



**EYES ON OUR SCHOOLS**

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## Voting begins on new rail line name

**DOWNEY** – Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn is inviting the public's help to rename the "West Santa Ana Branch" rail line project.

The Metro light rail line will connect 10 cities in Southeast Los Angeles County and 1.4 million residents with accessible and reliable transit to downtown Los Angeles, but the name has long confused the public and has held back enthusiasm and support for the project.

Hahn has led an effort at Metro to rename the project and, starting Wednesday, the public will get to vote on the new name.

The planned rail line will run through Downey, Artesia, Cerritos, Paramount, Bellflower, South Gate, Cudahy, Bell, Huntington Park, Vernon to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

While the West Santa Ana Branch name carries historical significance, it has led to confusion because the line neither connects to the City of Santa Ana, nor is it west of most of Los Angeles County.

"This rail line is going to make a huge difference in the lives of residents from Artesia all the way to Huntington Park, but few people know about it because the name is so terrible," said Hahn. "So, we're picking a new name that people can get behind and connect with. Thank you to everyone who submitted one of the over 1,200 ideas we received. Now it's up to the public to vote for their favorites and help us 'Name That Train'."

"I'm excited to finally have a replacement name for the West Santa Ana Branch that properly represents and connects with the communities it will serve," said Whittier Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Dutra, who serves as 2nd Vice Chair on the Metro Board. "I appreciate the enthusiastic response from all the individuals that participated."

In the first part of the Name That Train contest, residents living up and down the line's route submitted over 1,200 possible names for consideration and a panel of judges selected 12 finalists:

**Calafia:** the mythical queen after which California—first thought to be the "Island of California"—is named.

**Esperanza:** "Hope" in Spanish. This project represents the aspirations of 1.4 million residents for improved mobility, better opportunities, and an enhanced quality of life.

**Gateway Cities:** This line will serve most of the Gateway Cities, making these communities more accessible to the rest of LA County and helping unify a regional identity.

**Los Angeles Gateway:** The Gateway Cities region will finally have a direct transit connection to the heart of Los Angeles.

**Los Rios:** This line will run along and cross our major rivers, including the San Gabriel River, the Los Angeles River and its Rio Hondo tributary.

**Pioneer:** Pioneer Blvd. runs through the heart of Artesia, the line's terminus. This project also represents a new frontier for the communities it will serve.

**Pórtico:** A portico is a door, a gateway to something new. This line will offer the Gateway Cities a portal to a brighter future.

**Ruta Segura:** "Safe Route" in Spanish. This project will give many new public transit users the confidence to travel on the Metro system.

**Southeast:** This line will serve not only Southeast Los Angeles but also most of Southeast Los Angeles County. Check the compass at Union Station; this line goes due Southeast.

**Southeast Gateway:** The communities of SELA and the Southeast LA County region—also known as the Gateway Cities—will have a gateway to DTLA.

**The Heartland Connection:** This line will provide a connection to the heart of the Metro system for the millions of residents of the Southeast Los Angeles County communities.

**Tongva:** The Tongva—whose name means "People of the Earth"—are the original inhabitants of the land that today is Southeast Los Angeles County.

The online public vote at [RenameWSAB.com](http://RenameWSAB.com) launches on November 15, 2023 and will close on December 17, 2023. Anyone can vote for their top three choices, ranked in order of preference. Votes are limited to one per person. The name with the most votes will be selected and announced in January 2024.



**Gabe Enamorado and Juliana Canty, of Stay Arts, say the gallery has a few months before it may close due to lack of funding.** (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

## Gallery threatens closure without city funding

■ Stay Gallery could close in January without a funding commitment from the city.

**By Alex Dominguez**  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – With their agreement with the city of Downey expired and minimal funds coming in, Stay Arts fears that its namesake gallery may soon be forced to shut its doors.

After previously having their lease paid for by the city, Stay Arts – who operates Stay Gallery – say that conversations about the space's future funding have grown cold.

Instead, Stay says that it was told to apply for the city's new Community Based Organization Funding Program, which will see a \$100,000 grant divvied up between nonprofits for use on programs, events, and projects.

"What's happening is our operating agreement with the city of Downey lapsed in May; it's been an agreement that has been renewed since our start in 2012," said Gabriel Enamorado, executive director of Stay Arts. "That agreement is a contractual agreement where Stay provides services to the community in the form of programs and maintaining and operating [the gallery], and we are compensated through the Art in Public Places Fund in the form of lease payments for the building."

Enamorado said that this agreement has been renewed every three years, with the final agreement ending in May. He added that Stay had tried to renew the agreement in various ways, submitting proposals since around 2021 "to envision what going forward would look like."

"Essentially, our proposal, our requests have not been prioritized," said Enamorado.

Stay did apply for the CBO grant, but Enamorado says that even if they are selected, "it's two different expenses."

"The thing is, that grant is specifically for programs and services and events. Our funding from the AIPP is specifically for our building, and when you

look at the Art in Public Places ordinance, it specifically states that money is for public art installations and art venues in the downtown."

Stay applied for three months of affordable workshops and classes in Spring 2024, but according to Programs Director Juliana Canty, the gallery would "still be at risk of closing."

"Even if we were to receive that grant, it's still not a viable solution for the lease of the building," said Canty.

Stay has already been forced to cut some corners just to maintain their building.

"I've already skipped my payroll multiple times, so has [Canty] so that we can keep the building and the cost associated," said Enamorado. "You look at the space; it's a small space, but you're talking about a space that is meant to have public hours for the community, meant to have programming that's consistent, the time and labor it takes to produce all that... We tap out at a certain point; you hit a limit."

"We're a service-based organization; we're providing a service and filling a need, not this market that we're tapping into."

Stay has also not been able to program much, as Enamorado says it costs a lot of money to do so. Their last show cost around \$5,000, and only raised around \$8,000.

He said we're "not looking to cash-out on this thing."

"That's the thing that's so hard to communicate and have people understand, is this is a service; we're just providing a service the way parks and rec offers a service, the way other community departments offer services," said Enamorado. "It's not cash-driven, it's not profit-driven. It's purely to provide a service and we see what we do as a reciprocal exchange with the city; we're provided funding to just keep this thing going."

At most, Enamorado says Stay might be able to hang onto the gallery until January before starting to pack up shop. Should the gallery close, he guaranteed

that Stay Arts would still have a presence within the community.

More frustratingly, Enamorado says he's never been given a reason why support for the gallery seems to have vanished. Canty offered that there was a narrative that "Stay Gallery needs to be fully self-sufficient," which she argues is a "moot point."

"We're a service-based organization. The city is not our only source of income, we're not relying fully on the city," said Canty. "We're working hard every single day to apply for grants, to fundraise, to collect donations, to find other sources of income. We diversify our streams of income, and being a non-profit, a large aspect of being a nonprofit is partnering with local government, other organizations, foundations; it's a massive part of why a nonprofit exists, is to fill a void that is not being met in a certain area."

"The argument that we need to be fully self-sufficient off of the services that we're providing, it doesn't make sense because the services that were providing are a benefit to the community; they're not profit driven."

Enamorado says that if they "have to lose the building, we will," however Canty added that "the community doesn't want to lose the space."

"This is literally the only visual arts space and gallery in the city of Downey," said Canty. "If you lose that, you're cutting off so much access to not only Downey residents, but people in neighboring communities who have no access at all in their cities for arts programming."

Hoping to garner support, the organization has kicked off a "Save Stay" campaign, including an online petition which has already gathered over 1,000 signatures. The gallery also mustered a strong show of support at Tuesday's council meeting, drawing around 30 speakers on its behalf.

The council agreed to discuss Stay's funding request at a future meeting.

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday 74°

Saturday 66°

Sunday 72°

### ON THIS DAY

**1776:**

Sint Eustatius, a tiny Dutch island in the Caribbean, became the first foreign government to recognize the fledgling United States.

**1960:**

Actor Clark Gable, who epitomized the American ideal of masculinity for three decades and was known as the "King of Hollywood," died of a heart attack, days after finishing work on "The Misfits."

**1973:**

President Richard Nixon signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act into law, authorizing the construction of the Alaska Pipeline.

**1988:**

Benazir Bhutto, elected prime minister of Pakistan, became the first woman in modern history to lead a Muslim country, serving as prime minister from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996.

**1990:**

Pop group Milli Vanilli was stripped of its Grammy Award after it was revealed the duo did not sing on its "Girl You Know It's True" album.

**2000:**

Jewel became the first major artist to stream a concert online.

**2001:**

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first film adaptation of the book series by J. K. Rowling, premiered in the US.

**2010:**

For the first time, The Beatles' music was made available for digital download, as iTunes added most of the group's catalog.

**2019:**

After 1,730 performances, Donny and Marie Osmond played their last show at the Flamingo in Las Vegas.

### BIRTHDAYS

"The Cosby Show" actress **Lisa Bonet** (56), actress **Missi Pyle** (51), actress **Maggie Gyllenhaal** (46) and comedian **Pete Davidson** (30).



**The members of the Greater Downey Association of Realtors raised and donated money to the Downey PTA Helps food pantry to help with Thanksgiving**



# Downey waives fees for YMCA construction

■ The city council agreed to waive nearly \$300,000 to facilitate construction of a new YMCA facility.

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – In support of construction of its new building, the Downey City Council agreed on Tuesday to waive city fees associated with completion of the multi-million dollar project.

In total, the city will waive approximately \$296,081. The Y will still be responsible for \$162,400 for pass-through fees and refundable deposits.

The council voted to do so unanimously.

Located at 11531 Downey Avenue, the existing YMCA building is slated to be demolished, with a new facility to be built in its place.

The new 20,000 square foot facility is designed to include an outdoor basketball court, pickleball courts, a child activity center, indoor pool, men's, women's, and family locker rooms, state-

of-the-art fitness center, holistic health community space, and dedicated parking with electric vehicle charging stations and a secured entrance.

Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2025, with limited demolition starting in early 2024 with the assistance of the city's public works department.

The Downey YMCA requested a financial donation from the city earlier this year, however the city council declined to make any decision on the matter at that time, due to impending budget talks.

Still, Steve Roberson, Financial Development Chairman for the Y, thanked City Manager Roger Bradley and city staff for making the planning process "easier."

"They have been incredible helping us with this," said Roberson. "We've raised \$14 million; we're working to get to \$20. We're working on getting that other \$6 million, and if the city can't give us a donation, at least we're

asking you to waive some of these permit costs."

Members of the city council have been admittedly fatigued over a string of financial requests from various non-profits and organizations. There was some discussion on whether the city should waive some or all of the Y's fees.

Mayor Pro Tem emphasized the importance of investing in the city's youth.

"We don't have a youth center... We don't have a Boys and Girls Club of America. We have the YMCA, and it's shut down," said Trujillo. "It's such a valuable partner in our community, that I would like to waive all the fees."

### City Treasurer

Vaniah De Rojas was appointed City Treasurer on Tuesday, adding to her duties already as Assistant City Manager.

The treasurer position has been vacant since Sept. 21 last year.

De Rojas's appointment was approved as part of the consent agenda with no added discussion.

### Community Garden

The development of a community garden started to take a clearer shape, with the city council eyeing Rio San Gabriel Park as its potential destination.

A community garden is

a single piece of land that would be collectively by a group of people to provide fresh produce and plants. Plots could be divided into individual parcels or tendered communally.

Presenting to the City Council on Tuesday, Parks and Recreation Director Jason Chacon offered three parks: Rio San Gabriel, Wilderness, and Treasure Island.

These parks were picked in particular for their qualities that would support community garden activity, including existing water sources, proximity to entry to allow easy community access, abundance of natural sunlight, available parking, a secure area, an isolated space to ensure a peaceful and seamless gardening environment, and ample room for potential expansion.

Ultimately, Rio San Gabriel was identified as the City Council's preferred choice, with the proposed location of the garden being in the northern section of the park behind the athletic field.

Rio San Gabriel is home to the Downey Razorbacks football organization, which was of some concern.

However, Chacon said that their practices – usually held in the evenings from July through November – would not be at a time that the garden would typically be utilized.

City Staff will come back at a later meeting with more specifics on how the garden will be laid out and managed.



Dave Lopez's autobiography, "It's a Great Life if You Don't Weaken," won two prizes at the International Latino Book Awards.

## Dave Lopez autobiography wins award

**DOWNEY** – Retired television journalist Dave Lopez can now add a new notch into his hat: award-winning author.

Lopez recently took home honors for his book "It's a Great Life if You Don't Weaken: Family, Faith, and 48 Years on Television" at the 25th annual International Latino Book Awards in Los Angeles, winning a gold medal in the Best Audiobook – English category and silver medal in the Best Autobiography – English category.

Published in 2022, "It's a Great Life" chronicles Lopez's life and career, including his upbringing, his battle with cancer, the loss of his wife and mother, and, of course, his tenure with CBS2 / KCAL9 and many of the stories he covered throughout.

ILBA judges commented on how open and engaging Lopez was in the book, while praising the audiobook as being "read cleanly" with a "clean voice."

The ILBA is put on by Empowering Latino Futures, a nonprofit foundation founded in 1997 to recognize excellence in literature and promote Latino authors.

The cover of Lopez's book will now feature an emblem that recognizes its award-winning status.

Of the awards, Lopez said he was "Deeply, deeply honored."  
Alex Dominguez, staff writer

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**Red Cross blood drive**

**DOWNEY** – Financial Partners Credit Union will host a blood drive in support of the American Red Cross on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

Appointments can be made online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) using sponsor code FPCU. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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# Giggy Perez-Saab reflects on year as school board president

By **Giggy Perez-Saab**  
President  
Downey Unified School District  
Board of Education

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here and Winter break is just around the corner. I want to wish our Downey Unified families and the Downey community a very happy holiday season, as this will be my last message as president of the Board of Education. At our December Board Meeting, the reigns will be handed over to Nancy Swenson and she will continue writing these articles starting in January, but this is not goodbye. I will proudly continue serving the students, families and staff of our district as a member of our Board for years to come. I hope you enjoy my last update and that these articles have been informative and provided everyone with highlights each month from across the school district.

Looking back over the past month, it has been so nice to see all the various celebrations being held at all of our schools. From CHARACTER COUNTS! Week events, Trunk or Treat events, Coffee with the Principal at many of our schools, athletic events, performance art shows, our annual College Fair, the School Safety Presentation in partnership with DPD and the Stauffer Scholar Award nights, it has been a busy few weeks since my last article. I want to thank the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation for their annual 529 Scholar awards that are presented to select middle school students each year. These awards are held every year and during each ceremony our students receive grants that are set to be saved for higher education.

For those with little ones just beginning their educational journey, our Global Language Academies of Downey (GLAD) is now accepting applications for our dual language program for TK and Kinder for the 2024-25 school year. Through our GLAD program, families have the option of being a part of the Spanish Dual Language program at either Imperial or Williams Elementary Schools or the French or Spanish

Dual Language IB programs at Carpenter Elementary School. Whatever program you choose, GLAD will provide the foundation for your child to become bilingual and biliterate, which is such an important asset. Knowing more than one language will help children stand out on their future job applications and opens opportunities for them to engage with and learn from other cultures. In addition to career benefits, learning a second language improves one's memory, multi-tasking skills, creativity and brain function. If you're interested in learning more, please visit our website where both the application process and more details can be found – [web.dusd.net/glad/](http://web.dusd.net/glad/)

Also, make sure to mark your calendars for our annual Esports Championship at both the middle and high school levels! On Nov. 29, Doty Middle School will be hosting the middle school Championship match that will kick-off with the Final Four match up. Beginning at 2:45 pm, winning teams from Griffiths and Stauffer will face off and then at 3:15pm, Doty and Sussman teams will battle it out. The winners of these matches will go on to play in the Championship immediately afterwards, so I hope you will be able to join us to cheer on our Esports athletes! On December 6 beginning at



6:30pm within the beautiful Downey Civic Theatre, the high school championship match will be held between the best teams from Downey and Warren High Schools. Again, come out to support our students and watch the final battle of this impactful tournament and hear how Downey Unified is helping our high school students turn their excitement for playing video games into careers in STEAM.

As I wrap things up, I want to thank everyone for taking their time each month to read the "Eyes on our Schools" to get a glimpse into what's happening across Downey Unified. As previously shared, on December 12th, I will be transitioning from President back to a member of the Board, so this will be my final article to our special

community. I want to thank everyone for the incredible opportunity to serve as your School Board President this past year. It has been a sincere privilege and I look forward to the growth and achievement that will continue as we work together for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

With gratitude,  
Giggy Perez-Saab  
President

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# Downey tax preparer jailed

By City News Service

**DOWNEY** – A Downey-based tax preparer was sentenced Wednesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for submitting nearly 400 phony income tax returns that inflated his clients' refunds without their knowledge, and then pocketing the difference between the true refunds and the inflated ones.

Raudel Sandoval, 48, pleaded guilty in March to two federal counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Sandoval, a licensed tax preparer, owns RSE Sandoval España Inc., a Downey-based tax preparation company. Sandoval admitted preparing hundreds of false federal and state returns for clients for the tax years 2015 through 2018. On these returns, he claimed false or inflated amounts of the child tax credit, business losses, short-term capital losses and other items to which the taxpayer clients

were not entitled.

Sandoval falsified the tax returns with deductions and credits that his clients did not incur or had not informed him about, prosecutors said. He also inflated the amounts of deductions and credits that his clients were entitled to claim, according to papers filed in Los Angeles federal court.

When he finished preparing a tax return, Sandoval gave his clients copies of their returns that were true and correct, but falsely told them he would file their true-and-correct copies with the Internal Revenue Service on their behalf, he admitted.

Sandoval then inflated his clients' returns with false and fraudulent deductions and credits and filed the false returns with the IRS. The false returns showed a larger refund than on the true-and-correct copies Sandoval had given to his clients, prosecutors said.

Sandoval then directed the inflated refunds to himself, causing more than \$750,000 in losses to the IRS.

# CRIME REPORT

■ On 10/10/2023 at 3:15 AM, officers responded to the area of 12300 Blodgett Ave regarding a vehicle burglary in progress. Officers arrived and located two suspects near a vehicle. The suspects fled in a nearby vehicle, striking one of the officers as they fled. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/10/2023 at 10:45 PM, officers responded to the area of Lubec St and Guatemala Ave regarding an armed carjacking. The victim stated two suspects armed with firearms demanded her vehicle. The suspects took the victim's vehicle and fled. The victim was not injured. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/12/2023 at 6:55 PM, officers responded to the area of 12500 Rose Ave regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victims stated the suspects had stabbed them with a tool and fled the scene. The next day, one of the suspects were located and arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. Detectives are continuing the investigation.

■ On 10/15/2023 at 1:25 PM, officers responded to the area of 7300 Firestone Blvd regarding a robbery. The victim stated two suspects had threatened him with a knife and demanded his property. The suspects assaulted the victim and fled in a vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/15/2023 at 2:05 P M, officers responded to the area of 7800 Florence Ave regarding a vandalism. Officers located the suspect and determined he had

thrown several rocks at windows and people. The suspect was arrested.

■ On 10/15/2023 at 1:25 PM, officers responded to the area of 7300 Firestone Blvd regarding a robbery. The victim stated two suspects had threatened him with a knife and demanded his property. The suspects assaulted the victim and fled in a vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/16/2023 at 11:15 AM, officers responded to the area of Florence Ave and Lakewood Blvd regarding a robbery. The suspect forcefully took the victim's cell phone and fled on the scene on foot. Officers located the suspect riding a bicycle nearby and placed him under arrest.

■ On 10/20/2023 at 12:00 AM, officers responded to the area of Brookshire Ave and Gallatin Rd regarding a robbery. The suspects punched the victim causing minor injuries and took his property. The suspects fled in a vehicle. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/20/2023 at 2:15 AM, officers responded to the area of 9000 Firestone Blvd regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated he had picked up a cell phone from the street and when questioned by its owner, denied picking it up. The suspect swung a knife at the victim's face causing a minor injury. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 10/21/2023 at 3:30 AM, officers responded to the area of Woodruff Ave and Foster Rd regarding several subjects causing a disturbance. Officers located the subjects

and found narcotics, a firearm and other contraband with them. The suspects were arrested.

■ On 10/30/2023 at 10:30 AM, officers responded to a business in the area of 9100 Imperial Hwy regarding a strongarm robbery. The victim stated the suspect punched the victim in the face and took cash from the cash register. The suspect fled on foot and the victim sustained minor injuries. Detectives are investigating.

■ On 11/1/2023 at 2:55 PM, officers responded to the area of 7900 Firestone Blvd regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. Officers determined the victim had been stabbed by the suspect while driving in the same vehicle with the suspect. The suspect was located nearby and arrested.

■ On 11/4/2023 at 5:45 PM, officers responded to the area of the Downey Promenade regarding a robbery at one of the stores. Officers determined the suspect had stolen merchandise from the store and threatened the victim when confronted about the theft. Officers searched the area and located the suspect nearby. The suspect was arrested for robbery.

■ On 11/4/2023 at 9:40 PM, officers responded to the area of Florence Ave and Paramount Blvd regarding a hit and run traffic collision. Officers arrived and discovered narcotics and a loaded firearm inside of the suspect's vehicle. Officers searched the area and located the suspect. The suspect was

arrested for multiple charges.

■ On 11/7/2023 at 2:35 AM, officers responded to the area of 8300 Telegraph Rd regarding a robbery. The victim stated while he was inside his home with guests, suspects entered and demanded money while armed. Officers located the suspects in close proximity to the victim and they were arrested. No injuries to the victim.

■ On 11/7/2023 at 9:05 AM, officers responded to the area of 13200 Verdura Ave regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. The victim stated a relative had stabbed him multiple times. Officers arrived, located the suspect, and after a long standoff, the suspect was arrested. The victim was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

■ On 11/8/2023 at 3:30 AM, officers responded to the area of the 10800 La Reina Ave regarding a suspect with a gun. Officers arrived and began speaking to the victim. As they spoke, the suspect exited a nearby residence wearing a ballistic vest. The suspect was eventually taken into custody. A firearm was also located at the scene.

■ On 11/10/2023 at 12:00 PM, officers responded to the area of 9500 Gallatin Rd regarding an armed robbery. The victim stated the suspect had approached him, taken his property and fled the scene in a vehicle. Later that night, officers observed a vehicle that matched the description of the suspect's vehicle. Officers were able to stop the vehicle and confirmed the driver was the suspect from the robbery. The suspect was arrested. The victim's property was located in the suspect's vehicle.

■ On 11/11/2023 at 12:20 PM, officers responded to the area of Lakewood Blvd and the I-105 freeway regarding a major traffic collision. Officers determined a vehicle had collided with a pedestrian and fled the scene prior to their arrival. The road was shut down while the scene was processed for evidence. Detectives are investigating.

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 Montebello Unified School District at (323) 887-7900

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## Tip prompts are out of control

Tipping before service is rendered defeats its original purpose.

By Tracy Moore

Tracy Moore is a writer in Los Angeles.

I was just leaving a new grab-and-go market in my neighborhood last weekend when the checkout screen suggested I add a tip. With an employee hovering about, I selected 10 percent. In my routine tipping fog, it took a few seconds before I realized that I had handed over an extra \$1.70 on a bag of already marked-up coffee beans.

The moment is a reminder that tipping is now out of control. Gratuity prompts have become so widespread and indiscriminate that a new study from the Pew Research Center shows it is causing mass confusion and frustration. We've been prompted to tip for any counter service for some time now, but nudges are now popping up at self-service kiosks at stadiums, airports and cafes. More is coming: Having new windows installed in your home? Tip it up, America.

Before you call me a cheapskate, I'm not here to criticize or diminish the hard-working folks behind the counter — or the internet's virtual service walls — or anywhere else. I blame the stingy employers that profit by making customers responsible for their refusal to pay a decent wage.

Tipping has always been debated, but we broadly agreed on its purpose: A gratuity one gives after a service is rendered to reward the human effort and care demonstrably provided, in what is sometimes thought of as low-wage or underpaid work. We tip after the sit-down meal, after admiring our new haircut, after the bartender whips up a drink. We might tip a valet up front to take care of our car, but it is not necessary to do so to receive the service in the first place.

Or at least, it wasn't. It now seems that I can't buy anything without being prompted to tip *before* service is rendered, upending the traditional *why* of tipping. Case in point: food delivery apps, where front-loading a tip is not only customary but necessary for the order to even be picked up. It's a practice now referred to as no tip, no trip. To be clear, you might still receive the food late, cold, wrong, or not at all. But, by then, the tip is out of your hands and in someone else's pocket.

Some ride-hailing apps routinely ask for a tip soon after the trip begins. And some online purchases are turning our virtual carts into tip jars, too. Last week, a friend in Pittsburgh sent me a screenshot of a tip prompt from an Instagram shop after purchasing a cushion for an office chair. The prompt had invited him to "show some support for the team."

I am a lifelong tipper, regardless of the quality of service. I waited tables at Holiday Inn as a teenager and then at various joints in Tennessee to put myself through college. I consider bad tipping a good indicator of sociopathy. Servers are unfairly punished for mishaps far beyond their control, usually the result of a poorly run kitchen.

The easy-to-tap buttons for 10, 15, 20 percent — in Los Angeles, often 30 percent! — have put tipping on autopilot. It may spare us the awkward math, but it also erases the pause for appreciation. The presence of a watchful employee has turned the act of tipping, even for subpar or no service, into a reflex rather than a reflection. We often tip simply to end the transaction, and businesses bank on that.

Tipping has never been the right solution to unfair compensation. It has a racist and sexist past in which women and marginalized people were long made to bear the brunt of egregiously cheap employers. Studies show it offers little incentive to provide better service, and its continued practice does nothing to encourage employers to pony up and pay a decent wage.

But let there be no confusion about who is at fault here. It is the companies who are betting that hurried consumers will subsidize what employers won't pay themselves. It was the boss who paid me \$2.13 an hour back in the day, with no benefits, and who demanded I share my tips with others so he could avoid paying my co-workers their fair wages, too.

We can thank the pandemic for compelling society to better value the worker, but we will have gone backward if we've moved from tips for service to tips for transactions. (Who gets my 10 percent self-checkout tip, anyway, and for what?) One only need review what some companies say when asked to explain themselves: They point out that the tip prompt is optional.

Well, here's a better option. Employers: Pay your workers a living wage, so that tips become what they should be, an extra thank you for a service provided, not a stand-in for the lack of a fair paycheck itself.

## What we can learn from Barbra

Barbra Streisand's memoir reminds us to seek out life's pleasures.

By Holly Thomas

Holly Thomas is a writer and editor based in London. She is morning editor at Katie Couric Media.

Barbra Streisand is that rare breed of megastar who transcends time and fashion. She's sold over 150 million records and won eight Grammys, two Oscars, four Emmys and a Tony. Her new memoir, "My Name Is Barbra," is a nearly 1,000-page epic charting her rise from a Brooklyn housing project to a position in 20th-century entertainment rivaled only by Frank Sinatra. Yet in a life defined by overachievement, there's one area in which the 81-year-old feels she's conspicuously failed.

"I haven't had much fun in my life, to tell you the truth," she told the BBC this week. "And I want to have more fun."

This is the legend who kicked off her singing career by winning a talent contest at a gay bar in Greenwich Village. She enjoys pancakes in bed with her husband James Brolin, and her basement contains an entire street of antique "shops" (minus cash registers) to house her treasures. If Barbra's not having fun, who on earth is?

For my money, not nearly enough of us. Remember when the Covid-19 lockdowns hit in 2020, and an exuberant swathe of articles predicted that once the dust had settled, we'd welcome in the Roaring 20s 2.0? That December, Yale professor and social epidemiologist Dr. Nicholas Christakis laid out a post-pandemic vision that could see us "relentlessly seek out social interactions," including "sexual licentiousness," liberal spending and a "reverse of religiosity."

I don't know about you, but on the rare occasions it stops raining long enough to venture outside and take the temperature of the populace, I'm not met with hordes of youths channeling their disillusionment with some 21st-century equivalent of the Charleston.

I see streets lined with posters protesting a laundry list of appalling global conflicts, trains and buses rammed with passengers frenetically scanning their phones and bars crammed with over-30s because no one younger can afford a drink. Depression rates are soaring, sexual activity is on

the decline and stressed, unhappy workers are mentally checking out. The mood is dark, and the overwhelming majority, who aren't multimillionaire octogenarians, face it with a distinct financial handicap.

Where are we going wrong? The ambient gaiety a century ago was sufficient to label an entire decade after it, despite all manner of horrors. The year 1920 dawned amid a major recession. World War I — not to mention the Spanish flu pandemic — had left deep physical and psychological scars, and racism had such a grip on major parts of the United States that hooded Klansmen marched through Washington in 1925.

But, for some people at least, it seems the weight of tragedy only reinforced the feeling that life and its fleeting pleasures ought to be seized with greater urgency. America's youth kicked up its heels, embraced the intoxicating rhythms of the Jazz Age and swigged bootlegged gin. The dance craze that swept Britain was so intense that it prompted London's Piccadilly Hotel to ban the Charleston out of moral panic. Now though, faced with comparably daunting socioeconomic and political convulsions, we appear to be buckling. Why?

There's one obvious difference. In 1920, the median age of an American was 25.3. In 2020, it was 38.8 and in 2022, it was 38.9. The demographic of US adults aged 65 and older grew nearly five times faster than the population as a whole between 1920 and 2020. Fun doesn't (and shouldn't) belong only to the young. But older populations tend to come with hefty financial and social pressures.

They demand more of health care systems, and of younger family members who must step up when those fall short. Older people tend to live in homes that are bigger than they need squeezing out younger families, and raise the cost of housing overall. This is undoubtedly challenging. I don't

think it wholly accounts for our fun drought, though.

While money and space can certainly be conducive to amusement, as Streisand demonstrates, they're not the magic sauce. I think the difference is that we, and the world, feel more fragile than we ever have before. After World War I, there was a widespread belief that such a bloody conflict could never be sanctioned again. That faith has long since been lost.

As if that isn't downer enough, arguably the greatest challenge facing us is the climate crisis, which, by its very nature, quashes any potential buoyancy. It's a forever problem, one we know we'll be dealing with for the rest of our lives. Managing it necessitates constant incremental efforts (minimizing waste, cutting down travel), rather than intense but transient demonstrations of courage or discipline.

This, plus the more individualized stressors of work, mental illness and the rest, requires stamina to cope. Blowing off steam 1920s-style feels harder to legitimize when we're all acutely aware of the adverse effects of booze, cigarettes and under-sleeping. Instead, the 21st-century obsession is self-care. And while no one's arguing the benefits of hydration and a solid eight hours, neither offers the high of a night spent dancing with abandon.

So, is all hope lost? Should we resign ourselves to lives bereft of carefree joy? I think not. I say we take a leaf out of Streisand's gigantic book and make a conscious effort to inject some old-fashioned fun into our lives. This needn't translate to being soused 24/7, but there's no harm in anyone of any age upending their carefully polished routine once in a while if a tantalizing opportunity arises. And according to Christakis' prediction, the Roaring 2020s aren't expected to kick off properly until 2024. Here's looking at you, January.

## Death to 6% commissions?

By Stephen Brobeck

Stephen Brobeck is a senior fellow at the Consumer Federation of America.

On October 31, a Kansas City, Missouri, jury ruled that the National Association of Realtors, or NAR, and several residential brokerages engaged in illegal price-fixing and awarded damages to Missouri home sellers that could total more than \$5 billion. This decision has made it highly likely that in the future, the industry will no longer be able to charge 5% to 6% commission rates across the board.

What plaintiffs successfully challenged was the industry requirement that for a home to be listed on a local multiple listing service, sellers must offer compensation to buyer agents. That mandatory offer has allowed industry agents and brokers to collude by setting rates.

Homes listed below the going rate of 2.5% to 3% may not be shown by buyer agents. And buyers do not believe or see a reason that they can negotiate the rate down because they are told by their agents that sellers typically pay this expense. NAR has said it will appeal the verdict.

During the 1940s, this price-setting was explicit — the industry employed price schedules — but after successful challenges from the Justice Department, the near-uniform commissions were maintained through collusion.

Industry members agreed among themselves to maintain commission levels that are far higher than in most other countries — according to the lawsuit, rates in some other large nations range from 1% to 3%. More significantly, consumers began asking: How can agents justify charging \$25,000 to \$30,000 in commissions on the sale of a \$500,000 home? And why do agents, regardless of their experience, competence or effort on an individual sale, charge the same commission rates?

Litigators and the Justice Department are determined to end this requirement, allowing homebuyers to search for and negotiate lower commission rates. The judge in the Kansas

City case is likely to require separation of buyer and listing agent commissions. So is the judge in a similar but much larger Chicago case that goes to trial early next year.

Copycat lawsuits have already been filed, and it is likely that their number will increase. The Justice Department, which is already in litigation with NAR over DOJ access to industry data, recently joined the discussion of a final settlement in the Kansas City case.

It is highly likely that these efforts will increasingly allow both buyers (and encourage sellers) to comparison shop for and negotiate commission rates. The Consumer Federation of America predicts that this competition would lower rates from 5% to 6% to an average of 3% to 4%, with much greater variation from agent to agent depending on agent competence and experience. This reduction would reduce commissions paid by an estimated \$20 billion to \$30 billion annually.

The industry argues that requiring homebuyers to pay commissions would make it difficult for some to afford homeownership. In reality, effective rate competition would lower — not raise — the cost of buying a home. Today, buyer agent commissions are baked into the sale price of homes, but buyers are unable to comparison shop for and negotiate them. If buyers knew they were paying these commissions, many would look for lower rates, have serious conversations with their agents about compensation and try to negotiate lower commissions.

What remains to be determined is exactly how the transition from price-setting to price competition will take place. Ultimately, the Consumer Federation of America believes, it will end up with buyers being able to finance buyer agent commissions as part of their mortgage. But the resounding jury decision, future class action lawsuits and determined federal regulators virtually ensure that this transition will occur. Increasingly, the residential real estate brokerage marketplace will look like competitive markets for other goods and services, to the great benefit of consumers.

**The Downey Patriot** STAFF

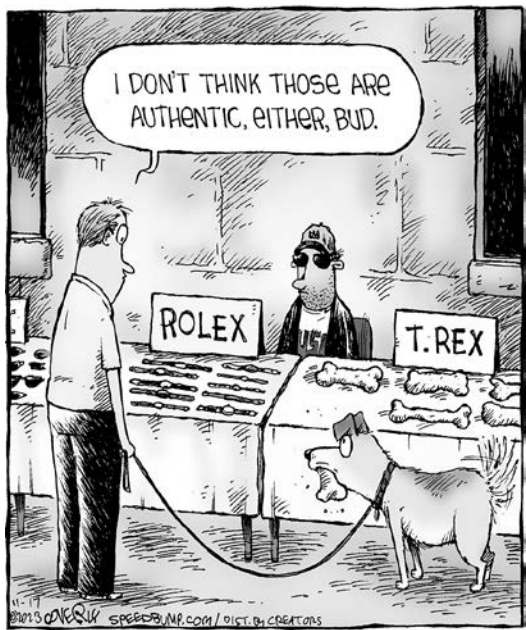
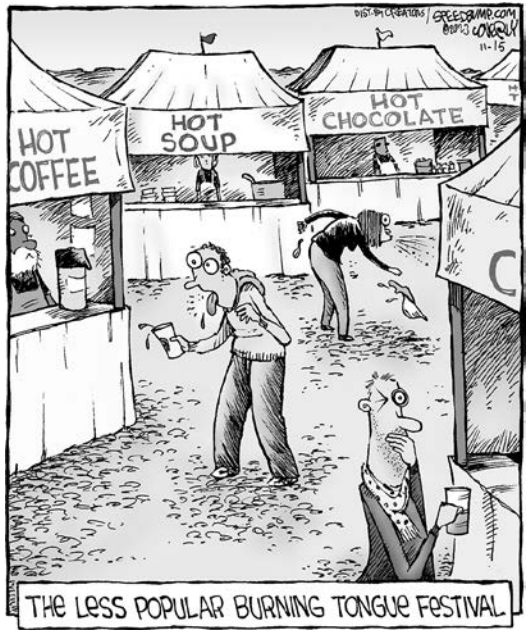
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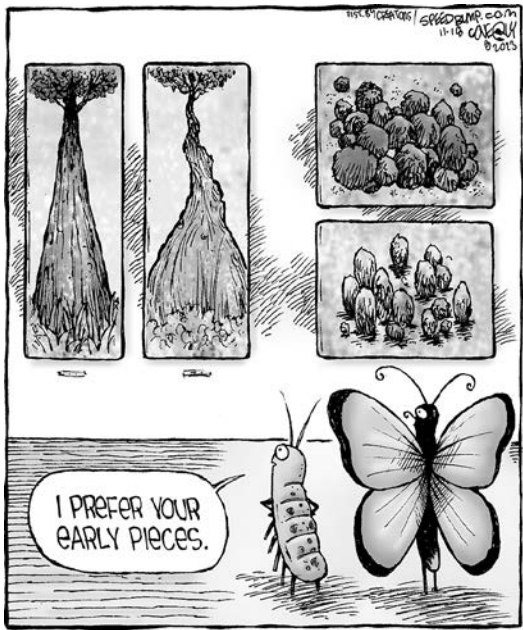
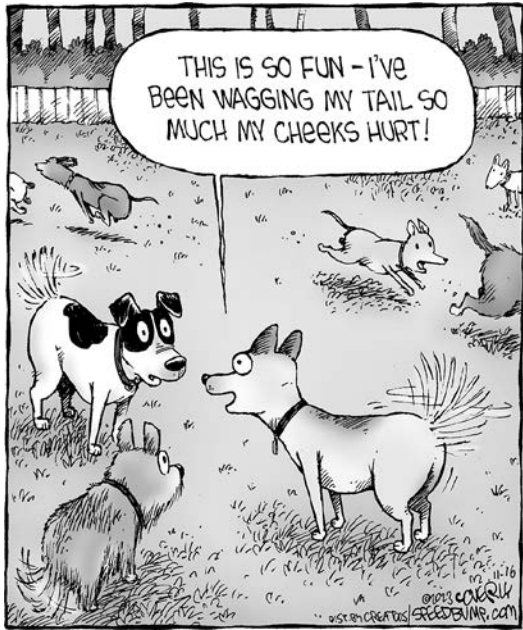
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## SPEED BUMP



## 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.  
 6:30 - 9 pm: Civil Air Patrol - Los Angeles Cadet Squadron 138, at Downey Adult School, Room M104, call 714-402-5157.  
 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.  
 1st Tues., 7:30 pm: Downey Amateur Radio Club, EOC room Downey Fire Station #1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.  
 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.  
 9 am: Quilters Group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.  
 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.  
 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 Barbara 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.  
 7:30 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.  
 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.

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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.**

of Pluto, was discovered in 1978, the largest of the five known moons "Number 7" CHARON (114 Across), for "International Standard Book Career ISBN (108 Across) is short tournaments, in his 16-year matches, including eight major Lendl (31 Across) won 94 singles Czech-born tennis pro IVAN







## CLASSIFIEDS

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House calls. Same day rapid service all major brands. Washers, dryers, ovens, stoves, refrigerators, etc. Senior citizen discount.

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Just a Phone Call Away to include your ad in **The Downey Patriot**



**Classified Section**

Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am

**(562) 904-3668**

Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23, 12/7/23

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File Number 2023235684

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) LIQUOR 4 LESS, 106 W. ARTESIA BLVD, LONG BEACH CA 90805, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): A1 #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) GTB ARTESIA, INC., 106 W. ARTESIA BLVD, LONG BEACH CA 90805 State of Incorporation: CA THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: a Corporation

The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 10/2023

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

S/GTB ARTESIA, INC., PRESIDENT, GURWINDER SINGH

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on OCTOBER 31, 2023 Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23, 12/7/23

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File Number 2023231870

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) GALLEGO LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS, 9315 BIGBY ST, DOWNEY CA 90241, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): #ON: N/A REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) LEONEL GALLEGO, 9315 BIGBY ST, DOWNEY CA 90241 (2) SILVIA DORADO, 9315 BIGBY ST, DOWNEY CA 90241-2902 State of Incorporation: N/A THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: a General Partnership

The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

S/LEONEL GALLEGO, GENERAL PARTNER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on OCTOBER 25, 2023 Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/9/23, 11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23

**GOVERNMENT**

**DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO BIDDERS INVITATION TO BID**

Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Downey Unified School District ("District") will receive sealed bids to construct the following project:

**Bid No. 23/24-16: Columbus High School Roof Replacement, Restoration, and Patch Project**

("Project" or "Contract") located at Columbus High School, Gym Building, 12330 Woodruff Ave., Downey, California 90241.

Contractors must submit sealed bids on or before 10 AM on December 1, 2023 at the District Office Facilities Department, located at T-4, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241 at or after which time the District will open the bids and publicly read them aloud. Any claim by a Bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with Public Contract Code § 5100, et seq. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the Bidder. The District is not responsible for Bids that are received after the deadline noted above.

The Project consists of:

**Furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment, and services as may be needed to remove existing roofs and installing new roof systems on each building and breezeway.**

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State

of California Contractor Licenses: C-39 The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.

As security for its Bid, each Bidder shall provide with its Bid form

- a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District,
- cash, or
- a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the Downey Unified School District

in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code § 22300.

The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to Labor Code § 1770 et seq. Prevailing wage rates are on file with the District and are available to any interested party on request or at [www.dir.ca.gov/opr/statistics\\_and\\_databases.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/opr/statistics_and_databases.html). Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1725.5 & 1771.1

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on November 17, 2023 starting at 9:00 AM at Columbus High School, 12300 Woodruff Ave., Downey, CA 90241 by the flagpole by the front of the school. All prospective Bidders are required to sign in. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately an hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

Contract Documents are available on or after November 8, 2023 on the district website: <https://web.dusd.net/purchasing/bids>.

The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful Bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no Bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible Bidder based on: The base bid amount only.

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/9/23, 11/16/23

The Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) is inviting all interested licensed contractors to submit information for inclusion on (LUSD) list of pre-qualified Informal Bidders for Public and Maintenance Works Projects. Contractors are required to provide: 1.) Company name; 2.) Contact name; 3.) Mailing address; 4.) Phone number; 5.) Email address (Very important!); 6.) Contractor's license number, trade classification; 7.) DIR registration number and expiration date. Interested contractors should email data request above to: [Vendor\\_Profile\\_Registration\\_Form@forms.gle/SHmqAbxo2Y3uJzPL9](mailto:Vendor_Profile_Registration_Form@forms.gle/SHmqAbxo2Y3uJzPL9)

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/16/23, 11/23/23

**NOTICES**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER: 23NWCP00426**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ALONSO ALEJANDRO MACHAIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name (1) ALONSO ALEJANDRO MACHAIN to Proposed name (1) ALONSO ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: DECEMBER 22, 2023, Time: 9:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312

The address of the court is 12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA 90650

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **Downey Patriot** NOVEMBER 07, 2023

JUDGE OLIVIA ROSALES  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**ALONSO ALEJANDRO MACHAIN**  
9458 ROSEHEDGE DR.  
PICO RIVERA CA 90660  
(213) 552-0267  
[Alxmc83@gmail.com](mailto:Alxmc83@gmail.com)

**The Downey Patriot**  
11/9/23, 11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23

**NOTIFICATION BY TRUSTEE PURSUANT TO PROBATE CODE SECTION 16061.7**

GREGORY LEE LUTHER executed the FORREST and BEVERLY LUTHER TRUST in her capacity as Trustor on September 28, 1995. Pursuant to Probate Code Section 16061.7, the Trustee provides the following Notification:

- The name, mailing list and telephone number of the Trustee of the Trust is set forth below:

GREGORY LEE LUTHER  
8039 Brookpark Road  
Downey, CA 90240  
PHONE: (909) 730-7835

- The address of the principal place of trust administration pursuant to Probate Code Section 17002 is set forth below:

8039 Brookpark Road  
Downey, CA 90240

- The terms of Probate Code Section 16061.7 require the disclosure of the following:
  - BEVERLY LUTHER died on May 4, 2018, and the Trust has become irrevocable.**
- You are entitled to receive from the Trustee a true and complete copy of the terms of the trust by requesting the same from the Trustee listed above. Note: "Terms of the Trust" as defined by Probate Code Section 16060.5 are provisions of a written trust instrument that describes or affect an irrevocable portion of a trust, including, but not limited to signatures, amendments, disclaimers, and any directions or instructions to the trustee that affect the administration or disposition of the trust.
- YOU MAY NOT BRING AN ACTION TO CONTEST THE TRUST MORE THAN 120 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS NOTIFICATION BY THE TRUSTEE IS SERVED UPON YOU OR 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF WHICH A COPY OF THE TERMS OF THE TRUST IS MAILED OR PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO YOU IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST DURING THE 120-DAY PERIOD, WHICHEVER IS LATER.**

forth below:

GREGORY LEE LUTHER  
8039 Brookpark Road  
Downey, CA 90240  
PHONE: (909) 730-7835

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Downey, CA 90240

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**BEVERLY LUTHER died on May 4, 2018, and the Trust has become irrevocable.**

You are entitled to receive from the Trustee a true and complete copy of the terms of the trust by requesting the same from the Trustee listed above. Note: "Terms of the Trust" as defined by Probate Code Section 16060.5 are provisions of a written trust instrument that describes or affect an irrevocable portion of a trust, including, but not limited to signatures, amendments, disclaimers, and any directions or instructions to the trustee that affect the administration or disposition of the trust.

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**The Downey Patriot**  
11/2/23, 11/9/23, 11/16/23

**PROBATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BILLIE CHARLENE CLAWSON aka BILLIE C. CLAWSON**

**Case No. 23STPB11758**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BILLIE CHARLENE CLAWSON aka BILLIE C. CLAWSON: A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Troy Wayne Clawson in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Troy Wayne Clawson be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Dec. 8, 2023 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**Attorney for petitioner:**  
**MICHAEL K HUTCHINSON ESQ**  
SBN 298945  
**LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL K HUTCHINSON**  
11017 PARAMOUNT BLVD  
DOWNEY CA 90241  
CN101791 CLAWSON Nov 16, 23, 2023

CN101791  
**The Downey Patriot**  
11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23

**TRUSTEE SALES**

T.S. No. 23-65498 APN: 6231-023-014 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/9/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for

the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: **JACKIE MARTINEZ, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY** duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS Law, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 12/21/2005, as Instrument No. 05 3141931, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California. Date of Sale: **12/7/2023** at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: By the fountain located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$418,828.97** Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: **7214 LUXOR STREET DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241** Described as follows: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust, A.P.N. #: **6231-023-014** The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest

bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866) 266-7512 or visit this Internet Web site [www.elitepostandpub.com](http://www.elitepostandpub.com), using the file number assigned to this case 23-65498. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you

exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866) 266-7512, or visit this internet website [www.elitepostandpub.com](http://www.elitepostandpub.com), using the file number assigned to this case 23-65498 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Dated: **11/13/2023 ZBS Law, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450Irvine, CA 92606 For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: (866) 266-7512 www.elitepostandpub.com Michael Busby, Trustee Sale Officer** This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 38664 Pub Dates 11/16, 11/23, 11/30/2023

**EPP 38664**  
**The Downey Patriot**  
11/16/23, 11/23/23, 11/30/23



PRESENTS

*Holidays at Home*



**72ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 1PM**

**PARADE ROUTE ON DOWNEY AVENUE**

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PRESENTS

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FEATURING HOLIDAY SHOPPING & TASTY TREATS

AND A VISIT WITH

*Santa Claus!*



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# DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**Family Night**, 6 pm. An evening filled with space wonders, interactive exhibits and activities. Kids are invited to step into the shoes of an astronaut at the new early childhood exhibit. Free admission. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**Steve Blum**, time tba. Meet prolific voice actor Steve Blum. Autographs also available. Tickets required. OG Collectibles, 8124 Firestone Blvd.

**Fall Flea**, 11 am to 4 pm. Shop from various small businesses, young entrepreneurs and artists at this flea market supporting the Downey High School dance team. Downey High (main office), 11040 Brookshire Ave.

**Celebrate the Season**, 5-9 pm. Assistance League's annual Celebrate the Season holiday event. Reservations required. For more information, contact Stacy Brabant at (310) 991-3757. Casa de Parley Johnson, 7749 Florence Ave.

**Friendsgiving**, 5-8 pm. Join your Downey neighbors for a family-friendly dinner with a speaker and good times. Sign up with Legacy Church to bring a dish or side to share. Legacy Church, 8333 2nd St.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**Live Comedy**, 7:30 pm. Live comedy by Victor Frausto, Francisco Ramos, Gabrielle Vargas, Rick Martinelli, Alex Caron and Keinon Pierre. 21 and older. \$15 online, \$20 at the door. Epic Lounge, 8239 2nd St.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**Sip & Paint Friendsgiving**, 7-9 pm. Enjoy happy hour drinks while creating a masterpiece on canvas. Purchase tickets on EventBrite. Mariscos La Chula, 8262 Firestone Blvd.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**Turkey Giveaway**, 12-2 pm. A drive-thru turkey giveaway courtesy of Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco. One turkey per household, while supplies last. Downey High School, 10040 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.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**Holiday Party & Toy Drive**, 9 pm. Free entrance to a party and mixer with donation of a new,

unwrapped toy for children ages 1-11. Donations will benefit Ninis Latinos Unidos Inc., a foster family and adoption agency. Epic Lounge, 8239 2nd St.

## 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.

**The Nutcracker Ballet**, 2 pm and 6:30 pm. The Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the timeless score by Tchaikovsky, is an enchanting tale of a young girl who has a very special Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

**Christmas Market**, 5-9 pm. Vendors, food, live music and a real snow playground. Imago Dei Church, 9826 Priscilla St.

## 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.

**The Nutcracker Ballet**, 2 pm. The Nutcracker Ballet, featuring the timeless score by Tchaikovsky, is an enchanting tale of a young girl who has a very special Christmas. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## 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.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Blood Drive**, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Donate blood to the American Red Cross. Appointments are available online at redcrossblood.org (use sponsor code FPCU) and walk-ins also welcome. Financial Partners Credit Union, 7800 Imperial Hwy.

**Cirque Musica**, 8 pm. An all-new musical journey that will transport audiences to a magical land far away for a fun-filled holiday-themed show experience they will never forget. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## 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.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Creative Purpose Club**, 11:30 am. Richard Tuttle, retired Downey police officer, is guest speaker at Creative Purpose, a club that discusses politics, science, biblical controversy, and more. Sizzler, 10315 Lakewood Blvd.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Wreaths Across America**, time tba. Join Wreaths Across America as they place wreaths on the graves of local veterans. Downey Cemetery, 9073 Gardendale St.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

**A Night in Monte Carlo**, 7-10 pm. A casino night fundraiser benefiting the 10-20 Club. Dress in dapper attire while enjoying casino table games, drinks and appetizers, with raffle and cash prizes. Luz Perez of the TLC Family Resource Center will be presented the 10-20 Club's Youth Legacy Award. The Arc, 12049 Woodruff Ave.

## 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.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**America's Ideal Miss California Pageant**, 2 pm. Young women will compete for prizes, scholarships and the title of Ideal Miss California. 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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**Stomp**, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

**Stomp**, 8 pm. Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more fill the stage with energizing beats at Stomp, the inventive stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Downey Symphony Concert**, 8 pm. Titled "Springtime," the concert features performances of Bethoven'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.

## POET'S CORNER

### Spiderweb

**From other angles the fibers look fragile, but not from the spider's, always hauling coarse ropes, hitching lines to the best posts possible. It's heavy work everyplace, fighting sag, winching up give. It isn't ever delicate to live.**

**Kay Ryan, The Best of It: New and Selected Poems, Grove Press, 2011**

*Kay Ryan, United States Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, lives in Marin County. Her poems, in design and craft, say so much in so few lines. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.*



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