

The Downey Patriot



Cheerleaders go to Skid Row
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Rose Float does it again
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Diamonbacks win Classic
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Friday, January 2, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 37

8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

What do you envision in your downtown?

■ A meeting has been scheduled Tuesday at the Downey City Library to discuss redevelopment of the Avenue Theatre and Verizon building.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – On a recent Monday night, about 7 p.m., the scene at Downey Avenue north of Firestone Boulevard was eerily sedate.

Save for a smattering of vehicles outside Granata's Italian Villa, Downey's so-called downtown was empty. Most businesses had closed for the day, and would remain dark until the following morning.

Besides a couple of giggling teenage girls walking arm-in-arm to the Krikorian Theater, foot traffic was almost nonexistent.

In other words, it was like any other night in Downtown Downey.

But city leaders are trying to change that image of desolation, and are revitalizing efforts to revitalize the downtown.

Last year, the city of Downey doled out more than \$2 million to purchase the Avenue Theatre and nearby Verizon building, two separate pieces of property connected by a shared parking lot that officials call the key to a reenergized downtown.

More recently, the City Council approved a \$750,000 deal to entice

Porto's Bakery downtown. The Cuban bakery currently draws 2,000 customers per day to each of their Burbank and Glendale locations.

City officials hope the Avenue Theatre and Verizon building will be redeveloped as a mixed-use project, including a "sit-down restaurant" and affordable housing units, according to a city-prepared report. The city also wants "community space" set aside for cultural programming.

According to a Request for Proposals dated Sept. 25, 2008 and available on the city website, "Downey intends to move forward expeditiously on the joint redevelopment of the Avenue Theatre and the Verizon building. Toward this end, the city seeks proposals from qualified real estate development firms to carry out this redevelopment."

The report sets parameters for redevelopment requests, which includes:

- Reuse of the current infrastructure "to the extent economically feasible." This includes reusing the Verizon building's steel and concrete, and rehabilitating the

Avenue Theatre marquee.

- Construction of new housing units, 20 percent of which should be affordable as defined by the state of California.

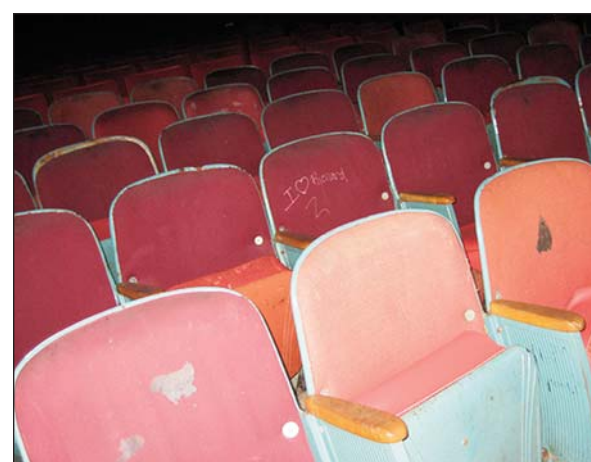
- A 1,600 sq. ft. restaurant inside the Avenue Theatre. "The city desires to see this space reused by a high-quality, sit-down restaurant," the report says.

- A resolution to any parking concerns.

Finally, the city would like to see "community space" included in any redevelopment plans. "Community space should be located on the ground floor and can be flexible and multi-purpose and include cultural programming and/or other community-serving programming," the report says.

John Perfit, director of economic development for the city of Downey, will present a report on the redevelopment at a meeting Tuesday inside the Downey City Library's Cormack Room. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is part of a meeting of the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC).

The public is invited to attend and share their thoughts.



City officials hope to turn the Avenue Theatre, above, into sit-down restaurant with attached housing. A meeting will be held Tuesday to discuss its redevelopment. Photos by George Manzanilla

Downey Ford prepares employees for closing

BY MARY FORNEY,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Loss of hope is what Pat Mahon attributes as being the reason for Downey Ford's closing on Jan. 18.

Working in the car dealership industry for nearly 30 years, Mahon has been the controller for Downey Ford since 2005.

"The industry didn't start slowing down until the credit crunch," Mahon said. "It has nothing to do with us – it's the economy. If people can't get their vehicles financed because the banks aren't lending, there's nothing we can do."

"We had hoped the bank bailout would put things back on track, but it didn't help. I remember the gas crunch during the 1970's, but that wasn't as bad because people were still buying cars."

Just days before Thanksgiving, the dealership announced to its 63 employees that the business would be closing. To help the employees, Downey Ford contacted the state Employment Development Department for assistance. Store managers also contacted other car dealerships for possible job placements.

"It's horrible that it had to be right before Christmas, but we couldn't foresee this a year ago. I've never seen the industry this bad before. Even people who have good credit don't want to pay the high interest rates so they are sticking with the vehicles they do have," she said.

"We're not out of money –

we're out of hope. We waited as long as we could, but we finally had to do what's best for the employees because the economy just hasn't gotten any better."

Mahon is expected to be the only Downey Ford employee remaining after Jan. 18. As controller, she will be closing out the financial end of the business before she begins looking for a new job for herself.

"Our employees have been our concern – first and foremost," she said. "That's why we had the EDD come here and talk to each and every one of our employees to help them find a new job, and our managers reached out to other dealerships. They have been on the phone calling places and writing letters of recommendation for the employees."

"Luckily, the advantage to being in a specialized industry is that the employees have skills to use at another job. By the time we close, everyone will have a job from the EDD or the connections we have – there is a new job opportunity for everyone."

The Downey Ford showroom and service department remains open until Jan. 18, but the dealership is currently operating with a skeleton crew.

"People are leaving as they get new jobs," Mahon said. "But I worry about the little guys – like the people who deliver our uniforms, parts, and tires. All of our



Downey Ford will close its doors Jan. 18. Photo by Mary Forney

vendors will be losing another company they did business with, so there's a lot of people affected when a business like this closes."

It is unknown what owner Bob Remy plans to do with the Downey Ford property. Located on the corner of Gallatin Road and Lakewood Boulevard, the dealership originally opened as Graham Ford in 1951 and changed owners

several times during its 58 years of operation.

"This is the hardest decision the owner has ever had to make," Mahon said. With the economy declining, what's going to happen is that only the corporate-owned dealerships will survive and the mom and pop businesses like this one will go by the wayside. It's not just Ford – it's everywhere."

Hit and run driver drops license plate

BY MARY FORNEY,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department apprehended a 73-year-old male suspected of a hit-and-run accident on Second Street on Dec. 18.

Street Sweeper Enforcement Officer Andrea Larsen was in the course of writing a citation for an illegally parked Ford Ranger when the owner of the vehicle jumped in the truck, struck another truck while turning around, and sped off.

The police were able to stop the driver within minutes because his license plate fell off at the scene of the accident.

"He said in his statement that he was trying to avoid the ticket and fled the scene because he was afraid of the police," said Downey

Police Department Traffic Sgt. Dean Milligan.

"He was afraid because he didn't have insurance."

The driver was found stopped at the corner of Paramount Boulevard and Stewart and Gray Road where he was arrested for driving at an unsafe speed, the hit and run collision, and failure to maintain insurance on his vehicle. He was also given his parking citation.

The struck pickup truck sustained moderate damage to the rear portion of the vehicle.

"If convicted, he could get probation and a substantial fine – assuming this is his first offense," Milligan said.

"It's definitely going to cost him far more than if he had just paid the \$30.50 parking ticket."



After more than 20 years in business, Bakers Square on Imperial Highway in Downey closed last week. Bakers Square's parent company filed for bankruptcy in April and has closed nearly 60 restaurants nationwide. Photo by Eric Pierce

Design Review Board dissolved by the city

■ Planning Commission takes over duties.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The *Patriot* has received official notification from the City Clerk's office that the city's Design Review Board has been dissolved and that its duties have been taken over by the Planning Commission.

For years, the board met at 6 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at City Hall, charged with the responsibility of reviewing the physical design and development of city projects both public and private to make sure that they conform to the city's norms with regard to appearance, signage, and landscaping.

When the city came up with the new updated zoning ordinance on Oct. 28, with its emphasis on streamlined operations, the City Council also decided that the board's functions be incorporated

with those of the Planning Commission's.

The five-member commission's task is to make recommendations to the council on matters relating to the adoption, amendment or repeal of the city's general plan, specific plans, and zoning ordinances.

It also enjoys final say on such land use decisions as subdivisions, conditional use permits, and variances.

It meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

The current commission members, along with the districts they represent and their dates of appointment, are: Michael Murray (District 1, Jan. '05), Robert Keifer (District 2, Nov. '08), Jeff McCaughan (District 3, Jan. '01), Terri Lambros (District 4, Dec. '05).

The District 5 at-large post is at present vacant but is expected to be filled at the next Council meeting Jan. 13.

Guild to tour Chinese Gardens

DOWNEY – Last call and "all aboard" for a half-day excursion by bus to beautiful Huntington Library and Gardens.

The Downey Symphony Guild invites the community to join them Thursday for this excursion. The bus will be at the flag pole near the Downey City Library at 9 a.m., leaving at 9:30 sharp. A light snack will be served en route.

Price of the trip is \$15 per person which includes entrance and transportation. The tea room at the library requires advance reservations, but the café serves light fare and drinks with indoor and outdoor seating.

For those who have not been to the Huntington recently, this is an opportunity to view the new, authentic Chinese Garden with its

pavilions, covered walkways and bridges – an experience to enrich both mind and spirit.

One of the three separate art galleries was renovated last spring. Originally the magnificent Huntington residence, this is also home to one of the most comprehensive collections in the U.S. of 18th and 19th century British and French art.

The outing will end at 1:30 p.m. for the return drive to Downey.

Please make checks payable to Downey Symphony Guild and mail to 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, CA 90240-3003. For information, call (562) 869-2120.

– *Rosalie Sciortino, Downey Symphony Guild*



Warren High School cheerleaders decorated and filled 32 bags with basic necessities and personally delivered them to Skid Row recently. They assisted the Povertees Team from Downey and handed out the bags just before Christmas. Warren cheer advisors Erin Hanohano and Ally Davis said they "were very proud and excited that the girls organized this activity." The squad plans to take up a collection of blankets in January.

Laid off employees have options

CERRITOS – Residents who have been laid off from the retail industry are invited to review their options at a series of workshops at the SELACO WIB Career Center in Cerritos throughout the month of January.

"(We) conducted this same type of seminar for those who were laid off from the mortgage and real estate industry and it was very well-received and those who attended told us they learned things about themselves and their career goals that they had never realized and they believed this would help them move toward a brighter future," a SELACO WIB representative said in a press release.

SELACO WIB, which stands for the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board, is a non-profit federally funded organization

that assists people who have lost their jobs. Their career center is open to the public and helps people find jobs and gain access to training, all at no cost.

"In our industry we come across a wide range of workers who have been laid off or are facing the possibility of being laid off," the representative said. "It is our goal to provide information and services that will assist in getting people back to work and on their feet again."

The workshops begin Tuesday and will be held again Jan. 8, 14 and 21. The seminars run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The career center is at 10900 183rd St. in Cerritos.

Scholarships available to students

NEW YORK – The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLIY) program is offering 550 full scholarships to U.S. high school students to study abroad and learn languages "that most students do not have opportunities to learn, but are rapidly becoming critical to know."

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, NSLIY is designed to increase American citizens' capacity to engage foreign governments and people through the critical languages of Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Russian and Turkish.

The program is administered by a team of organizations, including AFS-USA, American Councils for International Education, Concordia Language Villages and iEARN-USA. Together, they will award U.S. government funding in the form of full scholarships to 550 U.S. high school and just-graduated students (ages 15-18) to participate summer, one-semester, and full-year language programs in different countries.

"Recent years have demonstrated how important it is that Americans learn languages of countries that will be prominent in the 21st century," said Lisa Choate, vice president of the American Councils for International Education. "Students in this scholarship program will be well-positioned for careers in a wide range of fields."

Programs immerse participants in language acquisition courses

throughout their stay in the host country. Students live with a host family, gaining formal and informal language practice. Students will also attend school and interact with international students in person and through online technologies.

Applying students must be U.S. citizens, ages 15-18, enrolled in high school, and have a minimum 2.5 GPA.

For more information, or to apply online, visit www.nsliforyouth.org.

Meeting covers 'lost generations'

WHITTIER – Tom Underhill will be the featured speaker at the Jan. 17 meeting of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society at the Whittier Masonic Lodge.

Underhill will speak on "The Forgotten Generation." The presentation will preach "the importance of your generation's oral and situational history and how to transform it into a comprehensive, recorded story."

A refresher class at 11 a.m. will be titled "Ten Things to do with Your Digital Camera." Underhill's presentation begins at 1 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to attend. The Whittier Masonic Lodge is at 7604 Greenleaf Ave. in Whittier. For more information, call (562) 941-0818.

Community Calendar
www.allaboutdowney.com

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Downey's Rose Parade tradition continues in grand style

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The pressure was on as busy hands of all ages plucked, glued, painted, and welded to finish this year's Downey Rose Float Parade entry on time.

Assembling the float was delayed because thieves had stripped the Downey Rose Float Association's building of its copper wire earlier this year. The theft prohibited a timely clean up and disassembly of last year's parade entry, so the first pieces of this year's float had to be made offsite.

"We didn't start building until the beginning of October," said DRFA Decoration Chairman Jason Redfox. "I actually started making the vases at my parent's house in August."

"Broadway's Golden Age" is the theme of this year's Downey entry. Escorts were scheduled to accompany Miss Downey and her court on the float while Downey Mayor Mario Guerra will be found sitting at a grand piano wearing a tuxedo.

"I am very excited to be riding on the float this year – it's a lifetime opportunity," Guerra said

Giant vases and an elaborate spiral staircase rise above the float, creating a vision of a yesteryear performance as the float pays tribute to Broadway during the 1920's.

"This should be one of our better floats," said DRFA President Gary De Remer. "Its floral design and the dresses are beautiful."

More than 50 different kinds of roses, orchids and dry materials are in the mix of the thousands of petals and blooms glued to the entry.

"We are using a lot more roses than we usually do. The entire base and every arrangement will have roses this year," Redfox said.

"It was challenging to make because there are a lot of interesting shapes, dresses, vases, candles, and curly Q's on this float. Wherever there are shapes, it is time consuming because you have to bend the steel."

This is Redfox's 29th year working on Downey's Rose Float entry, as well as Kelley Roberts, who serves as construction chairman.

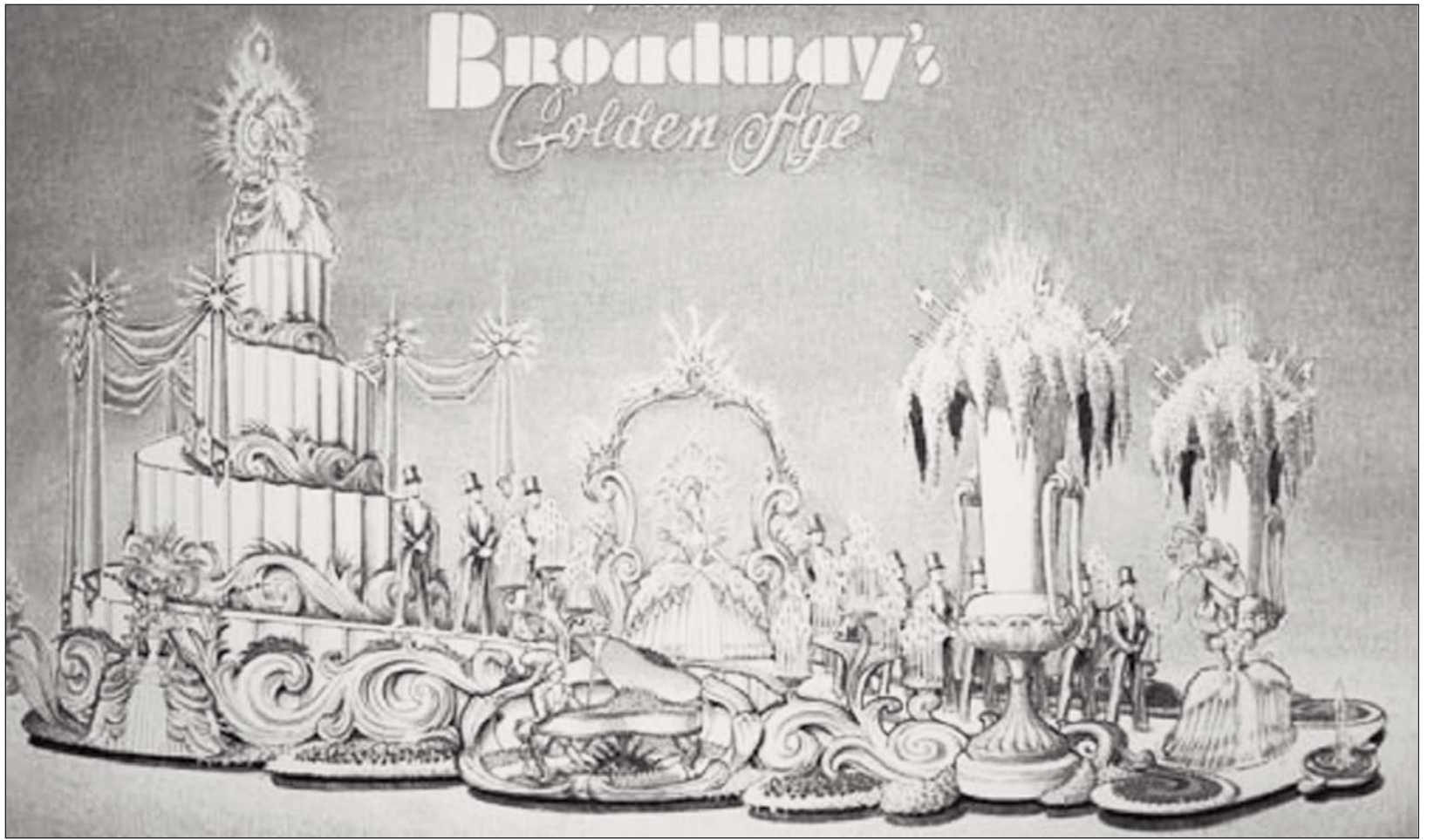
A supervisor for ride maintenance at Knotts Berry Farm, Roberts said Downey float volunteers come from all over the local community and even out of state.

"We've gotten people as far as Colorado who heard about our float," Roberts said. "This takes a lot of volunteers because we are entirely self-funded and self-built. Our local restaurants even help by donating food."

"It costs anywhere from \$50,000 to \$78,000 for a self-built float. It would cost \$200,000 to \$400,000 if built by a professional company for the city of Downey."

Major sponsors of the DRFA are Supervisor Don Knabe, Financial Partners Credit Union, city of Downey, All American Home Center, Efficient Lighting and Electric, David Buhler, and Dawn McDivitt.

Participating in the Rose Float Parade in Pasadena has been a Downey tradition since 1955.



Volunteers worked overtime this week to put the finishing touches on "Broadway's Golden Age," Downey's entry in the 120th Rose Parade. Photos by Mary Forney and Stephanie Orozco



Get rid of those 'senior moments'

DOWNEY – Is your brain fit? Do you experience "senior moments"? Start the New Year with a demonstration of the Brain Fitness Class presented by three of Downey Adult School's most popular instructors – Kelly Holt, Lynn Hauer, and Bonnie Mansell.

You will learn to think faster, process quicker, and remember more. The OASIS Program welcomes all older adults, is offered weekly and is located in the newly renovated Harriett Paine Event Center at Downey Adult School, located at 12340 Woodruff Ave.

Enrollment is free and begins at 2:45 p.m. on Mondays. The program will start at 3:45 p.m., followed by an optional dinner. Tickets for the \$3.50 dinner can be purchased during enrollment.

Transportation will be provided by Downey Dial-a-Ride for those who qualify.

Call (562) 940-6200 for more information.

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Keeping You Healthy from A to Z
Upcoming Health Education Programs
January-February, 2009

FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

- The Stork Tour:** Expectant Parent Family Birth Center Tour
Wednesday, January 7 or February 4 – 4 to 6 p.m.
DRMC Conference Room A
- Childbirth Education Classes (Series of 4)**
Wednesdays, January 14, 21, 28, February 4
7 to 10 p.m. – DRMC Conference Room A or B
\$75 per couple (To register for this particular class, please contact instructor Roselyn Smith 714-319-4267 or prep4baby@sbcglobal.net)
- Breastfeeding Workshop**
Tuesday, January 13 – 7 to 9:30 p.m.
DRMC Conference Room C – \$10 per person

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Grief and Loss Program:** First Saturday of each month 2 to 4 p.m.
Contact: Jim at 562-949-3399
- Overeaters Anonymous:** Every Monday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Contact: Alice at 562-927-0887
- Sarcoidosis:** Last Saturday of each month 1 to 3 p.m.
Contact: Sarcoidosis Network at 562-809-8500
- Restless Legs Syndrome of Southern California:** 3 meetings held each year on Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Janis at 714-633-0123

OTHER CLASSES

- Community CPR**
Tuesday, February 3 – 6 to 10 p.m.
DRMC Conference Room C
\$25 per person or \$40 per couple
- Diabetes Management (Series of 4 Classes)**
Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26
9 to 11:30 a.m.
DRMC Conference Room A or B
\$10 materials fee
- Healthy Heart Nutrition Class**
Wednesday, January 14 or February 11,
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
DRMC Conference Room A or B

For additional information or to register for any class (unless otherwise noted), please call 562-904-5580.





Ralph Earl Wood worked at Alcoa after serving in World War II. He died Dec. 27.

Ralph Earl Wood worked at Alcoa

DOWNEY – Ralph Earl Wood, a World War II veteran who traveled different parts of the world with the U.S. Army, died Dec. 27 at LaVilla Grande Care Center in Grand Junction, Colo. He was 92.

Wood was born Oct. 26, 1916 and was originally from Marshalltown, Iowa. He enlisted in the Army on Oct. 31, 1940 and served in the Headquarters Co. 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division. He was in the 5th Army in Italy, and in the 7th Army in France.

He also served about two years in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. He was discharged Aug. 26, 1945.

After the war, he worked at various jobs until he came to Downey, where he found work at Alcoa. He remained there until he retired. In 2002, his brother, Kenneth Wood, and nephew, Jim Wood, moved him to Grand Junction to be closer to family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and four sisters-in-law. His sister, Doris Hoffman, still resides in Marshalltown. He is also survived by nephews and nieces from the Hoffman and Wood families.

No services are planned. Arrangements are under the care of Callahan-Edfast Mortuary.

Battling the sports holiday blues

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

So here we are, a day after the beginning of 2009 with a positive outlook and the confidence in ourselves to follow through with our resolutions. But let us be real with ourselves right now.

Are we really going to go to the gym three days a week? Will you really lose 20 pounds? Can I really sustain running three days a week?

Well, I hope you all do follow through and if anyone feels like they want a sports writing running buddy, I can be contacted through email. Pull the address off our website.

There's almost a gray cloudy sky that floats over the last couple weeks of December.

Call me crazy but I think it's because we all look back on the year and say to ourselves it's been a great year and wish it didn't have to end or it's been a bad year and you're glad to watch it go and cannot bear to stand another day.

Let me tell you why I'm so gloomy. There's nothing going on. All high school sports are essentially put on hold for those couple weeks and I find myself blabbering about the season that was in football, and the season that will be in basketball.

But yep, boring. I could talk more about football, but the season kind of ended a while ago now. I could talk about the basketball season that will be, but the teams are still in the works of dusting off the rust.

I could also talk about the water polo season that is in the works, but I have one question. Why are people playing water polo in the middle of December?

So instead of talking about those things, I'll fill in my column with something much more intriguing.

There was no way I was going to allow this topic to only be brought up once. I can't help myself but continue to talk about the happenings from this past Sunday, how about them Detroit Lions?

They are the first team to go completely winless in a 16-game-football schedule. The funniest comment had to come from one of the ESPNNews sportscasters when he referenced the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers who lost 14 games in a 14-game season popping corks on bottles of champagne.

His partner quickly laughed and chirped in saying it's not a champagne moment, it's more of a Kool-Aid moment. The first sportscaster laughed also and said that champagne would work as long as it was flat champagne.

The comical value of this pathetic season is priceless. Sportscasters and writers did nothing but pray for this moment. The funniest of jokes had to come from radio and television show host Jim Rome.

When the tough get's going, quit, said Rome on one of his shows. He continued down his list of jokes with if at first you fail, quit, or my personal favorite, just quit, referencing the Nike slogan.

Let's put in perspective the awful season the Lions had. It started last year with Lion quarterback Jon Kitna saying that his team would win 10 games. After that comment, every time ESPN ran a highlight clip of the Lions, they showed in the bottom corner of the screen a Kitna Win-O-Meter.

All too often, that meter would never move and the sound of failure was played in the background.

Since Nov. 11 of last year, the Lions have the worst winning percentage (.043) in the NFL with a 1-23 record. Detroit also has the longest current losing streak in the league with 17 straight losses.

What's even more comical is the chatter of it being harder to go 0-16 in a season rather than do what the New England Patriots did last year going 16-0 in the regular season.

It get's better. Now former coach of the Lions Rod Marinelli said in his press conference after the final game of the season that he thought his team played their hardest. I have one question for him. Really?

He said he coached as well as he possibly could. Well, I guess that would explain why he got fired.

The players weren't much better. Quarterback Dan Orlovsky had one of the more forgettable seasons under center. Looking at his stats, it would have taken him five seasons to pass for as many yards as Saints quarterback Drew Brees did this year, and four seasons to match Brees' touchdown passes.

The defense was supposed to be a strength on the team, but turned into a weakness as the season went on. But I guess you have to look at the bright side. They didn't get shut out at all.

It's absolutely mind boggling to know that this team had opportunities to break the streak, but coughed it up at the end like the Lions did. But at the same time, it's exactly what I wanted for Christmas.

They are now part of history, even though it's on the wrong side. Enjoy the champagne boys, but wait until it's nice and flat.

POET'S CORNER

Growing Up in New Auburn

I was weaned on the writings of Alcott
Stratton Porter was my cup of tea
And the books about history by Prescott
Seemed pretty darn racy to me.
What a contrast to my fond beginnings
When I turn Cosmopolitan's page
Say, the cover designs are quite winning --
I suppose that they call it "New Age"

In my youth they wrote all happy endings
At least in the books that I read.
They wrote -- so to say -- the Victorian way
And the sex -- it was all in my head.

—John Vincent,
Downey

Good morning Sun

It's the first day of the rest of my life
Time to appreciate the wonders and love
Leave behind all the worries and strife
Enjoy the blessings from above

Behind me are the demons I feared
Battles I've fought
Times I have cheered
Changes I've sought

Tomorrow may come
Surprised I'm sure
Awaited by some
May we all endure

But today is all mine
To enjoy that which we planted
And while I have time
Use the blessings I've been granted

Good morning Sun!
Today is the first day of the rest of my life!

—Leona Swanson,
Downey

Little Pieces

Little pieces of Nothing
wondering' what to do
They thought of every Nothing
and every wonder too.

Little Noones in a bind
have Nowhere to be
Waves to Noone all the time
but Nobody can see.

Pieces going Nowhere
and they will never know
that Noone ever noticed
those Nothings never show.

Little pieces of Nothing
Lost in time and space
Wish for more than Nothing
Wishing for a face.

—Jenerous,
Downey

A Boy in Love

All you have to do is take my hand
to show me you understand
and something happens to me
that no one else can see.

Anytime my world is blue
all I have to do is look at you
and everything seems to be
so wonderful to me.

—Marty Roupe,
Downey

Connections Networking
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DINING-OUT DEALS IN DOWNEY

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THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON PG-13 (10:30 2:20) 6:00 9:40
VALKYRIE PG-13 (10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25
THE SPIRIT PG-13 (11:00 1:45 4:30) 7:15 10:00
MARLEY AND ME PG (10:20 1:10 4:00) 6:50 9:40
SEVEN POUNDS PG-13 (10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX G (10:30 4:00) 9:30
YES MAN PG-13 (11:25 2:05 4:45) 7:25 10:05
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL PG-13 (11:20 2:00 4:40) 7:20 10:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS PG-13 (11:30 2:05 4:40) 7:15 9:50
FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG-13 (11:20 1:35 3:50) 6:05 8:20 10:35
TWILIGHT PG-13 (1:00) 6:30

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★ THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON PG-13
Fri to Sun: (11:50, 3:35), 7:10, 10:45;
Mon to Thu: (11:50, 3:35), 7:10
★ MARLEY & ME PG
Fri to Sun: (10:35, 1:35, 4:30), 7:30, 10:25;
Mon to Thu: (10:35, 1:35, 4:30), 7:35
★ THE SPIRIT PG-13 (11:10, 1:50, 4:45), 7:25, 10:10
★ VALKYRIE PG-13
Fri to Sun: (10:45, 1:40, 4:40), 7:40, 10:30;
Mon to Thu: (10:45, 1:40, 4:40), 7:40
★ SEVEN POUNDS PG-13
Fri to Sun: (10:30, 1:30, 4:25), 7:35, 10:35;
Mon to Thu: (10:30, 1:30, 4:25), 7:35
★ THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX G
(11:30, 1:55, 4:30), 7:00, 9:30
★ YES MAN PG-13 (11:45, 2:30, 5:05), 7:45, 10:20
★ THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL PG-13 (11:15, 2:00, 4:35), 7:15, 9:50

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Puppy love

BY ERIC PIERCE

I took advantage of the holiday weekend and made it to the movies to watch "Marley & Me," a two-hour tear-inducer detailing a newspaper columnist's adventures with his misbehaved dog.

Marley eats things you wouldn't think were edible (like an answering machine) and is constantly discovering new ways to get into mischief. But despite his flaws, he's lovable, and his family adores him regardless.

The film gave me the idea of writing about my own dog, Blackstone, a hefty German Shepherd whose bark is a lot worse than his bite. But unlike Marley, whose misadventures are made tolerable by an uncontrollable urge to hug him and squeeze the bejeezus out of him, Blackstone is just a plain 'ol lazy dog that smells (on occasion) like a soggy sock dug out the bottom of a hamper.

He eats and sleeps — that's it. And it's not just because he's old (going on 13 years). He has a habit of falling asleep midway through a walk, right there on the sidewalk.

On rainy days I've seen him sit on the backyard patio and stare straight up, mouth open, gulping down water like a parched camel in the Sahara Desert.

The only time he'll come in the house is when he hears thunder, and that's when he'll scramble from the patio and make a beeline for the house. Weighing more than 100 pounds, he'll cry and cower underneath a bed, his butt sticking out. Yeah, some guard dog.

He eats flies in the summertime, and has a bad habit of consuming his own, ahem, fertilizer, if you know what I mean. Suffice it to say, if ever there was a candidate for canine Mentos, Blackstone is the one.

They'll never make a movie about Blackstone, but I love him and I'll hug him — just not too close, and not too long.

Stop smoking, one week at a time

While millions of Americans will resolve to quit smoking January 1st, many will be puffing away again by Valentine's Day. It doesn't have to be that way. With the Stay Quit Monday idea, smokers can strengthen their commitment by quitting each and every week, increasing their chances of making this the year they quit for good.

"Stay Quit Monday is perfect for someone like President-elect Obama," Sid Lerner, Chairman of the Healthy Monday Campaign, mused. "Here's a guy who wants to quit, who's ready to quit, but who's very busy, with a stressful job and who just needs that extra motivational push each week to stay on track."

"We know there's a high relapse rate for first-time quitters and that it takes a number of attempts for most people to stop smoking altogether," says Frances Stillman, who co-directs the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "Using each Monday to reaffirm their goal of quitting is a sensible way to stay on track," she suggests.

It's simple math. "For most people who quit, it takes from 7 to 10 tries," says Lerner. "We urge smokers to think about it realistically and use the start of each week to recommit to breaking their addiction. If you just try once a year on your birthday or New Year's, those 'tries' can add up to a decade before you finally quit, but if you try every Monday, and keep at it, chances are good you may succeed within a single year."

"Many smokers will be inspired this New Year's to take an important first step towards a smoke-free life. They can use Stay Quit Monday to reinforce their commitment," said Donald Distasio, CEO of the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division, adding, "If you're resolving to quit, call your American Cancer Society Quitline at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org. We can help you quit."

"Quitting smoking is a marathon, not a 100-yard dash," said Dr. John C. Norcross, Distinguished University Fellow at the University of Scranton. "It helps to set a specific quit date as long as you understand that it's just that - a beginning. Without realistic expectations, focusing on a single day to quit can be self-defeating, because it promotes all-or-nothing thinking. Instead, realistically prepare for the long haul, not the short trip."

"We think of Monday as the January of the week," says Healthy Monday President Peggy Neu. "Our research indicates that people view Monday as an opportunity for a fresh start and are more likely to start a healthy regimen on Monday than any other day."

"Expect occasional slips in your resolutions," Norcross advises. "Most successful resolvers slip in January. But a slip need not be a fall; pick yourself up and recommit to your resolution."

A report last year from the Institute of Medicine says that "motivating more quit attempts among people who now make none, and more frequent quit attempts among those who now try to quit" is one of five requirements for achieving higher cessation rates.

Letters to the Editor:

No accountability

Dear Editor:

I completely agree with Don Niemand's assessments of the ailments affecting our governments ("Culture of Greed," 12/26/08).

Rarely is anyone in government service held responsible for incompetence or negligence.

— Frank Myers,
Downey

Grade draws no surprise

Dear Editor:

The article by Erick Pierce stating Downey earned an "F" in preservation came as no surprise to me or any other longstanding property owner in Downey. ("Downey Earns 'F' in Preservation," 12/26/08)

Since the mid-80's our once great city has ignored the building codes, thus creating the boom of McMansions. The houses are built very cheap, all looking the same: about two feet wide by 40 feet high. Several have been linked to drug runners.

The city has blown off the homeowners that continue to complain about this and have done so for close to 20 years. Just take a drive through the once beautiful area known as the Orange Estates. You cannot drive up any block now without seeing one or more of these ugly, out-of-character neighborhood monstrosities.

We the citizens need to fight as hard and as long as we can to make our city representatives hear us and place a historical mark on neighborhood districts such as the Orange Estates.

This homeowner and over 50-year resident who remembers when the dairy was still here is not surprised one bit about the grade. I could go on about the glory days of the 60's when Downey had no gangs or graffiti, but that will be another letter.

— Steve Voigt,
Downey

Flush with cash

Dear Editor:

With so many retail stores and automobile dealerships closing in our city, it's maddening to know \$315,000 of our tax money is going to the pretentious position of deputy city manager of public safety.

We're not a city the size of Los Angeles or Anaheim. We have earthquakes once every 10 years. We have no targets any terrorist would realistically want to attack. So what, again, is the point?

It's nice to know our city is so flush with cash we have no problem throwing it by the wayside.

— Richard Nance,
Downey

Options downtown

Dear Editor:

A cultural movie house in Downey would spare me the hour-drive to Santa Monica to watch a decent movie, one without gratuitous violence, sex or drug use.

Downey also needs a nice white-cloth restaurant for older adults. The Chili's and Elephant Bar at Downey Landing are nice, but a restaurant more sophisticated is in order.

Whatever the case, the revitalization of downtown is long overdue and I hope our city leaders are sincere in their efforts to better the quality of life in Downey. We also need to resolve the dicey issue of parking.

— Patty Smith,
Downey

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.



Reusing the Avenue Theatre

Dear Editor:

Mr. Lawrence Christon presents a case worthy of the City Council's attention regarding the reactivation of the Avenue Theatre into a movie house that would exhibit "excellent movies featuring national and even international talents for people who like good movies" which are outside the scope of the Krikorian and only available by going either to Pasadena or Santa Monica. ("Opportunity for Arts Exists in the Downtown," 12/19/08).

A fine arts movie house featuring limited distribution good movies, foreign films and classic films would certainly enhance entertainment options to the city's residents. It would also draw from the surrounding cities and greatly help revitalize Downey Avenue -- something that has eluded the city since the undertaking on the sizable expenditure more than 10 years ago to revitalize Downey Avenue.

In 2001, a plan to convert the Avenue into a three-screen movie house to exhibit fine arts limited distribution, classic, and foreign films which would not compete, but complement, Krikorian's exhibits did not receive much of a hearing by the City Economic Development Office, even though preliminary studies showed that the proposed plan would add significantly to the revitalization of the renovated Downey Avenue by bringing to it significant numbers from the city and visitors from the 1.5 million in surrounding communities, none of which are served with such venue. The office did acknowledge at the time that the "project could stimulate activity in the downtown area by providing another outlet for entertainment and cultural interests."

A three-screen movie house on the same footprint of the Avenue, of a new mixed-use building in its place, let out to an operator, like the arrangement employed with the Rio Hondo Golf Club and Event Center, could become another revenue generator for the city, in addition to helping revitalize Downey Avenue and adding to the much needed entertainment and cultural options in the city, and providing another venue which cultural and other affinity groups can access.

I believe we owe our thanks to Mr. Christon for bringing the subject up. Perhaps now that the city owns the property, the city would act on Mr. Christon's suggestion and revisit the earlier proposal for the reuse of the Avenue Theatre.

— Harold Tsklenis,
Downey

The myths of U.S. health care

CONTRIBUTED BY SALLY C. PIPES

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to make healthcare reform a top priority. But in order to follow through, Obama and lawmakers on Capitol Hill must reject some longstanding misconceptions about health care in this country.

Here are five such myths. Each is widely repeated, deeply held — and dead wrong.

1.) We need more government to insure poor Americans. Government has been providing health coverage to low-income patients for more than 40 years. The results are hardly encouraging.

Witness Medicaid. The quality of care beneficiaries receive is exceedingly poor. Heart attack victims covered by Medicaid, for instance, are less likely to receive state-of-the-art care than their privately insured counterparts — and they're more than twice as likely to die as a result of their illness.

Because of low reimbursement levels, physicians are reluctant to treat Medicaid patients. A 2003 study found that primary care physicians were five times more likely to reject Medicaid beneficiaries than patients with private insurance.

The last thing this country needs is to expand a failing public insurance system.

2.) Forty-six million Americans do not have health insurance. This Census Bureau figure is often spun as proof that America's healthcare system is in awful shape and failing many in this country.

Included in the Bureau's count, though, are more than 10 million non-citizens and approximately 14 million people who are eligible for public healthcare programs but haven't enrolled. Plus, nearly 10 million of the uninsured have household incomes of more than \$75,000.

Far too many Americans go without health insurance, but the number of chronically uninsured in nowhere close to 46 million.

3.) Universal health coverage can be achieved by government mandate. According to the federal census, nearly two-thirds of the uninsured are aged 18 to 34. This makes sense — healthy people aren't going to pay for expensive insurance they'll never use.

Those who support an "individual mandate" believe that by requiring all Americans to buy health insurance, the formerly uninsured young and healthy will increase the size of the risk pool and therefore lower premi-



ums for everyone.

The problem is, some states require insurers to charge everyone the same rate. So young people would end up paying far more in premiums than they should — or could — pay.

The real way to attract young adults into the insurance market is to lower premiums. This can be done by reducing costly benefit mandates and allowing people to buy insurance across state lines.

4.) Prescription drug importation will save patients money. At most, foreign drug importation would save Americans 1 percent on healthcare costs over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

At the same time, purchasing drugs from places outside the United States raises tremendous safety concerns. Many foreign drug factories avoid FDA screenings; a hearing in the House of Representatives last year found that foreign factories are inspected once every 13 to 30 years on average.

5.) The state-run healthcare systems in Canada and Europe are better and cheaper than America's. People who make this claim usually point to the fact that life expectancy is higher in Canada and Europe. But life expectancy is influenced by a number of variables aside from the quality of a country's healthcare system — like diet, genetics, exercise, smoking, pollution, and even marital status.

A study published last year in the British medical journal "Lancet Oncology" suggests that America is better at treating cancer than Europe or Canada. Researchers found that Americans have a better survival rate for 13 of the 16 most prominent cancers.

This study's findings tell us more about the quality of a healthcare system than life expectancy rates do because the relationship between treatment and outcomes is more direct.

A single-payer health system with a global budget — like Canada has — results in long waiting lists, rationed care, and a dearth of the latest technological equipment.

If our leaders recognize these five myths, we can expect healthcare reform that works for all Americans. Let's hope they do.

Sally C. Pipes is president and CEO of the Pacific Research Institute and author of "The Top Ten Myths of American Health Care."

The Downey Patriot

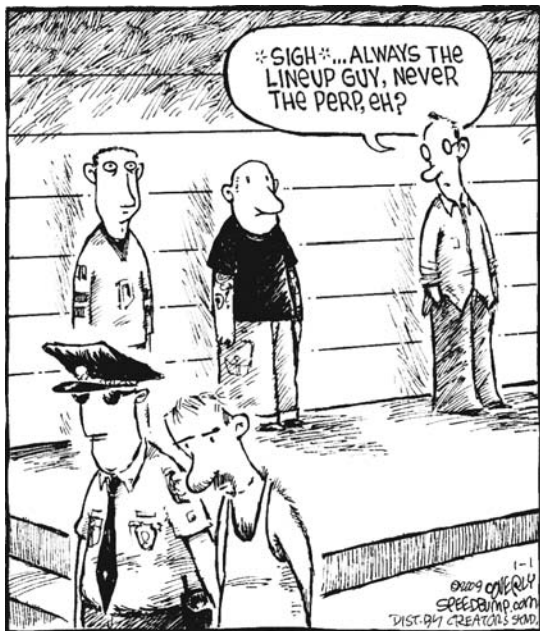
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For January

- Sat. Jan. 3: **Ponytail sign-ups**, Independence Park, 10:30 a.m.
- Sat. Jan. 3: **Little League sign-ups**, Furman Park, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon. Jan. 5: **Brain Fitness Class**, Downey Adult School, 3:45 p.m.
- Tuss. Jan. 6: **Avenue Theatre redevelopment meeting**, Downey City Library, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Jan. 8: **Bus trip to Huntington Library**, Downey City Library, 9 a.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
- 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: **Parking Place Commission**, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
- 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
- 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, for info. call (562) 923-2191.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square. for information call (562) 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.
- Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
- 1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **After-Care Post Cancer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
- 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambis, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

Saturdays

- 9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.

Sundays

- 3rd Sun. Odd # Months 1:30 p.m.: **Aerospace Legacy Foundation**, at First Baptist Church Room 120.

On This Day...

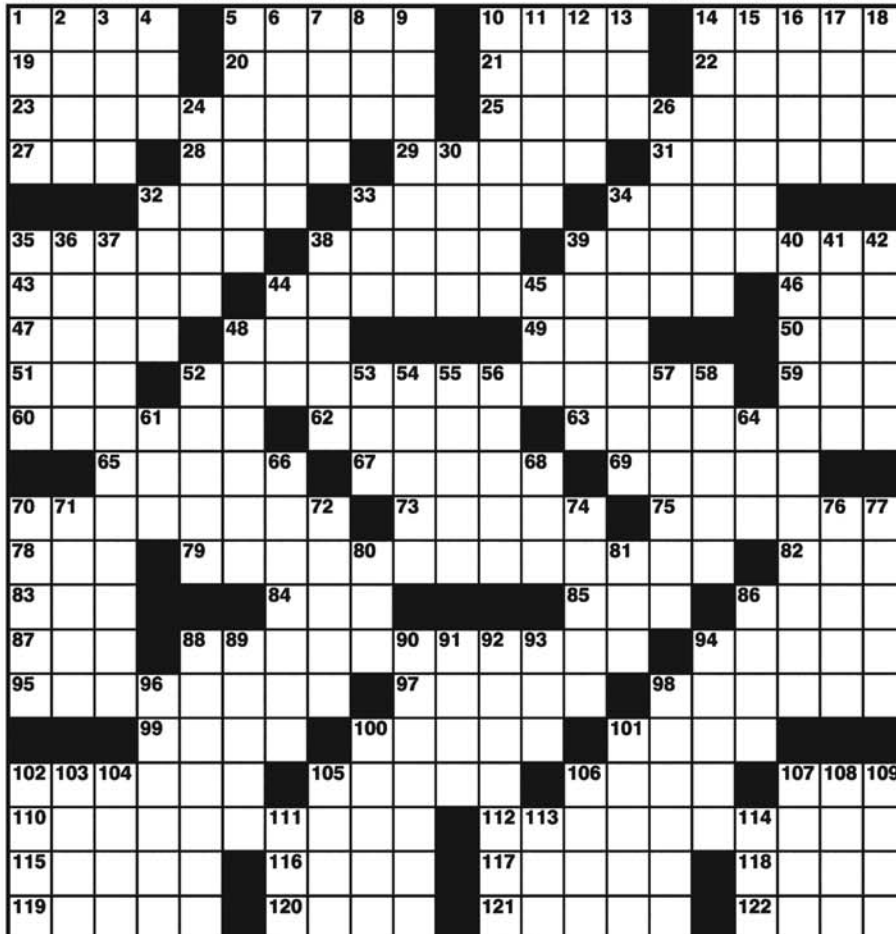
- Jan. 2, 1935:** Bruno Hauptmann goes on trial for the kidnapping and murder of the infant son of Charles Lindbergh. Hauptmann proclaims his innocence but is convicted, and executed by electric chair.
- 1960:** Sen. John F. Kennedy announces his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.
- 1961:** Gabrielle Carteris, better known as teenager Andrea Zuckerman on "Beverly Hills, 90210," is born. She turns 48 today. Also born Jan. 2: Jack Hanna (62), Tia Carrere (42), Cuba Gooding Jr. (41), Taye Diggs (38), Dax Shepard (34), and Kate Bosworth (26).
- 1965:** The New York Jets sign Joe Namath to a reported \$400,000 contract.
- 1974:** The federal speed limit is reduced to 55 mph in an effort to conserve gasoline.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
HAPPY NEW YEAR: New Year's fun facts
 by S.N.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Animal Crackers surname
 - 5 Bjorn Borg, by birth
 - 10 Stuck-up star
 - 14 60 Minutes reporter
 - 19 Yachter's greeting
 - 20 Atlas, for one
 - 21 Eye-color locale
 - 22 Dallas mama
 - 23 Where the first major city to see January 1 is
 - 25 12/31 celebration site in Rio
 - 27 Printer's widths
 - 28 Jar tops
 - 29 Acquires
 - 31 Restrained, with "in"
 - 32 Word on some euro coins
 - 33 Name of six presidents
 - 34 Acute
 - 35 Emcee's lines
 - 38 Prom rentals
 - 39 Rock expert
 - 43 Beat badly, in baseball
 - 44 "Auld Lang Syne" writer
 - 46 Exploit
 - 47 Apple or avocado
 - 48 Prized person
 - 49 European peak
 - 50 Fashion monogram
 - 51 Dinghy implement
 - 52 Group that takes an annual 1/1 swim
 - 59 DiCaprio, in headlines
 - 60 Fingerprint lines
 - 62 Day dividers
 - 63 Oater nickname
 - 65 Flow (Scottish bay)
 - 67 Karate schools
 - 69 Paris' pop
 - 70 Neighborhood retailers
 - 73 They're forbidden
 - 75 Chap
 - 78 Ad follower
 - 79 Traditional 12/31 Southern side dish
 - 82 Just like
 - 83 Music producer Brian
 - 84 Mauna
 - 85 Ventilate
 - 86 Needed bigger shoes
 - 87 Part of PEI
 - 88 Annual 1/1 rituals
 - 94 Nile nation
 - 95 Mini-raptor
 - 97 Resents
 - 98 Breakfast foods
 - 99 Kofi Annan
 - 100 Indulgent episode
 - 101 Gravy annoyance
 - 102 Virtuous
 - 105 Paint ingredient
 - 106 Penne kin
 - 107 Soul singer
 - 110 12/31 symbol
 - 112 Traditional 12/31 activity in rural Quebec
 - 115 Aquatic weasel
 - 116 Spiny houseplant
 - 117 Honorary Oscar recipient of '91
 - 118 Wide-eyed
 - 119 If I Ran the Zoo author
 - 120 Clancy character
 - 121 Atlanta university
 - 122 Bronzes on the beach
- DOWN**
- 1 Thick head of hair
 - 2 "Excuse me!"
 - 3 Groups of seats
 - 4 Last letters
 - 5 One way up
 - 6 Gray creator
 - 7 Sched. stats
 - 8 "Dapper" guy
 - 9 Chess-match phase
 - 10 Most problematical
 - 11 Fairway clubs
 - 12 Red-carpet walkers
 - 13 rule
 - 14 Sushi-bar selections
 - 15 White rat, e.g.
 - 16 Custardy dessert
 - 17 German article
 - 18 Leafed through
 - 24 Middlemarch author
 - 26 King of Thebes
 - 30 Latin love
 - 32 Buffalo's county
 - 33 Schooner sail
 - 34 Fall sound
 - 35 Being dragged behind
 - 36 Pop singer Jones
 - 37 Oldest annual 1/1 football game
 - 38 Miller title character
 - 39 Narrow ravine
 - 40 12/31 bandleader for 47 years
 - 41 German city
 - 42 Make a new note of
 - 44 Fam. member
 - 45 Grill partner
 - 48 Music genre
 - 52 Backup strategy
 - 53 Retinal cell
 - 54 Early American trailblazer
 - 55 Savor
 - 56 In unison
 - 57 Hoo-ha
 - 58 Kettle handles
 - 61 Magnavox alternative
 - 64 Little shaver
 - 66 Shrinking water of Asia
 - 68 Lawn layer
 - 70 Actor Lee Van
 - 71 Yorba, CA
 - 72 Rush off
 - 74 Reaches over
 - 76 New York city
 - 77 Acts sleepy
 - 80 Seoul-based carrier
 - 81 for Evidence
 - 86 Big swallow
 - 88 Cads
 - 89 Stage direction
 - 90 Innumerable
 - 91 Become sleepy
 - 92 Banished
 - 93 Wordsworth work
 - 94 "Final Four" round
 - 96 Redeems, with "in"
 - 98 Maritime crime
 - 100 UN member since '76
 - 101 Career soldier
 - 102 Board mems., usually
 - 103 Can't stand
 - 104 Westernmost Aleutian
 - 105 Utah's state flower, e.g.
 - 106 Nada
 - 107 Baltic capital
 - 108 Poetic adverb
 - 109 Dairy delivery
 - 111 Driveway material
 - 113 Dot follower
 - 114 Topper

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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.

About 300 miles west of the International Date Line, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND (23 Across), is the first major city to see the new year. The six presidents named JAMES (33 Across): Madison, Monroe, Polk, Buchanan, Garfield and Carter. PEI (87 Across) is short for the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island, named for the father of Queen Victoria.





Spotlight on: Save Our City, local band

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

With two years so far in the making, Save Our City, a local unsigned Downey alternative rock band, is attempting to make a breakthrough in the music industry.

Save Our City got their name originally from a close friend and decided to keep it, as they saw it as a reflection of what they think of society.

The band consists of Jesse Salcido as the lead guitarist, Steven Torres on vocals, Renzo Peñaherrera on rhythm guitar and vocals, Evan Walker as their drummer, and Oscar Morales as their bass player.

Like most bands Save Our City's band members all met at their school, Warren High. It took some problem solving and the right mixture of people to make this band complete.

"Since the beginning of the band there have been lots of dropped members," said various band members. "Finding the right mix of people to give us our sound [was a big obstacle]."

Of course each and every band member was inspired to become a musician which has led them to this band. Inspiration flocked from either their father in Walker's case, a famous musician in Salcido's and Morales' case, or just from the love they have for music in Torres' case, but Peñaherrera says his story is a little different and entertaining. "Well my story is pretty funny," he said. "There was a girl that I told I could play guitar, when I really couldn't, so I picked up the guitar just to play for her. From there on I basically realized it was pretty fun and kept going with it."

The guys shared that Social Distortion, Audio Karate, My Chemical Romance, Nirvana, Dream Theatre, and many other bands are what influence them in their process of music making and what they want their music to sound like.

Save Our City is not new to all the commotion of getting ready for shows and performing their music to different faces.

"The Epic Lounge [was one of my favorite places] because it was



in the heart of my hometown." said Walker. They have played at a variety of places such as local Downey back yards, along with music stores, The Alley in Fullerton, and at Chain Reaction which is located in Anaheim.

In addition to all the places where they have performed, they have also played along side Chump Change, New Season Pilot, and Eyes Break, all are local bands, and many others. A year ago they even got to open for Tempe, Ariz.'s band Eyes Set to Kill.

To do things one could not think of accomplishing and challenging one's self is what Save our City is about.

"We want our fans to really just follow their passions in life," said the band.

Being in a band is a long and

hard commitment to uphold, but there are many positive things to get out of it in return.

"The friendship we all share, and of course being able to play amazing music is awesome," said Salcido.

While friendship and putting out music are perks, releasing stress and hanging out with the guys were two others according to Walker.

With New Years here the band hopes to book new shows and come up with new music for their fans to enjoy. They have demos on their Myspace page which you can go visit and listen to. Information about booking can also be found at <http://www.myspace.com/saveourcityband>.

Downey Rose Float

By Brienne Schar, Intern

Most everyone saw the Tournament of Roses Parade yesterday, but what it takes to build the amazing floats remains shrouded in mystery to most. Downey has had a float in the parade since 1952. This year it took hundreds of volunteers, over 50 types of flowers with over 50,000 roses alone and countless hours of work to bring the Downey float, themed Broadway's Golden Age, to life.

Mayor Mario Guerra was the first mayor to ever ride on Downey's float. He sat at the piano, being the only float-rider not standing. "I'm really excited and thrilled," said Guerra days before the parade. "I'm like a little kid. I take my responsibility very seriously, but you can still have fun on the way."

Nine people rode on the float, including Guerra, the Miss Downey Court and some of the people who constructed the float. Miss Downey Sarah Lopez rode atop the highest part of the float which is three stories high.

Those riding on the float had to arrive at the city hall by 4 a.m. in order to be on the float and in the parade at 7 a.m. Guerra said that he had to cancel his New Year's Eve party in order to be up and ready for the parade.

Building the float is a year-long project, beginning with Tom Neighbors and Decoration Chairman Jason Redfox, who came up with the theme. Redfox said that they have wanted to do a design like this for a long time but it has

not worked into the theme until this year.

"A float is not just a pretty design," Redfox said.

And it isn't. It takes five people working on the float all year to build it. Construction Chairman Kelley Roberts is one of them.

"The challenge to take a picture and bring it to reality," is one of the most challenging things according to Roberts.

Next came the decoration stage, which occurred Dec. 26 through Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., where hundreds of volunteers helped put the finishing touches on the float.

Miss Downey Princess Justine Akil worked 11 hour shifts during this time to help complete the float. She also rode on the 2005 float as a Miss Downey Princess.

"[Riding the float is] amazing. All your hard work all year long is paid off for," she said.

Flower Coordinator Bill Porter is in charge of making sure that the 50 varieties of flowers are arranged in just the right way. The base of the float alone had over 14,000 pink, purple and white roses. Still, not only flowers are seen on the float. There is also a wide variety of seeds, as well as ground strawflower, red bell pepper and sweet onion.

Porter has also driven the float in the past. Since the driver of the float cannot see anything outside the float, they must drive along a painted line on the center of the street, which is usually orange or



pink. There is also a spotter standing on the outside of the float to alert the driver if anyone runs in front of the float.

The cost of flowers alone is approximately \$40,000. Downey's float is one in five which are self-built and non-sponsored. In order to raise this money, the Rose Float Association is present at many of Downey's community activities including the Miss Downey Pageant, Street Faire, Kid's Day, Concerts in the Park, Mr. Downey Competition, and the Holiday Lane Parade.

The float will be on display in front of Embassy Suites on Firestone starting this weekend. The flowers will be sold, kicking off the fundraising for next year's float.

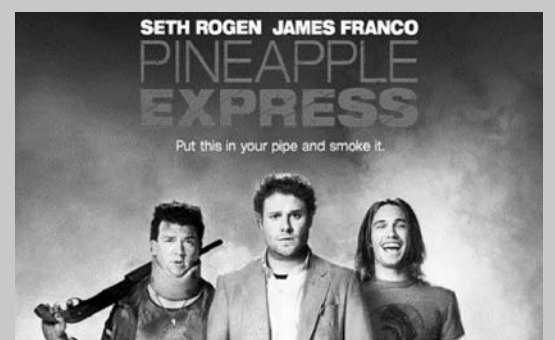
Roberts and Redfox have worked on Downey floats for the past 29 years, and Porter has been working for 30. All three of them said that they volunteered to decorate as kids and kept coming back.

Warren senior Kevin Garcia helped decorate the float this year, as he has for the past few years.

"It's really fun [to participate in] and is a good way to meet up with people you haven't seen in a long time," he said.

DVD RELEASES FOR JANUARY 6

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Disaster Movie
Pineapple Express
Ping Pong Playa
Righteous Kill
The Wackness
Battlestar Galactica: Season 4
The Tudors: Season 2



DVD RELEASES FOR JANUARY 13

Appaloosa
Hit and Run
My Best Friend's Girl
Swing Vote
Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys



Construction on Campus

By: Michelle Müller, Intern

After long months of construction to what formally was the old library at Warren, students and staff have been able to explore the new building which consists of classrooms for computer courses, along with a luxurious two floor library.

Not only did the completion of construction for this building gratify many teachers, but pleased a lot of students as well. With only seven minutes to get from the office to the X-buildings, which are off to the other end of campus, new pathways were opened which facilitated access to classrooms, and ameliorates having to go through crowded hallways.

Many seniors were in doubt about whether they would have the opportunity to see the improve-

ments that are being made to the campus, before the end of the school year.

"I was very impressed with the new library and L-building," said Warren High School student Maria Corona. "Construction isn't over but at least I get to have a nice new library and classroom before graduating."

The main problem that the construction caused was getting around school through crowded hallways, which caused many students to be late to class on a daily basis.

"The construction really made our walk to and from class frustrating," said Warren student Molly Negrete.

The end of the construction in that area facilitates access for many students who have classes in the W-wing, which is behind the library.

"I am so glad," said Warren student Stephanie Garabay. "We finally

have more than one way to get around. No more traffic jams."

Many students and teachers felt the same way about the construction, but of those long and troublesome months were worth having because of the way the library and the L-building were completed.

"I think it's great," said Warren student, Maria Pedro. "I believe it was for the benefit of students to have a more comfortable zone."

With approximately six months remaining in the school year, the only construction remaining on campus is the renovation of the cafeteria. So far, many believe that it is looking great, and can not wait and see what it will look like after the construction is over.

Marching Bands Represent the City of Downey at Championships

By Sam Yun, Intern

Dazzling blue, red, and gold could be seen as Warren and Downey High School marching bands competed at the annual SCSBOA championships on Saturday. This marked a historic event, because it was the first time in several years that both bands from Downey competed at the championship level.

Throughout the marching season, bands are ranked continuously as they go through competitions and receive points. When Championships come around, the top twelve ranked bands in Southern California (or in SCSBOA—the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association) in each division are chosen to compete.

"We were ecstatic," said Elizabeth Rivas, a member of Downey's Marching Band. "We had a really great show this year, and we were ready to give it our all."

Although Warren was a member of the 5A division, while Downey was a member of the 4A division, each band received the honor of being recognized as one of the top 12 marching bands of their division in Southern California.

This year, Warren's field show was entitled "Winter Sketches," and incorporated a wintry, snowy, and frosty theme. Downey's field show was entitled "Latin Fever," and presented a Latin dance theme.

But both field shows were immensely enjoyable. Downey's field show had

catchy dance music with a special touch added to it this year: singers, who sang several solos and duets within the show. Warren took on a brighter flavor than previous years, and created shapes such as snowflakes on the field.

Although it was Downey's first time in several years to make the championships, they entered and left with fanfare. The Vikings achieved a superb 5th placing out of all the bands in the 4A division. Warren received 8th place out of all the bands in the 5A division.

"We're just thankful for a really good season," said Alexandria Contreras, a member of Warren's marching band. "We're also happy that Downey could join us at championships this year."

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www.thedowneypatriot.com



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Express your comments or concerns regarding news and events around Downey. Our letters to the editor section is a great way to voice those views publicly. We'd also love to hear any feedback you have in general - please feel free to e-mail us at downeypatriot@yahoo.com.

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The Downey Diamondbacks will travel to Florida for the USSSA World Series in late 2009.

Diamondbacks earn World Series berth

DOWNEY – Another Christmas present arrived for the Downey Diamondbacks as they routed the Southern California Stealth in the USSSA Holiday Classic tournament at the Big League Dreams sports complex in West Covina this past weekend.

The 11-0 win capped an undefeated run in the tournament, earning them a berth in the USSSA World Series in Florida at the end of 2009.

The Diamondbacks are really starting to roll after only a few months of existence with this tournament being the second won already.

“Again, like in all of our big wins, this was a team effort,” said manager Dan Nevarez commenting on how happy he was about the progression of the team. “Every player contributed, every player stepped up when we needed it.”

Traveling will be on the minds of all the players now while they prepare to travel for the two World Series tournaments they will be participating in as well as a team trip to Cooperstown in June.

“I guess we should keep our suitcases packed,” said coach Sam Morales.

– *Scott Cobos, Staff Writer*

Little League sign-ups at Furman

DOWNEY – Northwest Downey Little League will host its last two sign-ups for the 2009 baseball season tomorrow and Wednesday at Furman Park.

Registration will be taken tomorrow from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Children ages 5-18 that live in Downey, north of Firestone Boulevard, are eligible to play.

For more information, call Mel Quan at (213) 923-0684 or James Velloff at (562) 861-2696. Information is also online at www.nwlll.org.

Ponytail softball registration

DOWNEY – Spring registration and tryouts for Downey Ponytail Softball will begin tomorrow from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Independence Park, located at 12334 Bellflower Blvd. in Downey.

All girls must tryout in their age division:

- 8 years and under: 10 a.m., Jan. 10 and 2:30 p.m., Jan. 18
- 10 years and under: 12 p.m., Jan. 11 and 12:30 p.m., Jan. 17
- 12 years and under: 12:30 p.m., Jan. 10 and 12 p.m., Jan. 18
- 14 years and under: 2:30 p.m., Jan. 11 and 10 a.m., Jan. 17

For more information, call (562) 904-8000.

Recession taking a toll on health

The latest victim of the economic recession could be your health. According to a recent AARP survey, one in five adults ages 45 and older are suffering health problems due to financial stress. The survey details the health care problems and challenges many Americans are facing because of the current economic situation.

“Right now people are increasingly concerned about their jobs, retirement savings and simply being able to provide for their families and it’s taking a major toll on their health,” said Bob Gallo, AARP Illinois Senior State Director. “It’s a harsh irony that worrying about being able to afford health care is actually causing health problems.”

Key findings from the AARP survey, Impact of Economy on Health Behaviors, include:

- 20% of people 45 and older reported health problems due to financial stress
 - About one fifth, 22%, have delayed seeing a doctor due to cost
 - 16% had to use retirement savings or other savings to pay for medical care
 - 21% have cut back on other expenses in order to afford their medical care
 - One in six, 16%, are not confident they will be able to afford health care in the coming year
- The survey also found that health problems due to financial stress is

having a greater affect on individuals 45-54 and 55-64, than on those ages 65 and older (22% and 25% vs. 13%, respectively).

Mounting health care costs are contributing to the financial woes felt by many. Over the last five years health insurance premiums for families have increased by 65 percent. The average cost of health insurance for an American family now exceeds the yearly income of a minimum wage worker. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, insurance premiums have increased 119 percent from 1999 to 2008, while workers’ earnings have risen just 29 percent.

“Clearly rising health care costs during difficult financial times is a major cause for concern for many people,” added Gallo. “In Illinois, AARP will work side by side with state lawmakers to address the growing health care crisis.”

In Illinois, AARP is advocating for health care quality measures to establish needed reforms in the insurance industry, helping to ensure people are not denied coverage because of pre-existing health conditions, their age or other factors. AARP will also press for the expansion of health insurance through Medicaid to cover people between the ages of 50-64. At the national level, AARP is working on several measures to ensure health care is affordable and accessible.

The full survey can be found at the following link: http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/healthcosts_08.html

Theater presenting Neil Simon dramedy

LA HABRA – The La Habra Depot Theatre continues their ‘08-09 season with Neil Simon’s “Prisoner of Second Avenue,” playing Jan. 16 – Feb. 8.

“I’m unraveling...I’m losing touch!” exclaims 47-year-old Mel Edison at the start of the dark comedy. Amid the chaotic hustle and bustle of the city that never sleeps, Edison finds himself increasingly disillusioned with the uncertain status of his job, the continual annoyances of an apartment with faulty amenities and a society decaying in stability and values.

The La Habra Depot transforms their stage to New York’s Upper Eastside for this Tony Award nominated production.

“I was drawn to the complexity of the serious subject matter told in a very comedic and entertaining way,” said director Phillip Brickley.

“Prisoner of Second Avenue” opened on Broadway in November 1971 and ran for nearly two years. The dramedy was nominated for Best Play in 1972.

Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 students, children and seniors.

Reservations are available by calling (562) 905-9625 or online at www.lhdepotheatre.org.



“Prisoner of Second Avenue” will be presented at the La Habra Depot Theatre starting Jan. 16.

Mended Hearts support group to start

DOWNEY – Mended Hearts is currently establishing a chapter at Downey Regional Medical Center.

The public is invited to attend its first Mended Hearts meeting at DRMC hospital conference room B, at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 12.

There is no charge to attend the meeting which will feature presentations by Registered Nurse Elsa Sacedo on diabetes and heart disease, Mended Hearts Assistant Western Regional Director Ron Manriquez, and DRMC cardiac rehabilitation staff.

The Mended Hearts programs help people understand that there can be a rich, rewarding life after heart disease. Members listen, share their experiences, learn from healthcare professionals, and volunteer to talk to other heart patients about what they may face – including lifestyle changes, depression, recovery, and treatment.

For additional information about Mended Hearts, visit online at www.mendedhearts.org. For more information about the Jan. 12 meeting, call DRMC Cardiac Rehabilitation Department at (562) 904-583.

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FREE!!! Jewelry Cleaning No purchase necessary. Limit 2 pieces per customer.	15% OFF Any Purchase \$100 or More Not to be used with any other offer.	\$5.00 OFF Jewelry and Watch Repairs Min \$25.00 Purchase. Not to be used with any other offer.
15% OFF All Engraving Min. \$20.00 Purchase. Not to be used with any other offer.	FAST-FIX JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIRS Valid at participating locations only	\$2.00 OFF Any Watch Battery Not to be used with any other offer.

Stonewood Center
1st floor next to See's Candy
205 Stonewood St. #B3
Downey 90241 (562) 862-7100

New Location

Johnnie's MAYTAG

Home Appliance Center
SALES (New & Rebuilt) SERVICE (All Major Brands)

Factory Authorized MAYTAG/Whirlpool Service Dealer
Free Local Delivery Free Haul Off

(562) 861-3819 (562) 927-7433

12018 Paramount Blvd., Downey - New Location State Reg. A30349

Pennine Plumbing, Inc.
(Formerly Hoffner Plumbing, Inc.)
Serving this neighborhood for over 30 years

• SERVICE • REPAIR •

Free Estimates
(562) 803-5406 or (800) 400-5145

Drain & sewer cleaning, water heaters, copper re-pipes, heating & toilet repairs

10% OFF with this coupon (after price has been quoted)

THOMAS VETERINARY HOSPITAL
11548 S. Downey Avenue, Downey

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm, 3:00pm - 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 1:00pm
(562) 923-9497

Full Service Veterinary Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry

FREE Exam! First time customers only. Must bring coupon. Expires 1/15/09. **\$33 Value**

\$5 OFF Vaccinations. Expires 1/15/09.

\$10 OFF Any Dental Cleaning. Expires 1/15/09.

VIP WORKOUT

• PERSONAL TRAINING • FITNESS CONSULTING • WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
• Private Exercise Facility: No membership fees & conveniently located in Downey
• Customized Exercise Programs: Based on your fitness-level with ongoing program modifications for fast & long-term results

• Certified Personal Trainers: Staff has over 20 years experience helping people achieve their fitness goals.

• Client Results: Have more energy & feel better today - receive VIP Treatment @ VIP Workout.

Call (562) 904-4164 for free consultation
11600 Paramount Blvd., Suite E, Downey

Dorothy Thompson Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Dorothy Thompson has been moved from Messiah Lutheran Church to Downey First Christian Church, 10909 S. New Street. The church is located on the corner of 4th and New St. in Downey. The service is January 3 at 11:00 a.m.



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Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year. May 2009, bring good health and much happiness to you all.
Carrie Uva

2 HOUSES!
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
Charming Duplex in Downey with 2 BD, 2 BA and other unit 1 BD and 1 BA.
Price: \$420,000
Call Carrie @ 562-382-1252

ACT FAST!
NOW IT CAN BE YOURS!
5 BD, 4 BA, 7,600 sq. ft. lot., to be complete by 2009! \$1,199,950
Call Jason Lockwood
562-619-2979

JUST LISTED!
PRICED FOR A QUICK SALE!
Charming 3 BD, 2 BA, home w/ hardwood floors, family room & 2 car garage.
PRICE: \$325,000
Call Carrie @ 562-382-1252

MOVE RIGHT IN!
WOW! WHAT A VALUE!
3 BD, 2 BA, Master Suite, 8,050 sq. ft. HUGE lot.
PRICE: \$180,000
Call Sonia Banuelos
(562) 972-7115

GUEST HOUSE!
HOUSE AND GUEST HOUSE!
Super clean 3 BD, 2 BA home with central air & heat and 1 BD, 1 BA guest house.
Price: \$479,900
Call Carrie @ 562-382-1252

JUST LISTED
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
3 BD, 2 BA, 1,373 sq. ft.
ONLY \$280,000
Call James Polidore
(310) 487-5703

AVOID PROBATE!
• Living Trusts • Wills
New Year's Resolution
Make Your Living Trust!!!
CALL CARRIE TODAY!
(562) 382-1252

LONG BEACH
GREAT CURB APPEAL
2 BD, Large Family Room w/ Fireplace PRICE: \$399,000
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562-618-0390

Mario Persico
"Mario Did it AGAIN!"
562-533-7433
www.MarioPersico.com

OPEN HOUSE
FIT FOR A KING!
Huge Master Suite. Glorious kitchen & Family room 4 BD, 3BA, 3000 + Sq ft. Remodeled!!
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SHORT SALE APPROVED!
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
HUGE 3 BD, 3BA. Amazing Floorplan! Vacant & Move in Ready!
Sold in '05 for 740k Now...\$499,000!!

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LEISURE WORLD BEAUTY
Stunning remodeled 2 BD, 2 BA. HUGE 1 story PERFECT LOCATION!!
Priced to Sell!
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N. E. DOWNEY!
LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!
Stunning 4 BD, 3 BA, Entertainers Dream AMAZING Floor plan 3000 + sq.ft. on 1/4 acre!
Call Mario for price @ 562 533 7433

Buying?... or Selling?...
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FREE Market Evaluation
FREE Short Sale Analysis
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Move Right In!
3 BD, 1BA, 986 sq ft, 5304 sq ft lot., good size back yard, and newer kitchen.
Price: \$335,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

Warm and Friendly!
3BD, 1BA, Orange Estates home, on a large lot. The home has copper plumbing and the property has a newer sprinkler system.
Price: \$439,900
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

Downtown Downey Development!
2BR+den, 1BA house w/ 2 car garage & large parking in backyard, on a 8799 sq ft lot, can be built into a 7000 sq ft office/retail bldg.
Price: \$499,900
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

A Sizzling Buy!
4 BD, 3 BA remodeled North Downey pool home, large master bedroom, travertine floors, granite counters, and much more.
Price: \$599,900
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Cherokee Estates Charmer!
4BD, 2.75 BA, N. Downey Home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w. newer appliances & granite counters, pool size yard, 9900 sq ft. lot, and a master bedroom.
Starting at \$699,000!
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

New 2007 Construction!
4BR + office, 4BA, approx 3100 sq. ft., marble floors, granite countertops, large master bedroom.
Price: \$825,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

Paradise Found!
Wonderful 5BR, 4.5 BA home, including a master suite with too many amenities to list, family room w/ fireplace, a loft/family room, and more!
Price: \$875,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

A Real Steal!
5 BD + office, 4 BA, master suite w/ fireplace, 3,750 sq ft, 6,480 sq ft lot.
Price: \$929,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

Let's Make a Deal!
5BD, 4BA, 3800sq ft., pool and spa, 3 car garage.
Price: \$975,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111


New 2007 Construction!
NE Downey pool home w/ 5 BD, 4 BA, 4700 sq ft living space, 7500 sq ft lot, gorgeous master suite w/ fireplace & balcony.
Price: \$1,199,950
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

One of Cheapest Homes (Per Sq Ft) in Area!
6 BR, 6 BA, 5500 sq ft living space, 7,590 sq ft lot size, built-in BBQ, located in Northeast Downey near schools!
Price: \$1,199,950
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

Northeast Downey Estate!
Northeast Downey Estate! 5 bed, 4 bath, 3966 sq ft house + 1000 sq ft guest house on a 20,040 sq ft lot. Remodeled like new 6 years ago and priced to sell @ \$1,899,900.
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com

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New classes and programs available every quarter. Most classes fill to capacity. Pre-register and assure your spot by calling or visiting today!

Winter Quarter Begins January 5th, 2009

562.940.6200 www.das.edu
On the corner of Woodruff Blvd and Imperial Hwy

If you are considering weight loss surgery and want to learn more about it...

Speaker
Shyam Dahiya, MD
Board-certified general and laparoscopic surgeon with more than 26 years of experience.

• **Thursday Jan. 8, 2009 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

Lakewood Regional Medical Center Conference Room
3700 E. South St. Lakewood

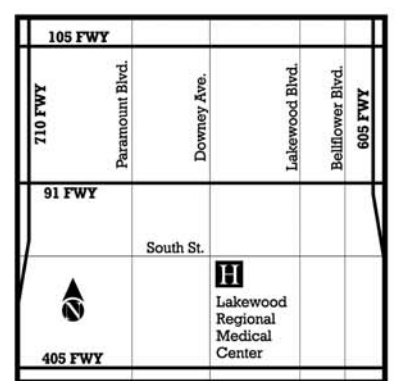
R.S.V.P. 1-800-813-4345

Join us for a free seminar from Shyam Dahiya, M.D.

Topics include:

- An overview of surgical weight loss options
- Open and minimally invasive approaches
- Complications and side effects
- Good candidates for surgery

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