



NEWS
Teacher named California Teacher of the year finalist

NEWS
Harriman Building receives award for preservation

OPINION
America places more value in guns than lives

HEALTH
How to prevent the onset of diabetes

SEE PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 10

Parking garage slated for upgrades

DOWNEY – The city is continuing in its efforts to increase safety at its downtown parking structure.

Located at 8201 2nd Street, the four-story, 395-space structure is due to undergo several upgrades, including installation of cameras and full interior and exterior painting. The city council was presented with an update on these projects Tuesday.

The new security camera system includes cameras on each floor (12 in total), including at the entrance / exits (with license plate reader technology), two rooftop cameras, as well as in the elevator and stairwells.

Those upgrades could begin as early as December.

Painting is anticipated to begin as early as February, at a cost estimated to be around \$225,000, according to a staff report. The structure was last painted in 2005.

The city is also considering increasing the consistency of the structure's power washing.

Alex Dominguez, staff writer

Christmas Parade ushering in holiday season Sunday

■ The Downey Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas parade returns Sunday, with thousands expected to watch along Downey Avenue.

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the much-anticipated 72nd Annual Downey Christmas Parade, a beloved Downey tradition promising joy, merriment, and community spirit. This year's festivities, generously sponsored by Financial Partners Credit Union, are slated to take place on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1 pm along Downey Avenue.

Celebrating the theme of "Holidays at Home," the parade will showcase an array of attractions, including classic cars, community floats, high school bands, youth dance troupes, and the presence of local dignitaries. Serving as this year's grand marshal is KCBS news reporter and Downey High School Hall of Fame inductee Suzanne Marques.

The 72nd Annual Downey Christmas Parade promises to be a spectacle for all ages, fostering a sense of unity and joy as the community comes together in celebration. The parade route will begin at Florence Avenue, embarking on a southward journey along Downey Avenue before culminating at the Downey Civic Center.

Adding to the splendor of this year's celebration, the Downey Chamber of Commerce is introducing a brand-new attraction—the "Winter Wonderland" shopping experience. Collaborating with Downey Collective, this addition will feature an array of local small business vendors offering unique treasures, alongside tantalizing food trucks and food vendors.

"We're excited to bring forth another year of festive celebration to our wonderful community," expressed Downey Chamber of Commerce executive director Michael Calvert. "This cherished tradition not only signifies the holiday season but also embodies the unity and vibrancy of Downey. With Suzanne Marques leading the parade and the new 'Winter Wonderland' shopping experience, this year's event is set to be truly unforgettable."

The parade is free to attend and will go on rain or shine.



Television news reporter Suzanne Marques will serve as grand marshal of the 72nd annual Downey Christmas Parade, taking place this Sunday starting at 1 pm.

Marques grew up in Downey and got her first taste of journalism as editor in chief of Rio San Gabriel Elementary School's newspaper. She was a cheerleader and co-captain of the songleading squad at Downey High before studying at USC.

Her journalism has earned her several accolades, including an Emmy Award and two Edward R. Murrow Awards.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 69°

Saturday 71°

Sunday 74°

ON THIS DAY

1782:

Britain and the United States signed the preliminary articles of the Treaty of Paris as part of the Peace of Paris, a collection of treaties concluding the American Revolution.

1936:

A fire virtually destroyed London's Crystal Palace, the giant exhibition hall that housed the Great Exhibition of 1851.

1982:

Michael Jackson released Thriller, which became the best-selling album in the world and won a record-setting eight Grammy Awards.



1996:

A block of gray sandstone known as the Stone of Scone was returned to Scotland, 700 years after it had been taken to England as war booty by King Edward I.

1999:

Exxon and Mobil formally merged, becoming ExxonMobil, one of the world's leading oil and energy businesses.

2001:

The hunt for the Green River Killer ended as Gary Ridgway was arrested in Washington, and he later pled guilty to killing 48 women, though he claimed to have murdered as many as 80; he was the deadliest convicted serial killer in the United States.

2007:

Motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel—who was known for his death-defying stunts—died at the age of 69.

2018:

George H.W. Bush, who was the 41st president of the United States (1989–93), died at the age of 94.

BIRTHDAYS

Film director **WOODY ALLEN** (88), punk singer **BILLY IDOL** (68), retired football and baseball player **BO JACKSON** (61), comedy actor **BEN STILLER** (58), wrestler **CHRISTIAN CAGE** (50), model **CHRISSEY TEIGEN** (38), "The Big Bang Theory" star **KALEY CUOCO** (38) and retired Lakers point guard **JORDAN FARMAR** (37).

City tentatively agrees to pay gallery's rent one more year

■ The city council agreed to subsidize Stay Gallery's facility costs another year; the gallery's long-term future remains unclear.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Stay Gallery will stick around for at least one more year, as the Downey City Council tentatively agreed to pay for its lease for 2024, albeit not without some criticisms.

The city is prepared to pay over \$39,000 to cover Stay Gallery's lease for 2024, with potential to pay the following year as well on the condition that Stay provides consistent financial reporting and adequate fundraising efforts.

The city has paid the lease for the gallery since 2012, when the city entered into a five-year agreement with Stay Arts – then known as Downey Art Vibe – to operate an art gallery in the Downtown area. Originally, the agreement stipulated that the city would pay the first two years of the lease (\$2,000 a month), with the final three to be the responsibility of Stay.

However, that agreement would be amended in October of 2014, with the city picking up the remaining tab while expressing a desire for Stay to become self-sufficient.

In May 2017, the city approved its second five-year operating agreement with Stay, this time agreeing to pay \$2,750 in lease payments with 3% annual increases,

plus \$2,625 for prorated rent for the month of June, 2017. Additionally, the city committed \$4,000 per quarter for three years (\$48,000) towards program expenses.

The third and most recent operating agreement would be passed in July 2020, to the tune of \$3,004 per month with 3% annual increases. With the onset of the pandemic, the city agreed to pay the remaining lease payments from April-July 2022 (\$12,128), as well as \$4,000 per month during that same period for operating costs to ensure regular open hours and programming for the public.

In total, the city has provided Stay with \$375,838 in funding to manage the gallery between May 2012 and May 2023.

The city's assistance didn't end with the rent, however.

The city waived fees (around \$7,000) for Stay as it transitioned its facility – a former drapery shop – into the current multi-use space in mid-2012 to late 2013. The city has also remained a consistent partner with Stay, contracting the organization for various projects and events.

Stay Arts Executive Director Gabe Enamorado was put in the hotseat, as the city council had several critical questions about "what it would take" to keep the gallery open.

Notably, Councilman Hector Sosa did not go easy on Enamorado, taking aim at Stay's fundraising efforts, discrepancies in its



Stay Arts executive director Gabe Enamorado answers questions at Tuesday's City Council meeting. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

financial reporting, and the organization's lack of an individual with experience in those matters.

According to Enamorado, Stay fundraises year-round. Year-to-date, however, he only estimated that stay had mustered around \$5-10,000, although he added that they depend more on grants.

Sosa made note of a recent three-year, \$383,000 proposal for programming costs, which he pointed out as being "just a bit more than what you've received over the last 11 years."

Enamorado's and Program Director Juliana Canty's \$120 and \$100 per hour wages also raised a few eyebrows, with Sosa asking if it was "necessary to save the gallery."

Enamorado called it "an administrative rate," saying that they were "trying to build an organization that is growing."

worth or value," but that they were "breaking down the numbers" to decide on how to spend "the people's money."

"I think there's a misconception that the Art in Public Places fund belongs to Stay Gallery," said Frometa. "I think that has been said, or somehow murmured, and we want to continue to have a partnership; we want to be able to understand what it's going to take to continue Stay Gallery and to keep it open."

She added that there is "no question that the city has been committed to the arts."

Sosa, making reference to his time with West Downey Little League and Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, said that Stay "has an advantage."

"As a brick and mortar in a prime space in Downey, you have an advantage over other non-profits," said Sosa. "Believe me, I've been on the phone dialing for dollars; I've raised a lot of money. I've seen people in this room, other people who were here at the last council meeting speaking on Stay's behalf, they've raised a lot of money for other organizations."

"I'm telling you, you have a gold mine there. You have all these petitioners, not all of them can spend a few bucks and send it your way, but some of them will; some of them will be able to. Again, I think you have an advantage there, you have something going there."

City staff will return to the city council at a later meeting with an official agreement for approval.

Mayor Claudia M. Frometa said that they "weren't questioning [Enamorado's]

Fifth grade teacher earns state, county Teacher of the Year honors



DOWNEY – During their November meeting, the Downey Unified Board of Education congratulated teacher, Kirsten Neill, for her two recent achievements of being named a 2024 California Teacher of the Year Finalist by the California Department of Education (CDE) and a 2023-24 Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

“We are extremely proud of Ms. Neill, as her spirit of giving back to her community is truly contagious; we cannot thank her enough for her dedication to our students,” shared Downey Unified Board of Education President, Giovanna Perez-Saab. “It feels great to have the innovation and hard work of our teaching staff recognized at the State and County level, once again.”

LACOE’s annual competition is regarded as the “oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public school teachers,” as noted by their announcement. The statewide recognition includes prerequisites for the initial County application that includes a rigorous process, made up of interviews, essays, and lesson plan submissions to a panel of former Teachers of the Year. Neill stands with impressive company, as this year LACOE recognized 16 educators who were selected from a pool of nearly 70 teachers—each considered the best in their respective school districts—across the 88 in all of Los Angeles County.

The County ceremony held in early October was presided over by LACOE Superintendent, Dr. Debra Duardo, and attended by family and friends of the honorees, members of the Downey Unified Board of Education and administration. They were all present to provide their support to Ms. Neill and honor all that

has been achieved throughout her 13-year teaching career.

Among her highlighted accomplishments, were her efforts outside the classroom in advising Old River School Elementary’s Robotics Team, the Sphero Bolts Club and the Gator Tech Squad. As well as coaching 4th and 5th-grade athletes for Downey Unified’s annual Carnival of Champions Track & Field competition.

When being presented, it was noted that “teaching [had] long been the family business,” with Neill’s parents, grandfather, and great-grandmother all being educators; further emphasizing the depth of values that Neill carries within her teaching profession.

When asked to speak on the topic of Success in Education at this year’s sold-out Downey Unified State of the Schools event, Neill shared “[This] is humbling to me. I do not see [my biography] as a list of accomplishments for myself but as a direct reflection of my team of teachers, students, administrators and our community...Success is not achieved alone.”

“I may have made the choice to say yes to extra opportunities to help mentor various groups of students so they could pursue their interests and feel connected to something great, but opportunities happen because I have support from my community.”

Ms. Neill, and each of the 16 County honorees, received a cash gift of \$1,000, sponsored by the California Credit Union, for their Teacher of the Year achievement and had the opportunity to be further recognized at the state level.

In late October, the CDE’s State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, announced that Kirsten Neill was one of 10 teachers in the entire state selected for this level of recognition, naming her a 2024 California Teacher of the Year Finalist for her “rapport with students..., presentation skills and teaching techniques.”

“This latest recognition makes Kirsten the top non-Special Education elementary teacher in California,” shared Superintendent, Dr. John Garcia. “The positive ripple that teachers like Ms. Neill have within our school communities is undeniable. It speaks volumes to the efforts being made every day for our Downey Unified students—better preparing them for college and the careers of tomorrow.”



Columbus High School’s Cindy Ekk and Gloria Rogers, VP School & Community Development for California Credit Union.



Downey High School teacher Michelle Napoli, California Credit Union’s Gloria Rogers and Downey High principal Tom Houts

Two Downey teachers chosen for credit union grants

DOWNEY – Two Downey educators were chosen to receive \$500 teacher grants from California Credit Union.

The credit union selected 10 teachers from Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, providing each with \$500 to create innovative learning opportunities for their students.

Among the teachers chosen were Cindy Ekk of Columbus High School and Michelle Napoli of Downey High School.

“California Credit Union is honored to continue our commitment to our local schools and students through our Teacher Grant Program,” said California Credit Union President & CEO Steve O’Connell. “The energy and passion of these educators is remarkable as they outlined creative ways to support hands-on projects that inspire their students. We wish these teachers continued success in their classrooms.”

Since the creation of the program in 2012, California Credit Union has awarded \$185,000 in teacher grants to support innovative learning projects. Up to 20 grants are awarded bi-annually in the spring and fall.

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The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Robert Frost, New Hampshire, Henry Holt, 1923

Frost wrote this for his first Pulitzer-winning book, when he was living in London. Nature for him is a two-headed force, sometimes benevolent, sometimes indifferent. Here an accidental action works in his favor. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

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Los Angeles looks to acquire Skid Row buildings

■ Officials said they may bid to acquire 22 dilapidated buildings near Skid Row.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES — A City Council committee Wednesday approved a slew of recommendations for the continued maintenance and repair of 22 dilapidated buildings in the Skid Row area under a receivership -- and the city may look to acquire these buildings as part of a bidding process early next year.

The Housing and Homeless Committee unanimously approved a request from the Housing Department for a third allocation of funding, totaling about \$15 million, for the Skid Row Housing Trust receivership.

About \$14.5 million would cover upgrading deficits, repair costs and receiver costs for the over 1,500 units and 22 buildings through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, city officials said.

An additional \$500,000 from a special city fund would be used to retain consultants to develop a recapitalization strategy for the buildings.

Ann Sewill, the Housing Department's general manager, said of the \$14.5 million that \$4.2 million would cover expenses claimed by the former receiver, which are yet to be confirmed by the court; \$5.8 million would cover expenses and operations not covered by rents between January and March; \$3.1 million to pay the current receiver for capital expenditures; and lastly, \$1.1 million for expenses and operations not covered by rents between April and June -- which at that point, the receivership is expected to have ended.

"What brought us to this point is that the buildings cost about \$1,000 per unit per month to operate, and the income has been about \$700 per unit per month," Sewill said.

According to Sewill, the city would bid \$22 million that

has already been invested as a credit bid during a pending receiver sale happening in January or February. If nobody else comes in, the city would end up owning the Skid Row Housing Trust portfolio.

She noted, if the city were to acquire the portfolio, it would engage with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles to manage the buildings.

Earlier this year when the Skid Row Housing Trust -- a nonprofit organization that formerly managed 29 buildings, announced it was financially incapable of maintaining the properties -- the city of Los Angeles stepped up and entered into a court-ordered receivership.

Seven of those 29 buildings were removed from the receivership and placed with the National Equity Fund, a housing nonprofit organization, by a court order in June.

According to the City Attorney's Office, a receivership is a legal process that allows a court-appointed person to take control of a property, address the issues, bring it into compliance and improve the quality of life for residents and the surrounding community.

Sewill said the housing trust was one the city's "largest" and "oldest" supportive housing providers with a portfolio of over 2,000 units and 29 buildings that were mostly built in the 1920s.

These buildings were redeveloped between 1987 and 2020 in an effort to make them into modernized, accessible housing.

In March, the City Attorney's Office asked a Superior Court judge to appoint a health and safety receiver to take control of the properties and address various code and health violations.

The first receiver Mark

Adams, president of the California Receivership Group, was replaced by the second and current receiver Kevin Singer, CEO of Receivership Specialists, after a series of events prompted city officials to request Adams' removal.

City Council and Mayor Karen Bass previously approved a total of \$22 million in loans that the Housing Department says will cover through Dec. 31.

Sewill said between Jan. 1 and June 30 the receivership will need the funding to stabilize the properties and minimize ongoing operation deficits while supportive housing partners can be identified and ultimately take ownership of some of these buildings, if not all.

Under Singer's leadership, Sewill expressed significant progress has been made, specifically that 307 violations have been cleared and more than 150 units have been returned to a rentable state.

Two of the 22 buildings are expected to exit the receivership in December, she added, and another eight should exit by March.

"That will leave us with 12 buildings with 809 units in the receivership, which is really the focus of our work to stabilize the portfolio," Sewill said.

Council members who sit on the Housing and Homeless Committee were hesitant about the request, but ultimately approved it with the understanding that the city is preserving housing units.

Councilwoman Nithya Raman, who chairs the committee, asked whether the city would see a return of the money they invested in the housing trust.

Sewill explained there are two ways -- one being housing partners will pay a share of

expenses or that developers enter the picture.

Councilman Bob Blumenfield said he was supportive of the request. But as the chair of the Budget Committee, the councilman noted he was "squeamish" as the city will be facing deficit spending in the coming fiscal year.

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez expressed frustration in the manner the issue of the housing trust has been handled.

"We ended up going down this path, and then we ended up having it blow up in our face," Rodriguez said. "We are further burdening taxpayers with these obligations and now saddling ourselves with far more obligations that are going to affect our bottom line."

She noted, at this point, the city is committed, and wants to ensure that repairs and maintenance of these buildings are up to standard, as well as wages and conditions for workers.

The request is expected to come to full council early December.

Historic Rancho building earns architectural award

DOWNEY — The Harriman Building at Rancho Los Amigos was announced on Tuesday as a winner at the 53rd Annual Los Angeles Architectural Awards, hosted by the Los Angeles Business Council.

Winning projects were selected from a pool of hundreds of submissions in categories ranging from adaptive reuse to landscape architecture, recognizing over four dozen projects for design innovation.

The Harriman Building received honors in the preservation category.

Fashioned after the Mission San Luis Rey and completed in 1931, the Harriman Building stands as the oldest facility on the Rancho Los Amigos campus. It was renovated as part of the \$418 million Rancho Rising 2020 renovation and beautification project, and reopened in February of this year.

Winners from a pool of hundreds were selected by a jury panel of industry experts, including architects, construction firms, owners and developers.

"This year the LABC is honoring projects that improve communities and neighborhoods in substantial and intentional ways," said Mary Leslie, president of the Los Angeles Business Council. "Our honorees embody innovative designs that were not only crafted to reflect the needs and dreams of the people they were designed for, but created as spaces that facilitate progress."

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Slain deputy's parents to sue LA County Sheriff's Department

■ The parents of slain deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer claim their son was unable to defend himself after working excessive hours.

By City News Service

PALMDALE — The parents of a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who was shot and killed in Palmdale plan to sue the county, accusing the sheriff's department and county officials of knowingly endangering the lives of law enforcement members by forcing deputies to work excessive hours and shifts, according to media reports Tuesday.

Michael and Kim Clinkunbroomer filed a government claim Monday and allege mandatory overtime hours caused Ryan Clinkunbroomer to become too fatigued and unable to defend himself, NBC4 reported.

"Disregarding the safety of his troops, Sheriff Luna

continues to force his deputies work mind-numbing overtime resulting in Ryan's death and the likely death of other deputies," the claim states.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department did not immediately respond to questions about the lawsuit but released a statement from Sheriff Robert Luna.

"The senseless ambush murder of Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer was the epitome of evil and the Department continues to mourn his death," the statement said.

Clinkunbroomer, a 30-year-old, third-generation deputy, was shot Sept. 16 while sitting in his patrol car at a traffic light near the station at Sierra Highway and East Avenue Q.

Video from the scene showed a dark-colored sedan pulling up behind the patrol SUV, then slowly pulling alongside the driver's side of the deputy's vehicle, pausing, then driving away.

Sheriff's officials said a good Samaritan stopped to render aid after the shooting and the wounded deputy was taken to Antelope Valley Medical Center in grave condition. He was pronounced dead that night.

Kevin Cataneo Salazar, 29, pleaded not guilty to a single charge of murder at an initial court appearance. Jail records show he is being held with no bail and is scheduled to appear at a preliminary hearing in January.

Sheriff's deputies in tactical gear and armored vehicles -- working off tips from the public -- descended on Salazar's family home on Sept. 18, initiating a standoff that finally ended when Special Enforcement Bureau personnel flushed him out with "chemical agents," Luna said at a news conference.

Luna said "numerous firearms" were also recovered following the arrest, and that deputies seized a dark-colored sedan that was believed to be

linked to the killing.

Luna said Clinkunbroomer was "murdered, ambushed by a coward."

But Salazar's mother and sister told reporters he is mentally ill.

"My brother, he's getting called a coward," Salazar's sister, Jessica, told reporters Monday. "He wasn't in his right state of mind."

"I do want you guys to know that my brother did have schizophrenia," she said. "He has paranoia. He heard voices. We're not justifying, we don't know if he did (the shooting), if he did not. We are not justifying anything. We feel for the family. It hurts."

"... Nobody wishes to go through that. There are a lot of people that know, have family members with the same situation will understand, will understand how it is so hard to want to help a loved one and knowing that their mind is not at the right state of mind."

Los Angeles County

District Attorney George Gascón and Luna declined to delve into any specifics of the case, saying they did not want to jeopardize the prosecution. There has been no indication of a possible motive for the killing.

Clinkunbroomer had gotten engaged four days before he was killed. His fiancée, Brittany Lindsey, attended a news conference alongside Gascón, Luna and Clinkunbroomer's parents, brother and sister shortly after the shooting.

Fighting back tears, Lindsey said, "First of all, I want to thank each and every officer from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for everything you've done for our family the last few days. I also want to say thank you to anyone who helped solve this case."

"Ryan was the best guy I've ever met. He was so thoughtful and caring, and everyone who met him or knew him, loved him. I'm so happy I was able



to love him. It was not long enough. I couldn't wait to start our lives together. We were just engaged, planning to get married and start a family.

"Ryan, I miss you and I love you so much. I don't know how to live without you and I didn't ever want to imagine it. Now look down on all your brothers and sisters in blue, keep them safe so this never happens to anyone else. Protect them and watch over them as they continue to serve their community. Until we meet again."

Former officer gets 27 years in prison

■ Rehan Nazir apprehended bail clients and threatened to return them to jail if they did not pay him money.

By City News Service

NORWALK — A former Torrance police officer who was convicted for a series of crimes, including kidnapping, false imprisonment and extortion, committed during his work as a bail agent was sentenced Wednesday to 27 years in state prison.

Los Angeles County

Superior Court Judge Andrew C. Kim denied the defense's motion for a new trial for Rehan Nazir, along with rejecting the defense's bid to dismiss a gun enhancement that had been found true involving one of the kidnapping charges.

Nazir was found guilty May 19 of 17 criminal charges stemming from crimes involving nine victims between 2017 and 2019 in Torrance, Gardena, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Rolling Hills Estates, Lakewood and Long Beach, according to Deputy

District Attorney Monique Preoteasa.

The Norwalk jury acquitted the 51-year-old Torrance resident of nine other counts and deadlocked on two charges that were subsequently dismissed.

The case against Nazir stemmed from an investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau and the California Department of Insurance in connection with allegations that he apprehended bail clients before their required court

appearances and threatened to return them to jail if they did not pay him money or give him property, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Investigators determined that Nazir employed so-called "bounty hunters" to assist him in locating and apprehending several people that he had bonded out of jail before their required court appearances, according to the Department of Insurance.

Nazir was terminated by the Torrance Police Department after the District Attorney's

Office determined that he had submitted false information in a report by failing to include documentation about the use of a confidential informant, according to a U.S. District Court ruling in 2012 involving his case against the city.

He went on to work as a bail agent, with the Department of Insurance noting that the defendant's bail agent license expired in June 2019.

Nazir has remained behind bars since his arrest by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in July 2019, according to jail records.

Shortly before the sentence was imposed, one of the victims, Shannon Van

Heyningen Jimenez, called Nazir "an evil, soul-less person" and said it was her wish that he never be released from prison.

"You have caused us so much hurt and so much pain," she told Nazir, adding that she no longer feels safe.

The prosecutor told the judge that Nazir did not deserve any leniency, saying he was a former police officer who "knew right from wrong" and "abused his authority over and over and over."

Defense attorney Joseph Weimortz told reporters that his client plans to appeal his conviction.

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America once valued life more than guns. How did that change?

Any government that fails to protect the lives of its citizens from “reckless shootings,” warned Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1931, “is out of step with modern thought.”

By Dominic Erdozain

Dominic Erdozain is a historian and the author of “One Nation Under Guns.”

When does a crisis become a catastrophe? Last month, after a mass shooting in Maine left 18 dead, author Stephen King penned an essay as notable for its brevity as the bleakness of the message. “There is no solution to the gun problem and little more to write,” he began, “because Americans are addicted to firearms.” Americans love their guns, he said, and no suffering, no slaughter can loosen their grip.

Soon afterwards, we learned that Lane Murdock, the student who led the national school walkout after the Parkland mass shooting of 2018, has left the country. Burned out and disillusioned, Murdock now lives in Scotland, where freedom is a reality and nobody lives in fear of guns.

I appreciate the sentiment. But the picture looks different when you discover that almost everything we now live with, from assault rifles to stand-your-ground laws, is new. This crushing pattern of domestic armament is not the American heritage or the will of the people. It’s a political experiment, conjured and contrived by a militant minority. To see this is to know that something can be done.

America has always had a gun problem, but never on this scale. Every day, 327 people are shot in the United States, more than a hundred of them fatally. And the numbers are rising. Mass killings, involving four or more victims, have nearly doubled in five years. Gun deaths among children, already at record highs, increased by 41.6% between 2018 and 2021.

School shootings, once rare and exceptional events, are on a similar spiral. In 2010 there were 13 such incidents nationwide. Last year, there were 79. This year, the number reached 77 by mid-November. Of the 36 deadliest shootings recorded since 1903, more than half occurred in the last decade.

No other generation has endured this. The death toll is growing because the weapons now available, and the right to carry them outside the home, are new. The norms of today would have been unthinkable to Americans of any other era.

Most Americans of the mid-20th century abhorred the concept of “preparatory armed carriage” and shuddered at the sight of a gun in public. Regulations against “going armed” were as old as the republic and staples of common law. Shotguns and hunting rifles were widely owned but handguns were feared and despised.

In 1959, nearly 6 out of 10 Americans favored a total ban on handguns, and only 16% of American households contained such a weapon, many of them in the South.

In 1969, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence recommended drastic measures to reduce the number of handguns in circulation, then estimated at 24 million.

“I am one of those persons who believe that violence and instruments of violence breed violence,” said Marvin E. Wolfgang, a professor of criminology who co-directed the task force on firearms. “If pushed to the wall, I would probably support the Japanese ruling that no one except a police officer should be allowed to possess or carry a pistol.”

The chairman of the commission, Milton S. Eisenhower, wanted to recommend a ban, settling instead on a policy of rigorous and selective licensing. Federal law, advised the commission, “should not consider normal household protection a sufficient showing of need to have a handgun.”

The problem did not go away, and Republican President Richard Nixon was among those who favored a ban. “I don’t know why any individual should have a right to have a revolver in his house,” he growled to aides in 1972. Never mind licensing; why “can’t we go after handguns, period?” he wondered. The National Rifle Association would be against it. The gun makers would be against it. But “people should not have handguns,” he insisted, with the usual stream of profanities. “Guns,” he once said, “are an abomination.”

Nixon was not alone. His attorney general, John N.



Mitchell, declared on “The David Frost Show” that he was “diametrically opposed to anybody having a gun, except law enforcement officers.” In 1973, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals called for the criminalization of privately owned handguns and their complete eradication as civilian weapons by 1983. The nation was bleeding. A total ban on these agents of misery, urged Russell Peterson, chairman of the commission and a former Republican governor of Delaware, was long overdue.

Then came the storm. In June 1974, the City Council of Madison, Wisconsin, voted for a citywide ban on handguns in a mood of sonorous idealism. “Maybe one day when there are no guns in this community,” declared the jubilant young mayor, Paul Soglin, “the cops won’t have to carry them either.”

Forty years later, serving his third term as mayor, Soglin was fighting a different battle: to keep handguns — now legally carried across the state — off crowded buses. The dream was over. Republican lawmakers, not resting on their victory, were pressing to remove school zones from the last redoubts of gun-free spaces.

What changed? The short answer is President Ronald Reagan, whose crisp, Cold War thinking reduced domestic policy to a series of simple choices. Good and evil. Light and darkness. Arm the righteous, he promised, and crime will take care of itself. It was a “nasty truth,” he said, but criminals were not fazed by gun laws. The answer was to make firepower accessible to the good people: the silent majority who sustain the nation. The good guys, who never miss.

For the new conservative, guns were more than weapons: they were symbols of Americanism and vehicles of destiny. With Reagan’s arrival in the White House in 1981, the conversation shifted from controlling guns to “protecting” gun owners. Reagan embraced a militant NRA and pressed on with a “bill of rights for America’s gun owners,” against the recommendation of his own task force on violent crime.

“Only a madman could look at the problem we have in this country,” wrote Michael Beard, head of the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, “and then say that what this country needs is to weaken our handgun control laws.” But that was the agenda in 1984.

When Florida passed one of the nation’s first concealed carry laws the following year, Gov. Bob Graham, a Democrat, vetoed it as a policy pregnant with danger. “People could have come armed into shopping centers, movies and school yards,” a relieved and indignant senator said. Very soon they would.

When Texas passed a similar law in 1993, Democratic Gov. Ann Richards vetoed it with simmering rage. “On this day,” she declared, “we say no to the amateur gunslingers who think they will be braver and smarter with gun in hand.” The people of Texas, she had long argued, “do not need to be reminded that weapons of violence produce death to innocent children and adults.” The only conceivable outcome of the bill would be that more people would be “killed by gunfire.”

But this was no longer a debate. It was a culture war, in which facts were optional and reality negotiable. Opposition to the concealed weapons bill cost Richards the next election, and her successor, George W. Bush, duly signed it into law. “This is a bill to make Texas a safer place,” he said, with uncertain gravity. A new era had begun.

In 1986, only one state (Vermont) allowed citizens to carry a gun without a permit. Twenty-five states restricted the privilege to those who could demonstrate “good cause.” Sixteen states prohibited the carriage of firearms altogether.

By 2023, the revolution was all but complete: 27 states now allow the permitless, unrestricted “right to carry” that was almost unknown in the 20th century. Seventeen states operate on the permissive, “shall-issue” basis that terrified Graham and Richards when the idea was first presented. The number of states criminalizing the carriage of concealed

handguns is now zero. And the training requirements that had formed such an important part of the original case for “concealed carry” have been widely abandoned.

If that were not enough, a revolution in the right to carry a gun has been accompanied by a revolution in the legalities of killing. Stand-your-ground laws have eliminated the ancient “duty to retreat” from confrontation, legalizing deadly force in situations of perceived as well as actual danger.

When standing your ground became fashionable, in the late 19th century, it was derided as a holdover from the Slave Power and a mortal threat to the rule of law. A hundred years later, it was back. In 2004, not a single state enshrined such a law, leaving the question to the discretion of the courts. Now, 38 are classified as “stand-your-ground” states, authorizing — some would say encouraging — lethal force in situations where it is by no means the last resort.

Finally: machine guns. In the 1920s, when gangsters armed with fully automatic “Tommy” guns began to terrorize the nation, their weapons were condemned as “the paramount example of peace-time barbarism.” The National Firearms Act of 1934 taxed them out of circulation, and automatic gunfire disappeared from American streets. The University of Texas massacre of 1966 was conducted by an ex-Marine sharpshooter with a sniper’s rifle. Such events were rare, not to say impossible, until the return of automatic firepower in the 1980s.

When 24-year-old Patrick Purdy killed five children and wounded 29 others with an AK-47 at an elementary school in Stockton, California, in 1989, few Americans were aware that such weapons were available to civilians. And few could have expected how virulently they would now be defended as an American prerogative.

“It’s beyond my comprehension,” said a public prosecutor in Detroit, “why these warlike weapons are available to the public.” “What are they going to do,” wondered a retired US Army colonel, “shoot down the trees?” Or as a former FBI agent distilled the issue with a clarity that is now poignant: “There’s always going to be a Purdy out there. It’s the guns we can do something about.”

Among those in favor of an immediate ban was first lady Barbara Bush, and almost certainly her husband, had he dared to speak his mind. But in the plunging vortex of a culture war, protecting guns became a patriotic necessity.

A National Rifle Association that frowned upon the AR-15 when it appeared at gun shows in the 1980s now became its fiercest defender. “People who never planned to buy one went out and got one,” recalled the libertarian activist Grover Norquist. “It was,” he cheerfully reported, “an F-you to the left.”

A weapon that accounted for less than 1% of gun sales in 1992 represented a quarter of the market in 2019. A weapon that vastly exceeds the killing power of the Tommy guns banned in the 1930s is affordable and freely accessible.

This is not freedom. It’s the unraveling of the American promise of peace and “domestic tranquility.” And whatever the Supreme Court decides in the gun case now under consideration, the history cannot be denied: This “constitutional right” to own a gun for self-defense is another product of our times — a right unknown before the “dramatic upheaval” of the District of Columbia v. Heller decision of 2008.

For decades, gun activists have claimed history for their radicalism, framing gun control as a failure of patriotism. But theirs is an imagined past, a brutalized freedom — and one that is now tearing American communities apart.

Any government that fails to protect the lives of its citizens from “reckless shootings,” warned Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1931, “is out of step with modern thought.” We will have to go back before we can go forward—to an America where a life was more precious than a gun.

The Downey Patriot

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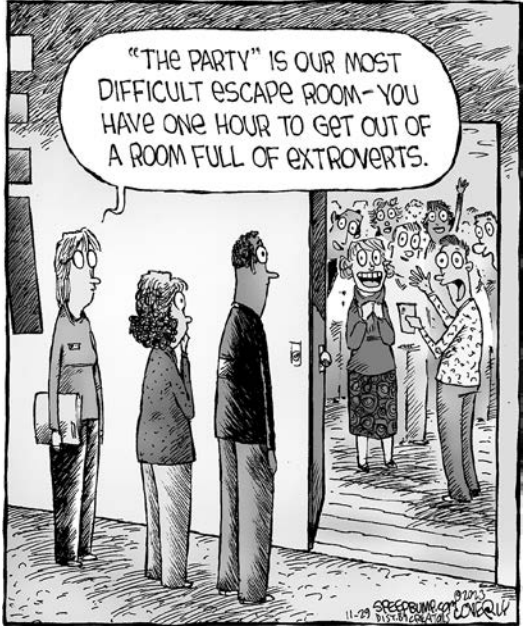
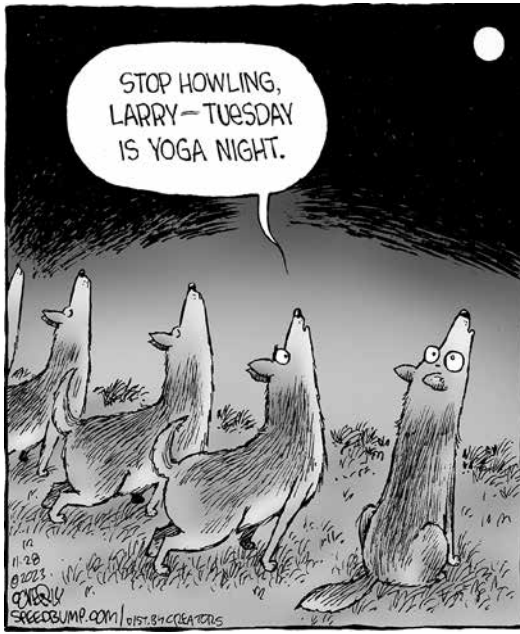
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SPEED BUMP



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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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
COURSE SUGGESTIONS: For your Thanksgiving leftovers
 by Billie Truitt

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Furthermore	1 Admin. ___
5 Brass instrument	2 Unleash upon
9 Poe's middle name	3 Blizzard aftermath
14 Sorority letter	4 Baseballer's vacation
19 Egotist's focus	5 Custom-fitted
20 Auction provision	6 SEALs' service
21 Andean capital	7 Dallas nickname
22 Desert springs	8 Strong point
23 SIDE DISH	
27 Mortarboard attachment	
28 Campaign event	
29 Get together again	
30 "Lonely" place, supposedly	
32 Maple Leafs, on scoreboards	
33 Editor's mark	
34 Farm measures	
36 Supple	
39 Be in the red	
42 BREAKFAST	
47 Oscar actor Benicio del ___	
48 Radio knob	
49 Bubble gum sound	
50 Baby raptor	
51 In progress	
53 Mixed with	
56 Nothing	
58 Garners	
59 Hasty escape	
60 O'er and o'er	
62 Well-behaved	
64 A-lister's small role	
66 BREAKFAST SWEETS	
73 "Golden" song	
74 Engrave on glass	
75 Keystone State sch.	
76 Novelist Grafton	
77 Cracker brand	
80 Elevator's moving part	
82 Cut corners	
84 Stew server	
86 Sum total	
88 Place for a napkin	
90 Vietnam neighbor	
92 Be mopey	
93 DESSERT	
98 U-turn from NNW	
99 Foe of King Arthur	
100 Tilted type, for short	
101 New: Sp.	
103 Reservoir creator	
105 Smartly dressed	
108 Unvarying	
111 Undeserved notoriety	
114 Green statutes	
116 MAIN COURSE	
119 Weapon with electrodes	
120 Tolerate	
121 Isaac's eldest	
122 Smidgen	
123 Quaint oath	
124 Window ledges	
125 Don't move	
126 Urban commutation suffix	
9 Fish tanks	
10 Singer Lorna	
11 Vitality	
12 Had lunch	
13 Crisis-free	
14 Chef's hat	
15 Frequent hangout	
16 Actor Morales	
17 Trial balloon	
18 Arthur Stadium	
24 Go get	
25 Hose clamp fastener	
26 Peaceful	
31 For young patients	
33 Thicket of bushes	
35 Unwanted email	
37 Indy 500 sponsor	
38 Before long	
39 Neighbor of Colo.	
40 Have a bawl	
41 Approximations: Abbr.	
42 Wisdom tooth, for instance	
43 Baking by-product	
44 Scientific study	
45 Cautious	
46 Paine's <i>The ___ Reason</i>	
47 Soft mineral	
52 Forget what you want to remember	
54 43 Down detector	
55 Unsurpassed-champs acronym	
57 Street light supports	
61 Served meals to	
63 "Watch your head!"	
65 What Lady Gaga studied at NYU	
67 Still in bed	
68 Undisputed expert	
69 Relax, these days	
70 Needs to be paid	
71 Makes void	
72 Look for	
77 Heats in a microwave	
78 Outback runners	
79 Indefinite quantity	
81 Sudden attack	
83 Sushi-veggie wrap	
85 Invites trouble	
87 Opportune	
89 Part of MPG	
91 Gets it together	
94 Periods of prayer	
95 Horns in	
96 Start of a challenge	
97 White Rabbit pursuer	
101 Unadorned	
102 Certain rideshares	
104 Spiked clubs	
106 Astonish	
107 Black Sea resort city	
108 "Small" suffix	
109 Marshy ground	
110 Celestial bear	
111 Swelter	
112 Extra: Abbr.	
113 Historian's focus	
115 Withdraw gradually	
117 Kimono belt	
118 ___ Paulo, Brazil	

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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.

Benicio del TORO (47 Across) received an Academy Award and Golden Globe Award for his performance in the 2000 film Traffic. SEALs (6 Down) is a US Navy acronym for its Sea, Air, and Land Teams. The recipes for each of the five long theme answers can be easily found with Internet searches.

Healthy lifestyle is key to preventing and managing diabetes

Contributed by Kaiser Permanente

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects millions of people in America. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 40% of U.S. adults are likely to develop type 2 diabetes over their lifetime.

“There are many differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, said Dr. Branden Turner, a family practice physician with Kaiser Permanente Southern California. “But in both types, blood sugar levels get too high. This increases the risk for complications, such as blindness and kidney failure. For both diseases, treatment focuses on keeping blood sugar levels within a target range to help prevent long-term complications.”

Brandon Landry, a Crenshaw District resident who has type 2 diabetes and is under the care of Dr. Turner, urged others to never take their health for granted, and live a lifestyle with a healthy diet and exercise to prevent the onset of diabetes.

Personally, Landry said he’s living a normal life now that he’s removed sugar from his diet, and is eating healthier food with no processed foods and a low amount of carbohydrates, all of which has helped him maintain a healthier weight and blood sugar level.

“Do the right thing and change your lifestyle to prevent diabetes before it’s too late,” he said.

What is diabetes?

Almost everything we eat is turned into glucose (sugar), which our body uses for energy. To help our body’s cells absorb glucose, an organ near the stomach – the pancreas – produces a hormone called insulin.

“When you have diabetes, your body either doesn’t make enough insulin, or can’t use its own insulin very well,” Dr. Turner said. “As a result, a build-up of glucose occurs in your blood, eventually leading to many health problems and

complications.

For people with diabetes, research shows that:

Blood pressure management can reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke by 12% to 27%, and the risk of progression of kidney disease by 30% to 70%.

Cholesterol management can reduce cardiovascular complications by 20% to 50%.

Regular eye exams and timely treatment could prevent up to 90% of diabetes-related blindness.

Regular foot exams and patient education could prevent up to 85% of diabetes-related amputations.

Prevalence: In 2019, 37.3 million Americans, or 11.3% of the population, had diabetes, both type 1 and 2.

Nearly 1.9 million Americans have type 1 diabetes, including about 244,000 children and adolescents.

Tips to help you better manage your blood sugar:

Have regular eating patterns. Eating the same number of meals around the same time each day helps control blood sugar.

Eat many different foods. Eating from all food groups is an effective way to stay healthy.

Limit fats. Eat foods that are low in saturated and trans fats, as well as cholesterol.

Make room for fiber. High-fiber foods keep people fuller for longer. Whole-grain breads, vegetables, dried beans and fruits are all great sources of fiber.

Watch your refined carbohydrates, including sugar. Starches and sugars raise blood sugar levels. Limiting these foods prevents blood sugar from going up.

Exercise helps control blood sugar levels. It’s a good idea to exercise for at least 30 minutes a day. Walking, swimming



and cycling are all great options. Consult your doctor before starting any exercise regimen.

Exercise also helps you keep a healthy weight. This is important because excess weight makes the kidneys work harder and it also makes it hard to manage blood sugar.

College radio station wins awards

NORWALK –Cerritos College’s WPMD student radio station earned the Best Two-Year College Radio Station award for two consecutive years at the College Media Association (CMA)’s Pinnacle Awards.

WPMD also won the best station award in 2019 and 2022.

WPMD is a student-operated radio station at Cerritos College that provides content and programming worldwide on streaming sites, including TuneIn, Streema, and Radio Shaker.

Radio students received numerous recognitions from CMA this year:

First place (Best Podcast) - Joelee Francos’ “The Esoteric Realm”

Second place (Best DJ Personality) – Carlos Madrigal


Third place (Best Audio Talk/Entertainment Program) – Carlos Madrigal

Third place (Best Audio Special Event Coverage) – Joelee

and Elycia Young

Third place (Best Film) – Roberto Hoyos’ “Delayed”


In addition, WPMD Advisor and Theatre Arts Instructor Casey Piotrowski was recognized with the Distinguished Advisor Award for his service and mentorship to WPMD and the students.



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11AM-4PM ON DOWNEY AVE. & 3RD ST.

DOWNEY HAPPENINGS

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 Ninos 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.

Tree Lighting, 3-7 pm. Experience snowfall in Downey. Plus holidays photos, children's activities, a holiday market, music, and a tree lighting at 6 pm. Promenade at Downey

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

Our Lady of Advent: The Greatest Interview, 5 pm. Using music, scripture and dialogue, St. Raymond Church presents the story of St. Luke interviewing the Virgin Mary to get facts to use to write his Gospel. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Admission is free, but a free will offering will be appreciated. St. Raymond Church, 12348 Paramount Blvd.

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.

Movie Night, 7 pm. Catch a free screening of "Back to the Future." Doors open at 6 pm. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Parents Night Out, 5-8 pm. Are you a last minute holiday shopper? Need time to wrap gifts without the kids around? Need a break from the holiday hustle and bustle? Drop off the kids and let them enjoy plenty of food, hands-on activities, games and science fun while you take care of holiday necessities. \$10 per child, ages 5-12. Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way

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 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 Zuttermeyer in concert, 7 pm. An authentic Hawaiian concert featuring three talented, award-winning recording artists. Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd.

Submit Downey events to eric@thedowneypatriot.com

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