Downey Symphony and the Downey cultural scene lost a long-time friend when Lea Fratello died on Sept. 8 at age 94. Lea was a gentle, soft-spoken person who had been ferocious in support of the performing arts all her life.

Lea ceaselessly promoted the Downey Symphonic Society, as a member of the famed Women's Committee, now the Guild, and for 30 years as a board member of the Society itself.

Lea was twice a member of the Search Committee for conductor of the orchestra and musical director for the DSS. The first time, in 1988, she was instrumental – pun intended – in choosing Tom Osborn in a very competitive field. Twenty years later, after Tom's unexpected death, Lea performed the same service again and our present Music Director Sharon Lavery was her clear preference. Lea always hit the right notes.

As Mark Keller, formerly house manager for the Downey Theatre said, "Lea Fratello was very much a fixture of the DSS/DSO/DSG in what I call the good old days. I remember her helping greet the audience in the lobby of the Downey Theatre on DSO concert nights."

"Lea certainly made a decisive contribution to the Symphony," said former DSS President Don Marshall.

Born in Flagstaff, Lea came with her parents to Downey as a teenager. In her first marriage to Bill Marks, she was active in the Los Angeles theatre scene. Lea loved to perform, and had a fine contralto voice. She once advanced as far as the Metropolitan Opera regional auditions.

When Bill died, Lea, as a single mother with daughter Laurie and stepson Patrick, returned to Downey and joined her mother and father Everette and Bernice in the Mason Real Estate Company. Lea was a long-time member of Domina, a Hollywood-based women's group promoting the performing arts, from opera to musical comedies.

Lea and her second husband Luke Fratello, partners in a long and happy marriage, were patrons of the Downey Symphony for many years, and never missed a concert. She personally sponsored several musical events to support the DSS.

Lea and Luke especially loved Italian Opera. She confided that she wished she could become an Italian, and she and Luke traveled extensively, both in his native Sicily and as followers of the Grand Prix Formula One car races, and at the Le Mans France 24 Hour Endurance Race. Luke was a collector of vintage Ferraris.

As Conductor Sharon said, "What an incredibly kind and warm person she always was." A member of the Assistance League of Downey and PEO, Lea is survived by family, many friends, and daughter and close companion Laurie Marks. Services will be at Rose Hills, October 18.




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