

The Downey Patriot



\$50K donation to DUSD
See Page 12



Resident wins local contest
See Page 2

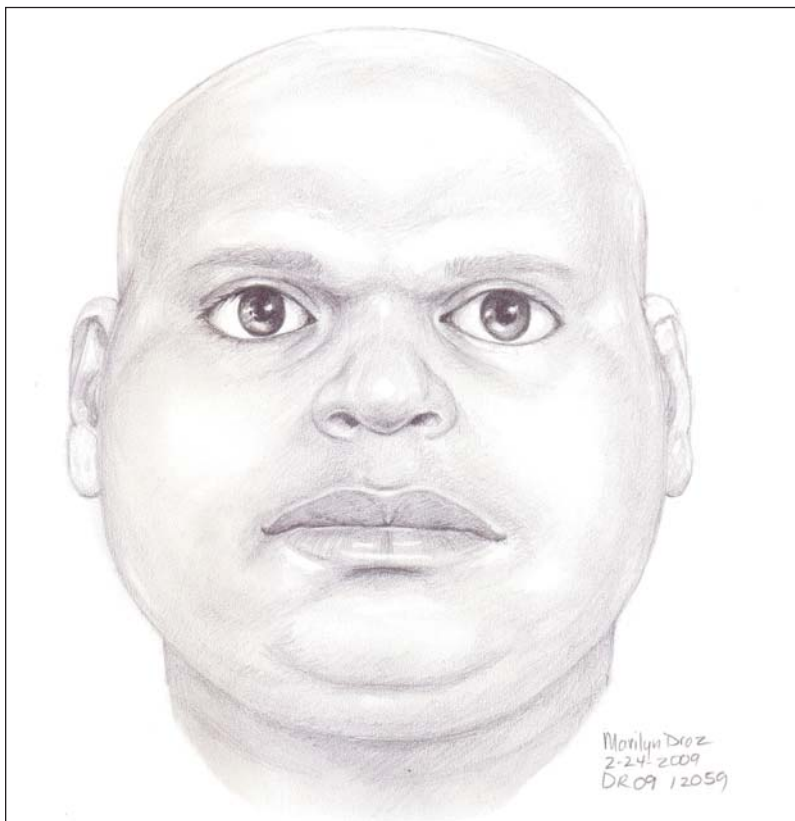


Kids pumped up for race
See Page 3

Friday, March 6, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 46

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



Police have released the composite sketch of a man they say raped a woman inside a Downey barbershop last week. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359.

Suspect sought in barbershop rape

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Police are seeking the public's help in capturing a man who sexually assaulted a female employee inside a Downey barbershop last week.

The victim was closing the store, located on the 12000 block of Paramount Boulevard, at about 7:45 p.m. Feb. 23 when the assailant asked to use the restroom before getting his hair cut, police said. When he exited, he pretended to have a gun and demanded money from the victim, which she did not have. The man then took the victim to a back room and raped her, police said.

The man drove off in an older model white Honda coupe parked

in front of the barber shop and headed westbound on Cole Street from Paramount Boulevard. The license plate contained the numbers "44".

The Sheriff's Department's is conducting forensic tests on evidence left at the scene, said Downey police Sgt. Randy Wells. Results typically take about two weeks to come back, Wells said.

The suspect is described as a male Hispanic in his late 30's with a bald or shaved head, 5 feet 8, and weighing about 210 pounds. He was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and white shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359.

Deadly shooting rattles Island community

■ Police seek two men in suspected gang shooting that left one resident dead.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A suspected gang-related shooting left one man dead near Treasure Island Park on Monday night, leaving family members and neighbors to grieve and cry out against escalating gang violence in the secluded Northwest Downey neighborhood.

Police responded to a shots fired call on the 7300 block of Cleargrove Street at about 8:22 p.m. Monday, said Downey police Sgt. Randy Wells. Officers found the victim, identified as 20-year-old Francisco Josue Iniguez, of Downey, lying on the front lawn of a home with gunshot wounds to his body and head.

Iniguez was treated by paramedics and taken to the trauma unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood where he was pronounced dead, Wells said.

According to neighbors and police, Iniguez was part of a group of young men playing soccer on the residential street when two unidentified men approached. Witnesses say the men asked Iniguez's younger brother "where he was from." When Iniguez approached to find out what was going on, an argument ensued.

Iniguez was shot several times, Wells said.

"They shot him execution style.

He fell into his brother's arms and the gangsters ran off," said Lucy Rivero, a neighborhood resident who identified herself as a friend of the family's.

The men, described as Hispanics between 20-30 years old, were last seen running into Treasure Island Park, police said.

"We don't believe this to be a random act," Wells said.

Wells said the neighborhood, located in a secluded area of Downey near Suva Street and across the Los Angeles River, has seen an increase in crime recently. Most of the problems stem from late-night loitering with drug use and alcohol consumption in the park, Wells said.

"But it should be said that most of the activity coming into Downey is from Bell Gardens," said Wells. "It's usually not Downey residents we see out there."

As residents of the neighborhood huddled Tuesday around a makeshift shrine placed by Iniguez's family and friends, neighbors lambasted city officials for allowing the crime to get out of hand.

"I just saw 10 gangbangers in [Iniguez's] house and I heard they were probably going to go retaliate," said one resident who wished

See SHOOTING, page 2



Fire Chief Jeff Turner has been with the Downey Fire Department for 33 years. He replaced Mark Sauter late last year.

There's fire in chief Turner's blood

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

Even before Fire Chief Jeff Turner joined the fire service some 33 years ago, he was already steeped in its culture. His father was a fire captain for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "I grew up with the fire service," he says.

Turner's fire service career started inauspiciously with a stint as a wildland firefighter for the county fire department, then as a firefighter for the city of Azusa. In 1979, he and Mark Sauter (they went to high school together), signed up at the same time with the Downey Fire Department.

He says one particularly valuable thing he brought to the department was people skills, which he honed in high school, where he played football and baseball.

When Sauter was made deputy city manager for emergency management last December to avoid potentially disruptive future scenarios such as a major disaster or another boil water order incident, the mantle of fire chief fell on Turner.

There is yet another connection worth mentioning. Turner was born at the old Downey Community Hospital (now DRMC), but grew up in the same Norwalk neighborhood as Police Chief Roy Campos'. The family was to move later to La Mirada.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Turner nevertheless points with pride to his rapid rise within the department. His selection to go to paramedic school in May of 1980 came as a result, he says, of displaying good judgment and soundness in his field work.

Four years later, in August of 1984, he earned a promotion to fire engineer. This meant getting to drive the fire engine and the ladder truck. At the same time he got involved with department training issues and with Joint Powers Communication Center (JPCC) operations which serve the cities of Downey, Santa Fe Springs, Compton and Montebello.

His next significant promotion in February of 1986, this time to captain, included "bugles"—a fire service term indicating one has

See TURNER, page 4

Warren forces OT, but loses in thriller

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Regulation time wasn't enough, but overtime was a little too much in the CIF Southern Section Division VII finals for the Warren girl's water polo team in their 10-9 loss against Cerritos High School last Saturday.

The game saw four different lead changes and an overtime period that was forced after Warren tied the score 9-9 with seconds left in regulation.

Cerritos was first on the board with two goals, but the Bears came charging back and led 7-5 with 5:34 left in the fourth quarter. After another change in momentum, Cerritos scored three more goals and led 8-7.

With 6.9 seconds remaining in regulation, Warren drew a 5 meter penalty and capitalized with a score from freshman Ivana Castro that sent the game into overtime.

The game remained tied at 8-8 after the first quarter of overtime. Cerritos took the lead, 9-8, in the second quarter, but a goal from junior Brittany Vasquez tied the game once again.

The Lady Bears came close to

clinching a championship when Amber Smith fired a point-blank shot that clanked off a crossbar and floated by the goal long enough for Cerritos' Jane Kok to grab it.

But with just under nine seconds left on the clock, Cerritos' Raquel Gabayeron beat Warren goalie Kristyn Casas for the game winner.

Warren was led in scoring by Ivana Castro with four goals, followed by senior Hannah Colvin with three. Goalie Kristyn Casas recorded a career high 17 blocks.

Prior to this season, the Bears had never advanced past the first round of playoffs. The team will be honored in April at the All CIF Awards Banquet, which recognizes CIF finalist teams from all divisions.

Senior Leslie Poole, captain of the team, will sign a letter of intent to play water polo for Wagner College, a Division I school, Warren head coach Josie Cordero said. Poole will be the first water polo player in Warren's history to attend a Division I school on a scholarship, Cordero said.

Warren finishes their season 25-8.

Additional reporting by Eric Pierce.



Warren came up short in overtime, 10-9, in the CIF Finals against Cerritos High School last week. Photo by James Quick III



Yogi Ramesh Pandey, center, shown during a recent taping for a London news show, will give a free yoga demonstration tomorrow at the Downey farmers market.

Yoga expert giving free demonstration

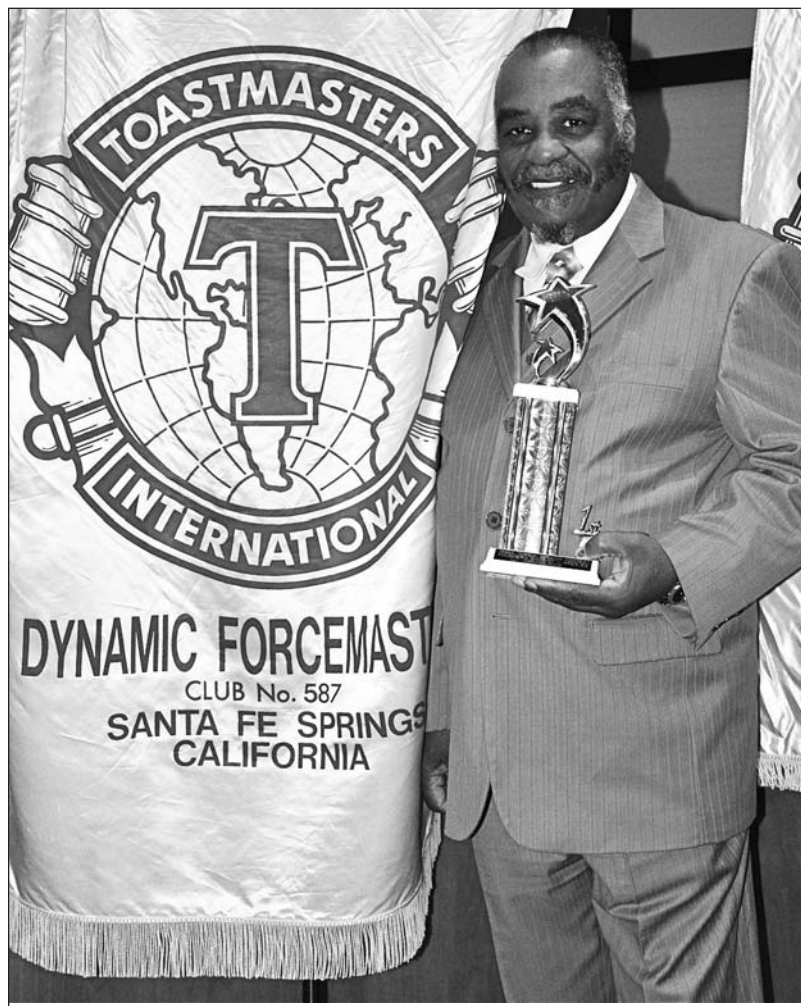
DOWNEY – Local yoga expert Yogi Ramesh Pandey will offer a free demonstration session of his widely-acclaimed "Laughing Yoga" program tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at the Downey farmers market.

Different from traditional yoga, laughing yoga focuses on controlled breathing exercises, positive thoughts, and laughter.

Ramesh began learning yoga at age 5, and has been practicing for more than 40 years. A yoga teacher the past 25 years, he is a member of the California Yoga Teachers Association and the founder of the Universal Yoga Center in Paramount. He also leads classes at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

For more information on Ramesh, visit his website at www.laughingyogi.org.

The Downey farmers market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Second Street, between New Street and La Reina Avenue.



Richard Elliot, of Downey, won first place in Toastmaster International's Area E-2 International Table Topics Contest in Santa Fe Springs.

Residents do well in competition

DOWNEY – Downey resident Richard Elliot, representing Downey's Toastmaster Club 587, took first place in a recent competition in Santa Fe Springs.

Elliot won Toastmaster International's Area E-2 International Table Topics Contest, which took place Feb. 21 inside Santa Fe Springs' council chambers.

Freddy Clark, also representing Club 587, won second place in the International Speech Contest.

Elliott will now compete in the Division E contest scheduled for March 21 at the Smart and Final headquarters in Commerce.

Perfitt scheduled to speak

DOWNEY – John Perfitt, economic development director for Downey, will be the guest speaker at Wednesday's meeting of Citizens for Downey at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Perfitt is expected to speak on key areas of planning and development, including the Avenue Theatre and Verizon building in Downtown Downey.

The meeting's new start time is 7:30 a.m. A breakfast buffet will be available for \$7 per person, or \$10 per couple. No reservations are required and the community is welcome.

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StoryTime Festival on March 14

DOWNEY – The Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary of Assistance League of Downey will hold its annual StoryTime Festival at the Downey City Library on March 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Activities will include readings of selected stories, a book giveaway, and face painting. The free event is for kids in preschool through fifth grade.

Children are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early.

Curves collecting food for needy

DOWNEY – During the month of March, Curves of North Downey is collecting food to donate to local food banks.

Over the past five years, nearly 50 million pounds of food has been distributed to local communities through the national Curves Food Drive.

"The Curves Food Drive is always exciting," said Meena Katakia, owner of the Downey club, located at 9206 Lakewood Blvd. "We have a chance to help so many people at a time when the food banks are lowest. Especially during these uncertain times, this food is needed more than ever."

For more information on the food drive, call (562) 862-2220.

Scholarships for students available

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey is once again offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from DUSD high schools who have "excelled as community volunteers."

To qualify, students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be in good standing with their school, including citizenship and attendance.

Applications are available at school guidance offices. Completed applications should be mailed to the Assistance League of Downey, Scholarship Award Committee, 11026 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241. Applications must be postmarked by March 31.

Awards will be announced at the annual awards assembly scheduled at their respective high school at the end of the school year.

E-waste collection March 28

DOWNEY – West Middle School will be collecting e-waste March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of a fundraiser supporting the school's students.

Residents can dispose of their broken or unwanted televisions, computers, monitors, printers, scanners, circuit boards, copiers, fax machines, audio visual equipment, CD and DVD players, telephones, cell phones, and most other electronic devices.

If you have a large number of items, or something too big to bring, call Omni Technics at (562) 627-1910.

Items that can not be collected include large household appliances, broken glass, fluorescent devices, batteries, toxic materials, or unsafe-to-handle products.

West Middle School is at 11985 Old River School Rd.

Soroptimists honoring local women

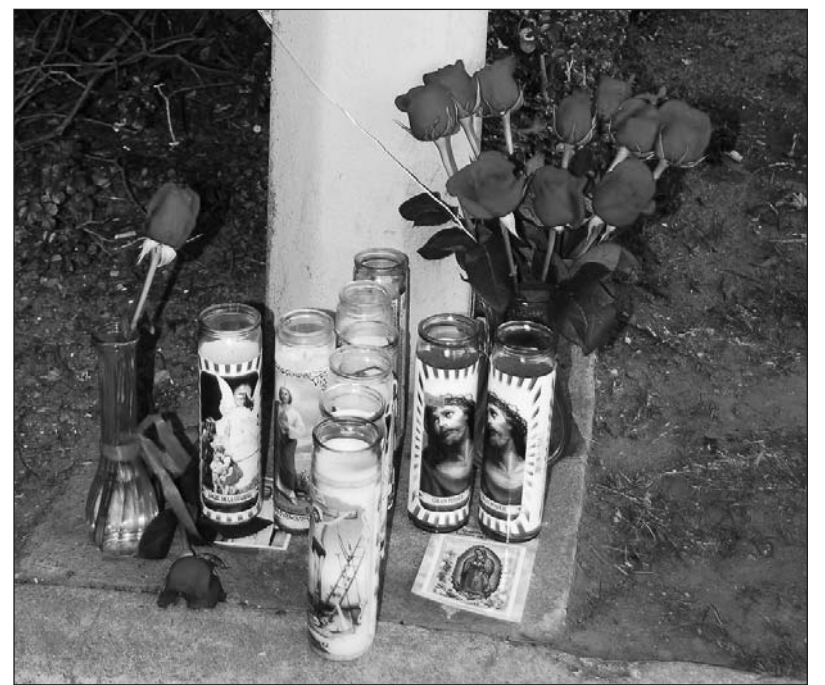
DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey will host its annual Women of Distinction award breakfast March 26 at 7:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

The honorees are Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer, director of the LivingHelp Center; Dr. Wendy Doty, superintendent of the Downey Unified School District; Katie Hare, businesswoman and community volunteer; and Mary Zoe Phillips, philanthropist involved with the Medical Books for China program.

Being honored with the Violet Richardson Award for student volunteer of the year is Carli Ciatti.

A new award this year, Making a Difference for Women, will be awarded to Nina Smart, founder of Servicing Wild Flowers International, an organization formed to stop the practice of involuntary female circumcision in the West African country of Sierra Leone.

For information and reservations, call (562) 861-9874.



Candles, balloons and flowers help mark the spot where 20-year-old Francisco Josue Iniguez was gunned down in a suspected gang-related shooting Monday night. Photo by Art Montoya

Shooting: Residents say crime is rampant at local park.

Continued from page 1

to stay anonymous out of fear for her safety. "And then the other gang is going to retaliate back and they're going to shoot up the neighborhood. I live here. Now I'm involved."

Rivero, the family friend, helped found Unity in the Community six years ago. She said the neighborhood group has made great strides in improving the community, but problems exist, particularly at Treasure Island Park.

Rivero said residents have been lobbying for security lights at the park the last five years, but have been rebuffed by city officials.

"It's just ridiculous. We want action, and we want to know why we don't have lights," said Rivero, who claimed the park is often littered with needles, bottles and condoms. "There are drug sales in the park every day. Every day!"

"Politicians come out here before every election and promise change. They promise to help us

become a safer community. We vote for them and then they disappear. They have other priorities I guess."

Councilman Roger Brossmer attended a community meeting in the neighborhood Tuesday night. He said he would include the installation of park security lights on the City Council agenda this Tuesday.

"Although lights would not have prevented this tragedy from occurring, we see security lights at the park as a health and safety issue," Brossmer said.

Preliminary estimates have the lights costing about \$150,000, said Brossmer. Unless the city is successful in securing a grant to pay for the lights, the project will have to be paid out of the city's general fund.

In the meantime, detectives are hoping for more help from the community. Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call detectives at (562) 904-2332

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March 28, 2009

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Alleged drunk driver crashes into garage

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Police arrested a 20-year-old suspected drunk driver last night after he allegedly stole his mother's car and collided with two vehicles before crashing into a garage.

The *Long Beach Press-Telegram* first reported the incident on its website Thursday morning.

The man took his mother's 2002 Nissan Altima at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, the newspaper reported. He allegedly crashed into a vehicle at 7646 Phlox St., contin-

ued driving, and hit another car at 11423 Horton Ave.

He then slammed the car into the home's detached garage, the newspaper reported.

The man ran to his sister's house at 7953 5th St. where family members restrained him until police arrived, according to reports.

The man, who has not been publicly identified, was arrested for grand theft auto, leaving the scene of an accident, and for driving under the influence of alcohol, police officials said.



The San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles made a \$25,000 donation to the hospital last week. President Rosie Shelton made the presentation, which will help the hospital as they construct a new 7-level, 460,000 sq. ft. facility. For membership information, call (562) 862-6015.



The Women's Guild at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will be hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon honoring their past presidents on March 14. The event will be held at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 11 a.m. Pictured from left: Bette Lloyd, Charlene McCluskey, Joyce Prokop and Terry Rodriguez.



The Gauldin Dolphin Fitness Club, composed of Gauldin Elementary School students, represented Downey in the 27th annual Race on the Base at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. The 5K marathon raises money for the Cancer Support Foundation. The Gauldin students donned camouflage T-shirts and Army face paint and were complemented by military personnel as they ran the five miles. "The kids were inspired to run for a cause of great importance and learned a lesson about putting others before themselves," said Alex Gaytan, the fitness club's advisor.

Lifeguard training offered at DHS

DOWNEY – Lifeguard certification training, approved by the American Red Cross, will be offered during spring break, April 13-17, at the Downey Aquatic Center at Downey Adult School.

The course, offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will provide the necessary minimum skills training for a person to qualify to serve as a non-surf lifeguard. Students must be at least 15 years old at the time of the course to participate (proof of age is necessary at time of registration).

Students will receive certificates of completion on the final day of class if they pass both the written and physical testing.

The fee for the week is \$110, which includes the training book, pocket mask and certification card.

Registration is underway at City Hall. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

DRMC featured on news program

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center was recently featured on the KCET program, "SoCal Connected," as the news show examined the hospital's challenges in light of area emergency room closures and declining MediCal reimbursement rates.

The show, which originally aired Feb. 19, also explains how the hospital has one of the three emergency rooms currently serving the 105 Freeway Axis – down from seven emergency rooms just 10 years ago.

Several members of the nursing staff are interviewed for the show, along with Rob Fuller, Downey Regional's chief operating officer.

"SoCal Connected" airs throughout Southern and Central California on KCET. New episodes are broadcast Thursdays at 8 p.m., with encores throughout the weekend. The show recently won two Golden Mikes, including Best News Public Affairs Show.

To view the 8 1/2 minute segment, go online to www.drnci.org and click the link on the left hand side of the home page.

Crime Watch

Friday, February 27:

At 1:20 p.m. two students were arrested for selling and distributing marijuana brownies at a local middle school. No one was injured

At 10:15 p.m. 11 juveniles were cited for curfew violations in the area of the Krikorian Theatre; one of the juveniles was in possession of marijuana and a spray paint can. All were released to their parents. None of the cited juveniles actually attended a movie and most were either skateboarding or just "hanging out."

At 11 p.m. shots were fired in the 8800 block of Dalen Street. A resident returned home and found a bullet hole in her living room wall. No one was injured.

Saturday, February 28:

At 9:45 p.m. an attempted kidnapping occurred in the 11200 block of Garfield Ave. The male victim managed to fight the suspect off. He was not injured.

At 10:35 p.m. shots were fired in front of 12417 Clark Ave. The suspect(s) fled before officers arrived. No one was injured.

Sunday, March 1:

At 4:45 p.m. officers stopped a stolen vehicle in the 9300 block of Elm Vista Drive. The driver was arrested and charged with grand theft.

Source: Downey Police Department

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Turner: Confident, calm and charming.

Continued from page 1

attained 'brass' or significant rank. He was 30 years old, and had been with the department less than seven years. As captain, Turner served as training officer, a USAR (search and rescue) team member, and broadened his work with JPCC.

He had also by this time accumulated many hours doing volunteer work with the kids at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, an activity he remains committed to today.

In early 1995 came another promotion, this time to battalion chief. His duties included managing the JPCC, work with which he was thoroughly familiar, and overseeing the department's stations and grounds. He was also put in charge of the city's preparedness efforts, tasked with ensuring city services were not interrupted through the century change. Meanwhile, in 2000 and again in 2006, he worked tours of duty as the assistant fire chief (a position now vacant and frozen because of economic constraints).

As everyone knows, fire is a two-edged sword. If tamed, it works wonders. Untamed, it destroys. Armed with the fire code and attuned to the other provisions and nuances of the municipal code, DFD seeks to prevent injury or loss of life and property due to fire.

Educating the public—residents, schoolchildren, etc.—on fire safety is therefore a major part of its mission. Citing a 2006 finding that U. S. fire departments across the country responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires, the department insists that many of these fires could have been prevented by taking simple precautions.

Thus the sharp focus the department places on safety training and fire prevention. "Our personnel put in a minimum of twenty hours a month in training," says Turner. There are also the year-round random visits to businesses, etc. Easily a high point of the year is its weeklong mock 'drink-and-drive' traffic collision dramatization staged at Downey High to jar seniors' senses right before prom night.

"We're always looking to do better in what we do," he says.

The department is on emergency response alert 24/7, working three shifts 365 days a year. "This is priority number one," Turner says. "We're lucky in Downey because the big one hasn't hit yet. Mind you also, Downey lies along the LAX flight corridor. We've got to be ready for anything, anytime."

The city recognizes the indispensable role DFD plays in the city's welfare. Together, the budgets for police and fire alone account for two-thirds of the general fund—an index of the city's priorities. To augment JPCC's operations and further enhance the departments' emergency response capability, Downey has joined the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), a radio system designed to provide voice and data information across the entire county, which should prove valuable especially in the event of a major disaster.

Rounding out the city's arsenal against such threats is its latest creation, Sauter's emergency management function.

The father of two, he exudes an easy charm along with a certain calm and confidence, born no doubt of a supportive family (his parents reside in San Clemente), knowledge (requirements for his public administration degree from Cal State-LA are almost complete; he has completed a college-level fire chiefs certification course sponsored by the state fire marshal's office), solid experience, and unwavering dedication to the fire service. His 22-year old married daughter Amanda six months ago presented him and his wife, Gail, with twin boys—Turner and Tyler. Younger daughter Alixandra attends CSU-Long Beach.

Chief Turner will further articulate his vision for the department in two weeks, at the second installment of the City Council Priority Workshop. No dramatic announcements are anticipated, a sure sign that all systems are go at the department. "I enjoy what I do, serving the people," he says. "And I'm having fun."



Downey High School students are collecting pennies to donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The school has raised nearly \$200,000 the last four years. From left: students Heather Miller, Aileen Manjarrez, Nickelodeon star Simon Curtis, Kristin Nepi, and Catalina Guzman.

Downey collecting pennies for patients

DOWNEY – Downey High School students are collecting spare pennies as it works to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Downey High participates in the Pennies for Patients fundraiser annually. Downey has been one of the top four fundraising schools in the nation the past five years, and the No. 1 school in the region the last eight years.

In 2006, the Vikings were the top fundraising school in the nation, collecting \$50,000. Over the past four years, Downey High has raised \$198,425, school officials said.

Downey High's ASB organizes the drive, and this year is led by senior Jessica Montoro. Nickelodeon star Simon Curtis, a cancer survivor himself, recently attended Downey's kick-off assembly.

The drive runs through March 31. To donate to the fundraiser, call Cindy Foley at (562) 869-7301, ext. 5568. Checks can be made out to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Day camp for kids available

DOWNEY – Kids ages 6-14 are invited to spend spring break at Wilderness Park for a day camp offered by the city of Downey Community Services Department.

From April 13-17, children can enjoy crafts, cooking and games, all managed by an experienced staff. Cost is \$80 and includes materials, supplies, a walking field trip to Rio San Gabriel Park, and a daily snack.

For an additional \$40, extended care is available from 7-9 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.

Registration is currently underway at City Hall. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Casino night tickets on sale

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey invites the community to "A Night at the Copacabana Casino" on April 17 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature live music with a DJ, \$100 in scripts, silent auction, 50/50 drawings, and more.

Pre-sale tickets are \$40 and available now. For tickets, contact Dorothy Pemberton at (562) 927-9908 or Monica Goel at mgoel@tldlaw.com.

Little League opening day tomorrow

DOWNEY – West Downey Little League will host their opening ceremonies tomorrow at West Middle School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event's theme is "America and Baseball."

The event will include free jumpers, a paintball booth, face painting, exhibition games, raffles, food, and special guests. Guests can also enjoy a French toast breakfast for \$2 from 7-9 a.m.

American veterans are also invited to be honored during the ceremony. For more information, e-mail westdowney@yahoo.com.

Retired teachers to meet Tuesday

WHITTIER – The California Retired Teachers Association will meet Tuesday at the Greenleaf Masonic Center in Whittier, where they will enjoy a presentation by Tiny's Troupers, a group of singing and dancing grandmothers.

The public is invited to attend the meeting. For more information, call (562) 696-4474.

County of Los Angeles Downey Cemetery District

The Downey Cemetery District's Niche Garden is available for immediate placement of cremains for residents of Bellflower, Downey, Paramount and parts of South Gate.

Niche prices range from \$700 to \$1,200 plus \$150 endowment fee.

Please call (562) 904-7236 with any questions regarding selection.

Connections Networking
Join us Thursdays at 7:30am
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9306 Firestone Blvd.,
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All American HOME CENTER
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ProNetworkers of Downey
Join us each Friday at 7:15am
Mimi's Cafe, Downey
8455 Firestone Blvd
www.ProNetworkers.com

DOWNEY PARTY RENTALS
10900 Paramount Blvd.
Downey CA 90241
(562) 861-1616

POET'S CORNER

Missing

There was a time, I tell you
when it was young and fresh as morning
and there was I, and it was you
so long ago.
The sawdust floors of any butcher shop at all
will tell you more
The day you died I cried
my sawdust tears
my empty space between the cracks
rivers running seaward with my brine
saline passion spent like water
was that you leaving?

They told me you had gone
my mind wandered like your absence
far...

were you some eastern princess
or the lusty barefoot girl I tossed
once, twice
so long ago
so endlessly my mind forgot to miss you
and sits empty like a coffin
in its never-ending attic of your absence.

—John Quincy Adams,

Sunday Morning

I made the coffee
sharpened the pencils
plumped pillows
planted roses by the front door
little gestures to attract the Muse
I thought I had mastered

the hostess-ing formula
but look-who turned out to be host

he had been here all along
humped up in the pantry unshaven
blinking at daylight
fiddling with broken crayons
not speaking but not keeping quiet either
growling to himself hobo oboe
violets violas

you were expecting a goddess he said
make that a question mark
here's a celestial hint for writing your poem
twenty-six letters

somewhere for no reason
spring rain was coaxing delicate stubble
stroking the fields with delicate fingers

when I returned from the parlor
with teacups and cushions
this creature having set in play
its perpetual motion machine
had left in a whirlwind
leaving me to deal
with the green new wheat

—Lorine Parks,
Downey

Spring

Tiny flowers peeking
out of melting snow
The smell of new earth being turned
New green sprouts
looking for the sun
Songs of birds
returning to my cherry tree
Blue skies, white clouds
sparkling streams

These are spring to me.

—Leona Swanson,
Downey

DINING-OUT DEALS IN DOWNEY

OPEN Lunch and Dinner

Enjoy Our Special Sunday Brunch presented by Executive Chef Zaya (Formerly Le Chef) 10:00am - 2:00pm for only \$16.95. Reservations Suggested. 8425 Firestone Blvd., Downey (562) 861-1900

Reborn 10822 LAKEWOOD BLVD., DOWNEY • 862-0223

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Your choice of any item on the Dinner or Pasta section of our menu. valid only with purchase of two beverages 2 coupons per table • No take-out

BUY ONE DINNER AT REGULAR PRICE GET ONE DINNER FREE! of equal value or less (with coupon only)

Expires 3-13-09 Not good with any other offer

HOT COUPON! Experience Downey's Premier Cuban Bakery & Café

Present this coupon and receive a free coffee and pastelito! (Cuban espresso or american coffee and a guava pastry) One coupon per customer per week. Not valid with other offer. Expires 3-12-09

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* JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (DIGITAL 3DX) G (11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00)

FIRE UP PG-13 (2:10), 7:20

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL PG-13 (11:45, 2:25, 5:10), 7:50, 10:20

CORALINE PG (11:30, 2:00, 4:30), 7:05, 9:35

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU PG-13 (11:10, 4:25), 9:50

TAKEN PG-13 (11:55, 2:20, 5:05), 7:40, 10:00

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE R (11:00, 1:45, 4:35), 7:25, 10:15

PAUL BLART: MALL COP PG (11:50, 2:15, 4:45), 7:15, 9:40

Times for Friday-Thursday, March 6-12, 2009

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Woman's Club of Downey 9813 Paramount Boulevard

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CEO blues

By Eric Pierce

Blessed is the person who thought up the rule not to talk about politics or religion at the workplace. It's a subject that gets people riled up, and really, when's the last time you were successful at changing someone's mind?

Sports and last week's episode of "The Bachelor" are always safer topics of discussion.

But something has been bugging me lately, and it has nothing to do with Jason Mesnick (that creep). What bothers me is that the government is handing out billions upon billions of dollars in bailout money. The government is like a loose slot machine right now, looser than the Slots-A-Fun casino in Vegas.

The government gave Northern Trust bank \$1.6 billion, an unthinkable amount of money that it didn't even ask for. Can't blame someone for accepting free money.

What bothers me is not that the government is doling out billions of dollars per se; what I'm wondering is where did this money come from?

If our country is so flush with dispensable cash, why hasn't the government taken a more aggressive role in feeding the poor, providing shelter for the homeless, or assisting the nation's non-profits?

Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, the government has billions of dollars to give away.

But the ultimate irony is you have to be rich, like a CEO or bank executive, to cash in.

Downey's selling points

Dear Editor:

As I always do, when I talk about Downey with people from other places in L.A., I get the sense that one of the main problems with our city is basically image and identity. Most people really have no idea where Downey is, or what it's about, the people that live there, the community, etc. I find that a lot of people consider this area to be "ghetto." Of course, we all know that it's not, but the fact is that that's the perception, coupled with an urban environment that seems to sprawl at times with no specific direction and intent (I'm talking about design), I believe hinders the possibility of getting high quality investments into the city.

So what I propose is that we look at the possibility of rebranding the city, just as you would a clothing brand or any other consumer product. Downey needs to connect with an image. I believe it's difficult to attract high-end investments when we aren't putting an image out there of the city that calls for that. I feel like we need to make the city look diverse, cultured, artistic, historic, energetic, colorful, young, vibrant, urban, etc. (add in more as you want). By showcasing the elements of our city history that make it unique, (neighborhoods, architecture, 50's, 60's, churches) and combining that with the youthful and colorful nature of the present day, (kids, skateboarding, full grown trees, portraits of people, diversity, different foods, events, families, etc.) I think we can show off Downey in a very unique way that separates us from surrounding cities and makes us attractive again.

Think about what a coffee table book on Downey would look like: well-designed, artistic, colorful, detailed. It would connect with the past... but have a major emphasis on the present. You don't need paragraphs and paragraphs of text. Pictures and the emotional connection you can make with a good photo is worth more than line and line of text. Example: a photo showing the texture of an old brick wall. Not super exciting, but when laid out next to a wider shot of the building, you make a more physical connection with the place, a deeper level of connection. The general feeling I'm getting from traveling around L.A. and in other places is that everything old is new again. There is a newfound appreciation for the past, because people are realizing how unique it is. That's what Downey has, and it needs to showcase it, protect it and take advantage of it.

I know its not an easy task, and we are trying. However, I recently received a brochure from the Downey Chamber of Commerce about doing business in Downey. Maybe you have seen it or not, but I think it does not serve the purpose of showcasing our city well. It's bland, it's not artistic, it's boring, it doesn't excite or show anything important. It just doesn't do a good job of selling the city, and at the end of the day, that's pretty much what it comes down to.

I know many people don't realize the importance of good design, and are really oblivious to it, but let me tell you, it does make a huge difference. We live in a designed environment, and the appearances put forth by those designs affect our psychology, whether it's consciously or unconsciously. Very simple example: the streetlight banners advertising the Farmers Market, black text on a blue background. Bad design, hard to read, bad color choices for high contrast. Most good graphic designers would not make that mistake. Well, anyway, I'm not writing to give a design lesson, my point is that design in the communication of information is very important and we need to take notice of that, and fix those issues. I don't think it takes more money, just a bit of awareness.

Lastly, I will once again reiterate how much I feel like tearing down the Avenue Theatre in favor of housing is a huge missed opportunity to bring entertainment and art and culture into our city. I really hope that there is something that can be done here to find suitable investors to take over that property and create what the downtown area really needs, entertainment! I know they are out there and we shouldn't rush into things, because we're going to have to live with these buildings for some time. I feel like there are other places in our downtown area that could be used for housing. Everyone I talk to says the same thing.

Thanks for reading, and sorry for rambling.

— George Manzanilla,

Downey

Letters to the Editor:

Football lovers wanted

Dear Editor:

Since the fall of 1961, hundreds of generous, giving and knowledgeable men and women from Downey have freely donated their expertise, time and effort to coach youth football – both touch and tackle – and cheerleading.

Downey Pop Warner Football is currently in the process of assembling the coaching staffs for the 2009 season. Interviews for head coaching positions will soon be conducted to fill the many positions required to staff the six tackle and cheerleading teams and several flag teams (last year, Downey Pop Warner Football fielded four flag teams).

Consider becoming a Razorback coach if:

You love the game of football.

You want to give back to the game that gave you so much.

You recognize how few experiences in life there are where you can spend time with so many people focused on a competitive goal.

You enjoy the camaraderie with people you might not otherwise get to know.

You enjoy emotion involved in the competition.

You want to get to know the kids and enjoy watching them learn, grow and mature.

You enjoy the satisfaction of achieving a common goal.

Coaching can be an immensely satisfying choice, particularly today.

The greater need to channel youngster's energy in a positive direction increases each year.

The Razorbacks have been an extraordinarily successful youth organization, placing teams from each of their five divisions in the conference playoffs during the 2008 season and one team played in the conference championship game. The cheerleaders own several conference awards in their competition.

Join the Razorbacks as a coach. Contact Louis Morales, Downey Pop Warner Football president, at (310) 350-0220, or vice president Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183 for further information. Do it today.

— Mike Baumann,

Vice President, Downey Pop Warner Football

Codes, water and rats, oh my

Dear Editor:

Living in the city of Downey has been great for my husband and now myself, but recent events have us wondering if it's all worthwhile.

After the death of my husband's wife of 28 years, in which they had their home here in Downey, he contemplated moving. We met and, courses being set as they were, married four years ago. We again contemplated selling the house, but chose to remodel, adding a bathroom, family room and an office.

Although we had to comply with some brand new requirements from the city that cost us several thousands of dollars more than anticipated, we complied. These new regulations included a water collection system that collects water from our roof and drains it into three drums in our lawn due to the increase in the size of the house. This is supposed to prevent water from running off our roof and into the street.

The other regulation we needed to comply with is a full indoor sprinkler system with a water riser on the front of the house with a high-decibel alarm system. If we have a fire and the sprinklers come on, the sharp drop in water pressure will set off the alarm and notify neighbors and the fire department. When the city tested it, the alarm was ear-piercing, but no neighbors showed up or came, and neither did the fire department. I hope it works, but hey, we complied. I always conform to safety regulations, even at the cost of several thousands of dollars.

We have a nice home now, comfy and built for entertainment and family gatherings. A few incidents now have us rethinking living in Downey.

Remember a few months back with the tainted water situation that was all over the news? Too bad the residents weren't notified. For two days straight there were rivers of water on our street, from one side to the next, up and over the curb and even undermining a neighbor's driveway that was being repaired. Poor guy, he had all the work done ready for the cement pour and now the water washed it away. The water on our street alone was more than 100 years worth of water that may have leaped off my roof during a rain.

We found out about the tainted water, not from the city, but from the Channel 5 news. I particularly liked the 2 a.m. recorded message that the water was now safe to drink several days later.

For many years, my husband found it a pleasure to put up a nice Christmas display in the yard, along with lights on the house. Last year, during the night, the day before a Christmas party for a large group of friends, all the lawn décor was stolen. We reported it to the police and they said, "Yeah, we have a lot of this, and they take them and sell the stuff at the swap meets."

We had the last remaining lawn décor stolen this year. We simply cannot afford to keep replacing these decorations to just be taken again. Vandals have been pretty recent visitors in our neighborhood, stealing the tailgate of our neighbor across the street, stealing the rear view mirrors on our car in our driveway, gang graffiti marked on our sidewalk, graffiti on our trashcans, eggs thrown to coat the paint of our cars three times, and not just vandals but the shootings/murder on the end of our street.

Now for another treat: rats. Rodents. Not one or two but dozens. Destructive, dirty and multiplying at an enormous rate. We and our neighbors have incurred thousands of dollars in damages. Downey does not have a vector control. That is handled through the county. You can call and they will tell you that they can come out and advise you on how to protect your home, but they cannot come onto private property to inspect. County vector control can give me bait, but they are all out. I asked if there were other rat problems and they said yes. I asked where and they told me they could not give that information. Oh fine, a rat infestation and they won't let me know where it is.

I have spent hundreds if not thousands of dollars to protect my home and repair the damage done by these rodents. I pay for vector control on my property taxes twice a year. I contacted the city to help me out.

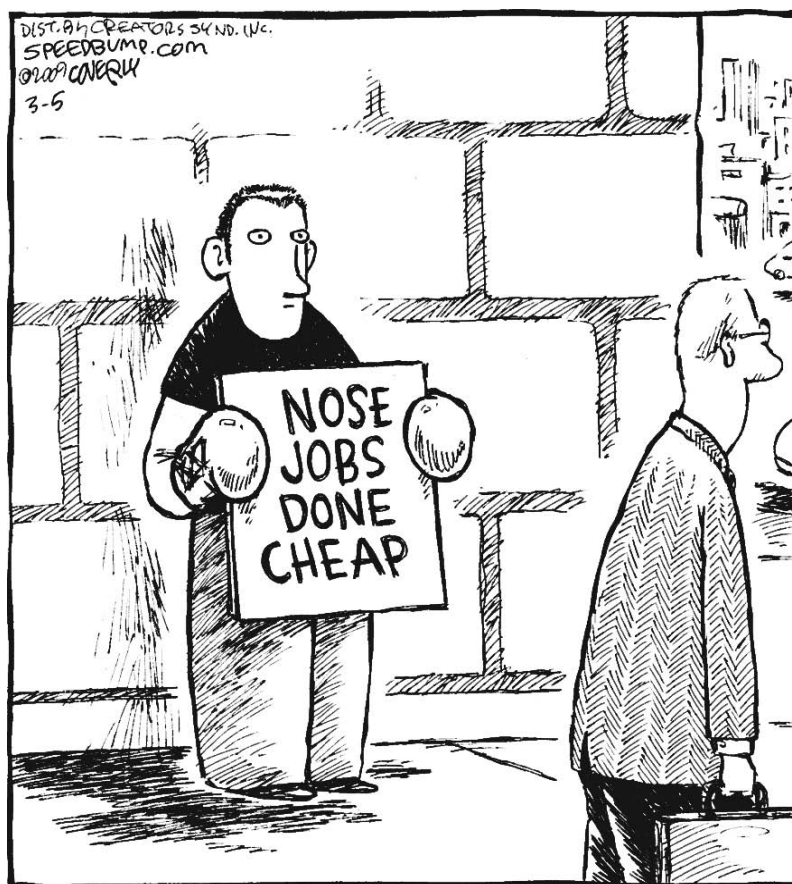
Well after three months of asking and complaining I have no resolution from the county or city. The county never showed up to inspect, the city tells me they will get back to me. I guess an uncontrolled rat infestation isn't that important to the city or county. They must have more important things to do.

Oh well, at least we complied.

— Roxanne Swift,

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.



CORRECTIONS

• A news release announcing a patriotic service at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints incorrectly identified Elvin Galindo as mayor of Bell Gardens. Galindo, a 17-year Downey resident, said was he was flattered but is not mayor of Bell Gardens. "My wife got a good laugh and said that I was more like a lieutenant governor in my home, as she was the real governor with all the power," Galindo said. We regret the error.

• A story last week incorrectly stated the date of West Downey Little League's opening ceremonies. The event is tomorrow.

Letters to the Editor:

Not just a boy's sport

Dear Editor:

Downey High School has long been known for its dedication to athletics, but their spring sport schedule appears to bring that dedication to a whole new extreme.

Since bringing boys lacrosse to Allan Layne Stadium in 2004, the 2008-09 school year has brought on a set of aggressive and intense girls ready to compete in the sport. Principal Tom Houts and boys' lacrosse coach Scott Witkin were approached by a large number of enthusiastic girls ready to form their own team.

After a lot of work and searching for faculty, the girls had their team, but the journey didn't stop there. Because lacrosse isn't a widely played sport on the West Coast, the greater majority of girls had the heart and desire but needed to be taught the game.

After months of long, hard practices and training, Head Coach David Thompkins along with assistant coaches Sybil Shetler, Kelly Stratford, and Anthony Matas took their new team to kick off their first season and played their first tournament March 7 at the Rose Bowl. The first home game will be against Mira Costa on Monday, March 16 at Downey High School – junior varsity at 5:30 p.m., and varsity at 7 p.m.

— Kelly Stafford,

Assistant Coach, Downey High School girls' lacrosse

Big spending

Dear Editor:

Enough is enough. It's time we the people rise up and tell what is hopefully the last of the big spenders, President Obama, that we have had more than enough of his reckless spending.

He wants to spread the wealth around. I have a suggestion for him to achieve this: Let him, Al Gore, Hillary and Bill, Ted Kennedy and many others walk the walk – start with themselves and when their resources are depleted, come to us.

I wish President Obama would cease to campaign and cease from giving speeches, because every time he gives a speech, the stock market drops. When all our 401(k)s and our IRAs and investments are gone, who is going to foot the bill for all these trillions that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has written for him in the spending bill? He kept saying "I have a plan," but then we learned that his policies and big spending programs were written by Pelosi who, by the way, is the only speaker of the house to ever have her own private airplane; and guess what, paid by the taxpayer.

— Elsa Van Leuven,

Downey

Open letter to readers

Dear Editor:

It is amazing what you can stuff in a Kia Spectra. They really are roomy.

I am headed to Arizona where I will be writing for another newspaper. As I leave Downey with my car full of my belongings, my heart is full of cherished memories.

It will be impossible to forget the Chamber mixers, Sue Norton, and all of the ambassadors who always made me feel welcome. I will miss dropping off papers at the Downey Adult School every Friday, and I don't think I will find another hair stylist as wonderful as Sherry from Johnny and Co.

Even though I now belong to a new newspaper family, I will miss drinking Eric's coffee in the morning and my lunch buddy Dorothy. I don't think anyone will ever shoot rubber bands at me like Linda, and no one makes cupcakes better than Jennifer.

It has been a pleasure meeting so many different Downey business owners and representatives, city employees, and residents. It has been a privilege helping you with your advertising needs and sharing your stories with the community.

My best wishes to The Downey Patriot staff and to all of you. Thank you for helping make Downey my home for awhile.

— Mary Forney,

Downey

The Downey Patriot

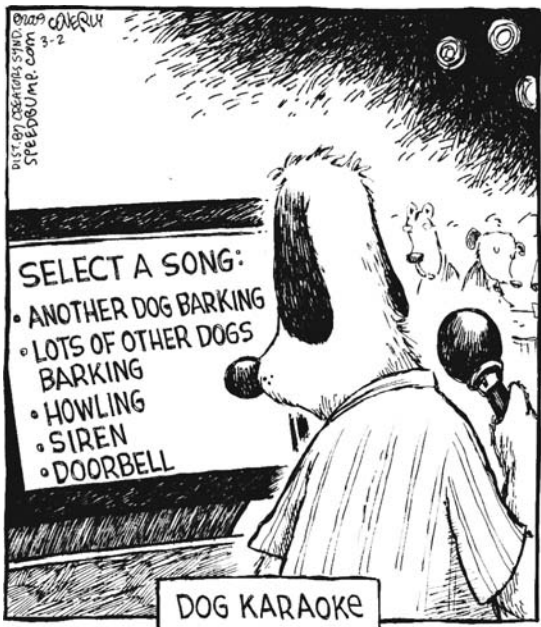
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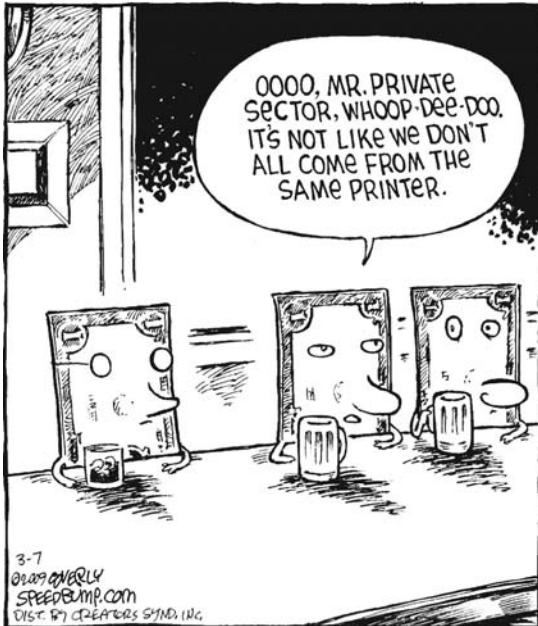
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The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens. Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

- Fri. March 6: **Downey history symposium**, Downey Historical Society, 7 p.m.
- Sat. March 7: **Free yoga demonstration**, Downey farmers market, 9:30 a.m.
- Sat. March 7: **WDLL Opening Day**, West Middle School, 10 a.m.
- Sat. March 7: **Street Fighter tournament**, Best Buy, 1 p.m.
- Mon. March 9: **Celtic music**, Downey Adult School, 3:45 p.m.
- Wed. March 11: **Christian Club meeting**, Los Amigos Country Club, 11:45 a.m.
- Wed. March 11: **Citizens for Downey**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7:30 a.m.

City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 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

- 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.
- 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 Pat Rooney at 923-5352.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Brian Saylor at 927-2000.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call John McAllister 869-0928.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call (562) 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 6 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 425-7936.
- 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: **Community Emergency Response Team meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park.
- 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.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 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.
- 4th Weds., 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- 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.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 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.

On This Day...

- March 6, 1836: The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas is defeated by Mexican forces after an early-morning assault. The battle concludes 13 days of fighting.
- 1857: The Supreme Court rules that Dred Scott, a black slave, could not sue for his freedom in a federal court.
- 1923: TV personality Ed McMahon is born. Also born March 6: former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan (83), Pink Floyd lead singer David Gilmour (63), director Rob Reiner (62), actor Tom Arnold (50), comedian D.L. Hughley (45), and basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (37).
- 1981: Walter Cronkite signs off as host of "The CBS Evening News."
- 2006: Baseball hall of famer Kirby Puckett dies unexpectedly. He was 45.

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The Downey Patriot is now offering paper subscriptions for \$20/year. This subscription guarantees a delivery every Friday to a single family home in Downey.

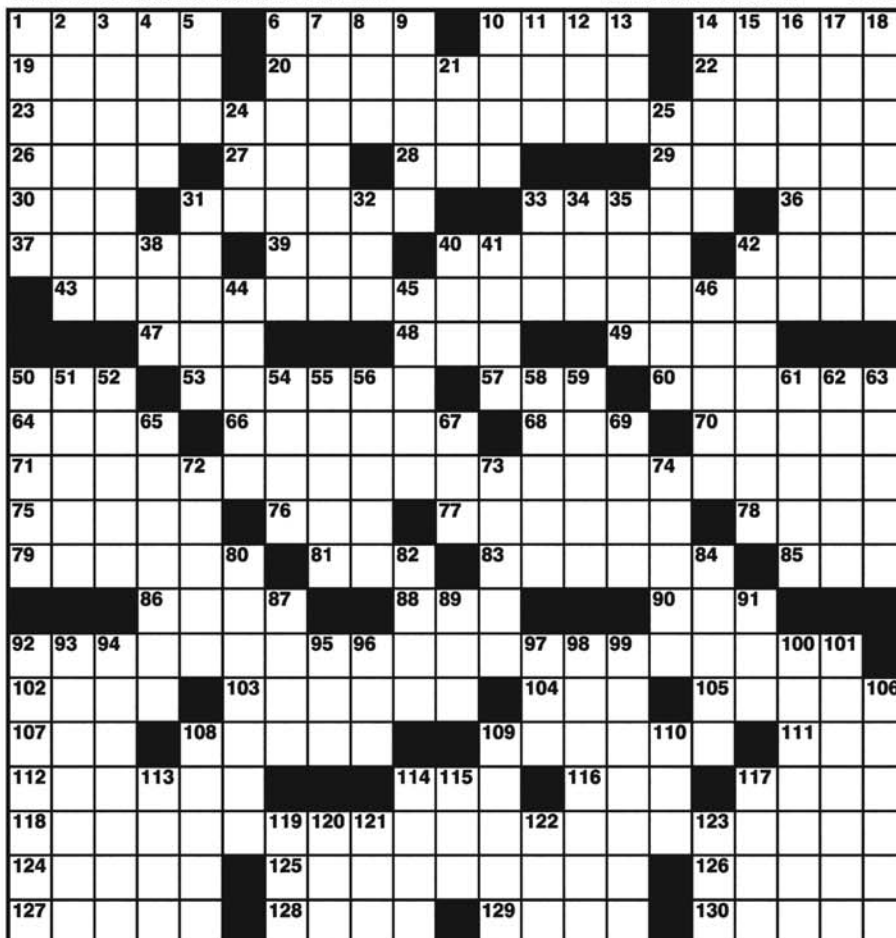
For more info. please call the Downey Patriot (562) 904-3668

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
BALONEY SANDWICHES: But not entirely edible
 by S.N.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 79 European capital, to natives | 10 Drag along |
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| 29 Two-Oscar actor | 107 Dash lengths | 31 Gives it up (for) |
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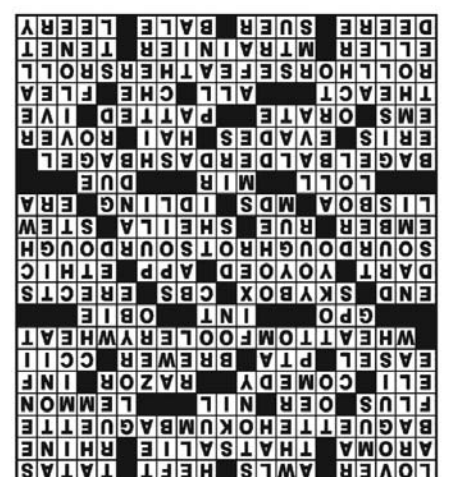
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

French composer Adolphe Adam is the title character in a ballet by can country. GISELLE (94 Down) the government of a Latin Ameri- person of East Asian descent to lead Fujimori (80 Down) was the first "Tiger." Lima-born ALBERTO "Mister Roberts" and "Save the won his two Academy Awards for Actor Jack LEMMON (29 Across)





Cancellation of School Play A Mystery to Students

By: Keysi Carrasco, Intern

Mystery still surrounds the cancellation of Warren's school play, "The Diviners," as theater teacher Kyle Deichman refuses to comment to reporters about its halt.

The play tells the story of a mentally challenged young boy who feared water and kept a close relationship with the preacher in the state of Indiana. The play follows the life of the boy and the events that occur after losing his mother.

Many are wondering why the sudden cancellation of a play that was supposed to come out this week has been completely thrown off the list for the year. When asked about the play, many of his students refused to comment.

"I'm not talking, Deichman's already [mad] and I don't want him taking his anger out on me," said a

student who wished to remain anonymous.

People are speculating that the show was cancelled because the lead roles did not memorize their lines in time, which made some of the other cast members feel as if there was no point in giving their best.

"I think he cancelled [the play] because the play had more potential than what we were going to show," said a student who was close to the situation. The student said the play will most likely be at its best next year when cast members have had a chance to improve and fix their mistakes.

"Everyone feels a little guilty for not giving it our all," said a student who only would comment if remained anonymous. "It's still a touchy subject for some of us. We

spent a lot of time on our project." Some students are wondering why Deichman did not just choose to postpone the play or why alternatives were not assigned to these important roles. It has been said that Deichman put in a substantial amount of money from his own pocket into the production of the play. Postponing it for later would only add to higher costs.

Many of the cast members are a bit heartbroken, but they also understand that it had to be done. They hope to prove themselves in the next upcoming plays set for the year.

Video game tournament at Best Buy



DOWNEY – The Best Buy at Downey Landing is hosting a Street Fighter video game tournament tomorrow from 1-6 p.m.

The tournament will be played on the Playstation 3 console. Sixty-four participants have already signed up, but more are welcome.

Sign-ups will be taken inside the store, or by calling Best Buy at (562) 803-9850 (ask for Mike Rodriguez).

Blood Drive

By: Helena Park, Intern

The American Red Cross is holding its Blood Drive at Warren High School on March 19. It is open to any student older than 16 years of age. However, if you are 16, you must have parent consent to donate blood.

Many students are excited to take part in this great organization. Warren High junior Irene Sinsombutcharoen, who is not only donating blood this year but has donated once before, said, "The wait was long, but worth it. It's very fulfilling because I'm saving three lives and contributing to a great organization."

A donor needs to go through different stages before actually donating blood. The wait time varies depending on how many people are donating but it usually takes a couple of hours. Once entering the gym, one must check in with the supervisors and ASB members. From there on, they will provide you with food, such as Twinkies and water, to help build up energy. During the process, one must read a pamphlet regarding the blood donating procedures. It is very important to understand the terms of conditions and the physical side effects that will occur after donating blood.

After reading, the student will be interviewed by the nurses on past health issues and other information that may affect one's ability to donate blood. Then, the donor needs to answer survey questions based on sexual and travel experiences. Finally, the student will be able to donate blood, which usually takes up to 10 minutes.

Before donating, a student must

know how to prepare themselves for the donation. The student should get at least eight hours of sleep before the donation. They should also eat a healthy breakfast that includes proteins, such as lean meat, cheese, and yogurt, and complex carbohydrates, such as bread, cereal, and fruit. It is also helpful to include iron-rich foods, such as red meat, fish, poultry, beans, raisins, and iron-fortified cereals, to your diet. A student donating blood should also drink a few extra glasses of water before donating. After donating blood, it is beneficial to drink more water to stay well-hydrated, which will decrease the chance of feeling dizzy and lightheaded.

The blood drive is a great way to give back to the community. "I'm very excited to be helping out for such a great cause," says Warren High junior Gesabel Gutierrez. "It's great that our school is conveniently providing us with an opportunity to help those in need." Students who are healthy and are able to donate should definitely seize this opportunity.

Ash Wednesday

By: Bridget Sagrero, Intern

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, many teens showed up to school with a cross marked with ash on their forehead due to Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of Lent.

Lent is associated with Baptism and the preparation it takes to becoming baptized. This celebration of Lent is a 40-day process, which is said to have been developed in the fourth century.

On Ash Wednesday those of Catholic morals according to ancient ways, are encouraged to go to the altar before the beginning of Mass, and there the priest dips his thumb into ashes and marks the forehead with the symbol of the cross. During this ceremony the priest repeats the words: "Remember man that thou are dust and unto dust shalt return."

"[My family and I] went to church and marked on our foreheads [the cross] as a way of following the Nine vintas example, who did penance with sackcloths and ashes," said Pedro Peralta, a student at Warren High. "We also do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and on Fridays for one month."

The ashes that are used during this ceremony are those of burnt remains of the palms of the previous Palm Sundays, and are sprinkled with holy water and incense. Ash is said to be an ancient symbol of repentance.

Another action that comes along with Lent is giving up something as a sacrifice of purifying the soul. The goal is not just to hold back from doing something that is done on a daily bases for the 40 days, that may be sinful and then go back to one's old ways after the time is up. The goal is to make a habit of stopping for good. This is one element of the process to conversion of a new life in Christ.

Many people choose different things to give up, for example stopping the usage of "bad" words, or dedicating the time one used to watch television and read the bible instead, the list could go on.

"As a child I would give up candy, fighting with my siblings, or promised to keep my room clean," said Adriana Rodriguez, a student at Warren High. "Now I mainly promise to try to be a better person."

For Peralta the significance of giving up something resembles to him the way in which Jesus gave up his life for all of human kind.

Along with giving up something for Lent, comes Scrutinies and Penance. This is the time in which baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal takes place. During this time one reflects on their life and prays to God for the grace to over come the power of sin



that they face everyday.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three traditional pillars of Lent. More time is given to prayer for oneself and others who are in search of the Lord. Fasting in the early Church was to be two days before Easter, but later became a 40-day celebration process. Fasting includes not eating any red meats on Ash Wednesday and every Friday after that until Easter. To Catholic's fasting is as linked to living the baptismal promise.

Almsgiving is the third traditional pillar, which is a sign of care for those in need and expression and gratitude for all God has given humans.

During Lent at least once there is a service on the Stations of the Cross. For many people this is a very moving and overwhelming time as the fourteen stations are remembered or reenacted.

Station one is when Jesus is condemned to death. Station two is when Jesus is made to bear His Cross. Station three, He falls under His Cross. Station four, Jesus meets His mother. Station five is when Simon the Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross. Station six is when Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. Station seven, Jesus falls the second time. Station eight, Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem. Station nine, Jesus falls the third time. Station ten, Jesus is stripped of His garments. Station eleven, Jesus is nailed to the Cross. Station twelve, Jesus dies on the Cross. Station thirteen, Jesus is taken down from the Cross. Station fourteen, Jesus is buried in the sepulcher.

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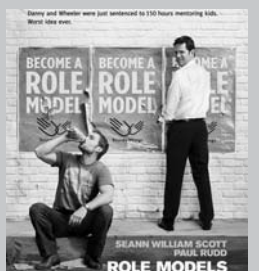
Rachel Getting Married

Role Models

Transporter 3

The Girls Next Door: Season 4

South Park: Season 12



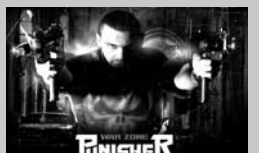
MARCH 17

Punisher: War Zone

Van Wilder: Freshman Year

Elegy

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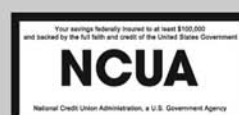
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Counsel's Corner: Limit your attorney fees with limited scopes

By STEVE LOPEZ,
LAW OFFICES OF STEVE LOPEZ

With no end of the economic downturn in sight the number of people serving as their own lawyers is on the rise across the country, and these cases are no longer limited to uncontested divorces and small claims. Even people embroiled in child custody battles, potentially devastating lawsuits and bankruptcies are representing themselves.



This trend has resulted in court systems being bogged down with filings from people unfamiliar with legal procedure. Moreover, some of these pro per litigants, as they are known, are making mistakes with expensive and long-lasting consequences — perhaps confirming the old saying that he who represents himself has a fool for a client.

I have been in court on a number of occasions and have witnessed cases in which parents have lost custody disputes because they were unfamiliar with such legal standards as burden of proof and how to present their case before the Court.

While the fees lawyers charge vary widely, the average hourly rate ranges from around \$260 to more than \$400 in California, depending on what legal issue they are helping you with.

With legal fees this high and unaffordable for some people it is not surprising that about 80 percent of people in California represent themselves in civil family law cases — such as divorce, custody and domestic violence cases — according to the Self-Represented Litigation Network. In San Diego alone, the number of divorce filings involving at least one person not represented by a lawyer rose from 46 percent in 1992 to 77 percent in 2000.

The result also leaves the Courts absolutely inundated with people who do not understand the procedures, it is a disaster for high-volume courts, because an inordinate amount of their clerks' time is spent trying to make sure that the procedures are correctly followed. In California many Courts offer self-help Web sites or desks at court offices that offer standard legal forms for such things as simple divorces. In some Courts, volunteer lawyers are made available to give legal advice to those who cannot afford an attorney.

The legal profession may not like the trend but realizes it is here to stay, and has gotten behind the effort. The American Bar Association is encouraging states to set up self-help desks and adopt standard forms.

Also, a majority of states have amended their attorney ethics rules to promote a growing practice known as "unbundling," (also known as "Limited Scope Representation") in which a lawyer handles just part of a contract, lawsuit, divorce or other litigation for a small fee, rather than taking on the entire case. The ethics rules have been changed to make it clear that lawyers can do this without being held responsible for the entire case. That can ease their fears of being sued for malpractice.

If you choose to handle your case this way, remember that communication and teamwork is the key to success in limited scope representation cases. You must make sure to discuss your legal matter with the attorney in detail and ask questions about issues that are not clear to you. Remember that you and your attorney must have a clear understanding of each others' assignments.

The benefit to you is that you can use your litigation budget best by doing the simpler parts of the case yourself and focusing the attorney's time on the complicated tasks that you do not think you can do effectively yourself. This way you keep greater control of your case than if the attorney was handling the entire case. Remember that the attorney has had the education and experience to work on the more technical parts of your case, guide you throughout the court process, and spot important legal issues that you may not see on your own.

There are special forms and service contracts that have to be used by you and your attorney when you agree to limited scope representation. You can always agree to increase or change the scope of representation between the two of you at any time.

A special notice has to be filed in the case to inform the court and the other party of the limited scope representation if the attorney is going to appear in the case for you [Form FL-950, Notice of Limited Scope Representation].

To find a lawyer who is willing to help you in a limited scope manner, you may contact the Lawyer Referral Service. If you already know a lawyer that you would like to hire, ask him/her about a limited scope representation arrangement.

The purpose of this column is to provide general information on the law, which is subject to change. It is not legal advice. Consult a lawyer if you have a specific legal problem.

Chance to ask an attorney your questions

DOWNEY – By popular request, attorney Carol A. Peters is returning to the Ezra Center for Mature Adults at Temple Ner Tamid on March 17.

Part of the program will be an open forum, "Ask the Attorney," where guests can ask general legal questions (no private legal matters will be discussed).

The second part of the program is titled "Bioethics." Peters will discuss choices and options to consider should you become disabled, and how to "make sense of all the rules, regulations and red tape."

Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. and the program begins at 10. A kosher lunch will be available after the program. Cost is \$6 for Ezra members, \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

West receives field trip grant

DOWNEY – West Middle School has received a \$700 from Target Corporation to take 120 students to the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

The grant request was made by school librarian Julia Desalernos, whose submission was chosen from more than 25,000 applications nationwide.

"With the nation's schools facing increasing budget shortages each year, field trips are often one of the first elements eliminated from the curriculum," Target said in a statement. "The Target Field Trip Grants Program, which launched in September 2006, distributed 5,000 grants totaling \$4 million in funds this year to education professionals to help fill this gap, so that teachers may continue using the valuable experiential learning gained from field trips to enhance students' classroom studies."

Students will visit the Getty April 2 and June 4. The school also received a \$20 Target gift card to purchase snacks for the trip, a digital camera, window cling sets, and school supplies.

Pop Warner in need of coaches

DOWNEY – Downey Pop Warner Football is in the process of assembling coaching staffs for the 2009 season. Potential coaches will soon be interviewed to fill the many positions required to staff the six tackle teams and cheerleading squads and several flag teams.

Last year, the Razorbacks placed teams from each of their five divisions in the conference playoffs, and one team advanced to the conference championships. The cheerleaders also won several awards in their conference competition.

For more information on volunteering as a coach, call Louis Morales at (310) 350-0220 or Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183.

Tennis classes begin March 17

DOWNEY – The next session of tennis classes for children and adults at Independence Park begins March 17.

Instruction is led by tennis professional Fabian Grassini and his staff. The classes are offered by the city of Downey Community Services Department.

Adult classes will be held Wednesdays from 6-7 and 7-8 p.m. Each class will focus on continued skill development for beginning and advanced players. The fee for the 8-week class is \$95.

Classes for children ages 4-7 and 8-14 will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. (level 1) and 5-6 p.m. (level 2). Cost is \$95 for eight weeks.

For more information, or to register, call (562) 904-7238.

Buy a shamrock, help fight disease

DOWNEY – Residents are encouraged to buy and sign \$1 or \$5 shamrock mobiles at local restaurants and supermarkets, with money helping to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association's outpatient clinic at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey.

The clinic helps to fund neuromuscular disease research, send kids to MDA summer camp at Camp Palomar in San Diego, and more.

Shamrocks Against Dystrophy is the nation's largest charitable campaign associated with St. Patrick's Day. The shamrock mobiles are available at several restaurants, markets, convenience stores, and other local retailers. For information about participating stores, call MaryBeth Stephens, district coordinator for MDA, at (562) 498-4923.

The fundraiser will continue through March 17.

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Mildred Sader was active in community

DOWNEY – Mildred Corinne Sader, a Downey resident since 1954, has passed away.

She was born in Minneapolis, Minn. in 1909 and came to California in 1930. Her husband, Clayton, died in 1978. She was employed by Bullocks Department Store and later by Goodyear Tire and Rubber in payroll until her retirement.

Since moving to Downey, she was a member of Downey United Methodist Church and served as president of the Wesleyan Service Guild. She was also a member of many circles, committees and the Crusaders Sunday school class.

Sader was also a member of several local service organizations, including P.E.O., Downey Woman's Club, the Downey Symphony Guild, Sons of Norway and Job's Daughters. She also played the piano and sang.

Sader was predeceased by her parents, Chris and Amelia Hansen, and sister, Evelyn McDonald. She is survived by her daughter, Lynda Sader, of Downey; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was laid to rest at Rose Hills Memorial Park in the Masonic Gardens. A celebration of life service will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Downey United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations to the Mildred Sader Memorial Fund at Downey United Methodist Church.



Sobhy Gad Makary mourned by family

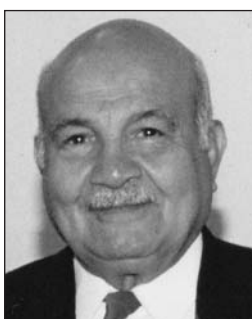
DOWNEY – Sobhy Gad Makary, a Downey resident since 1981, passed away Feb. 26.

Makary was born July 24, 1925 in Egypt and was married to the late Viola Makary. He came to the United States in 1974 and moved to Downey in 1981.

He worked as a cabinet maker until he was hurt in 1984. He enjoyed making things for his church, including wooden offering boxes and framed holy pictures.

He is survived by his four children, Mark, Eivon, Richard and Isis; and grandchildren, Peter, John, Miriam, Daniel, Amanda, David, Youstina, Krystal, Kativon and Verena.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at St. George Coptic Orthodox Church Bellflower. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City.



Christian club meets Wednesday

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will listen to Lona Beardsley speak on "The Inside Story on Family Relationships" when it meets March 11 at the Los Amigos Country Club.

The meeting, titled "Spring Jewels," will feature music by Alan Kerr and Derek Delp and a special feature from Elena's Kreations.

The meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. and is open to both men and women. Cost for the lunch meeting is \$13 and reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

Champagne luncheon March 14

DOWNEY – The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Women's Guild will host a champagne luncheon March 14 at 11 a.m. inside the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Price is \$25 and includes choice of beef or salmon lunch. Door prices and centerpieces will also be raffled off.

Reservation deadline is March 9. Make checks payable to Catholic Women's Guild and mail to Terry Ramirez, 10238 Chaney Ave., Downey, CA, 90241. Indicate your preference of beef or chicken when mailing the check.

St. Joseph Table on March 15

DOWNEY – The Italian Catholic Federation, branch 362 of St. Raymond's parish, will sponsor their 26th annual St. Joseph Table on March 15 in the Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall, 12348 Paramount Blvd., in Downey.

The day begins with the viewing of the table at 9 a.m., followed by the liturgy celebration and procession at 11 a.m., the blessing of the table at noon, and a pasta dinner from 12:30-5 p.m.

For more information, call Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937 or Aline Amatisto at (562) 693-9430.

Virginia Morris passes away peacefully

DOWNEY – Virginia Mae Morris, a long-time resident and active in schools and her church, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 28.

Morris was recently admitted to Kaiser Permanente Hospital with an infection, and later contracted pneumonia. Her death was due to complications of pneumonia and Alzheimer's disease. She was 91, and had suffered from Alzheimer's for more than 10 years.

She and her late husband, Mack Morris, moved to Downey in 1946, and purchased property for a home when the surrounding area was all orange groves and corn fields.

Morris was born in Ogden, Utah, where her father was a railroad engineer with Union Pacific. The family lived in Ogden and Park City until her father's death in 1932. The family (her mother and two older brothers) then moved to Huntington Park when she was 16. After graduating from Huntington Park High School, she attended a trade school and became a licensed beautician, and worked out of a beauty shop in Los Angeles.

Morris' best friend, Elizabeth Morris, introduced Virginia to her brother, Mack, who was on furlough from the Army. Mack and Virginia married in 1943 and had one son, D. Mark Morris in 1947.

Mack worked as a general contractor until his death. She then worked at Grants in the day, and was trained as a nursing attendant for Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, where she worked nights in the amputee and spinal chord ward. She retired from Rancho after 25 years of service.

Morris was an active member of the Downey Fourth Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where she served in many positions of leadership. She was Primary President and Relief Society President, and a Sunday school teacher. She was a temple ordinance worker at the Los Angeles Temple, and did genealogy and family history.

Morris was active in the community and served in the Boy Scouts of America, and the PTA while her son attended Downey schools. She served as treasurer of the Downey Council PTA.

Morris was preceded in death by her husband, Mack, in 1966. She is survived by her son, D. Mark (Pamela) Morris, of Downey; five grandchildren, Allison (Scott) Marshall, of Whittier, Kathryn Morris, Brian Morris, Sharon Morris, and Wayne Morris, of Downey; and one great-grandchild, Brent Marshall.

Services were held yesterday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Downey at 10 a.m., with interment following at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. Allen-English & Estrada Funeral Service in Bell Gardens assisted the family.



Carmen Acevedo services today

DOWNEY – A funeral service will be held today for Carmen E. Acevedo, a longtime Downey resident, who passed away Feb. 26 in Ontario. She was 74.

She was born Nov. 21, 1934 in New York City.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today inside the Miller-Mies Chapel in Downey. Pastor Poncho Juarez of Calvary Chapel in Montebello will officiate. Burial will immediately follow the service at Resurrection Cemetery in Montebello.

She is survived by a son, Paul; daughter, Cynthia; and grandchildren, Bryan, Brianna and Brandon.

"The family would like to express their appreciation to the physicians and staff at Downey Regional Medical Center, for the fine care they provided for their mother over the past year," Miller-Mies Mortuary said in a statement.



Barbara Gershman and Patty McCollom will present traditional Celtic music Monday at Downey Adult School.

Celtic music group at OASIS

DOWNEY – Band members Barbara Gershman and Patty McCollom will present "The Legacy of Celtic Music" at Monday's OASIS (Older Adults Seeking Information and Skills) meeting at Downey Adult School.

The duo has practiced traditional music for years, and entertain audiences with the ancient sounds of the dulcimer, fiddle and banjo. The Celtic music is part of OASIS's St. Patrick's Day celebration.

All older adults are welcome to the free meeting. Registration begins at 2:45 p.m., followed by the program at 3:45. An optional dinner ticket may be purchased at time of registration for \$3.50.

Downey Dial-a-Ride can provide transportation to those who qualify. For more information on OASIS, call (562) 940-6200.

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Giulio Mirabella, a Downey resident since 1963, celebrated his 95th birthday with family at Dattilo's Italian Restaurant in Whittier on Feb. 6. Giulio's younger brother, Frank Mirabella, and Isetta Bernhard arrived from Melbourne, Australia to help celebrate. Giulio's family surprised him picking him up in a stretch limousine, and enjoyed champagne and long-stemmed chocolate-covered strawberries inside. Giulio recently renewed his driver's license and his renewed license will expire on Feb. 6, 2014, on his 100th birthday.

Wells Fargo names new manager

DOWNEY – Danny Chang has been named district manager for Wells Fargo's Pacific Gateway region, where he will oversee more than 209 employees at 10 Wells Fargo bank branches, including those in Downey.



Chang, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA, began his career at Wells Fargo as a personal banker in 1997. In his most recent position, he was a sales development consultant for the company's professional development program, where he mentored and coached emerging leadership including managers, service managers and bankers.

"I am excited about joining Wells Fargo's Long Beach Coastal community banking team," Chang said. "I look forward to working with this experienced team of professionals to help our customers achieve their financial goals."

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Downey, Warren expect to be challenged in SGVL

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Over the past few years, it seems as if baseball in the San Gabriel Valley League has transformed itself. While we're so used to seeing Downey and Warren compete for the top spot in the division, Paramount has all of a sudden become a power in the league, along with Gahr who always has the pitching to put them over the top. But with Paramount being the defending champions, don't expect anything different this year.

Paramount did it in dominating fashion last year, running the table in the SGLV, finishing 15-0 in league. If they weren't shutting out teams with their pitching, they were running up the score. If they weren't running up the score, they were smothering you with defense. While this team had high hopes in playoffs, they struggled in the second and third rounds offensively and were knocked out. You can't knock a team from the top spot in preseason though after they go undefeated in the division.

Every year, Gahr seems to grab a pitcher that goes the max amount of innings he can per week. But while it's nice having that one ace, it's normally a combined staff effort for the Gladiators. Last year, if you remove the ugly losses against Paramount and Warren, their pitching staff gave up on average under three runs a game. As the old baseball cliché goes, pitching and defense will win championships. While they might not have the firepower to compete with Paramount, they'll be right there in the end.

Downey had a very good season last year, and has a lot of returning players except for a few key contributors, one including ace Nate Coronado. They do though have team stud Ivory Thomas returning. Thomas earlier this year already signed a letter of intent to play for Cal State Fullerton when he graduates. Last year, Thomas led the Vikings in all major categories including average, homeruns, and RBIs. But the Vikings probably won't finish better than third because pitching seems thin on the team.

After the second coaching change in as many years, it might be at least one more year until Warren's baseball program is back on track. The Bears again had a sub-.500 record and didn't win 10 games for the first time in over five years. Manager Paul Alvarez will have his hands full with a bunch of players this year that have not played at the varsity level. Again, patience is key in revamping this once highly regarded baseball program. Fourth place seems fitting.

It's hard to say anything great about Lynwood baseball because they are so hit-and-miss. They always seem to be the team with some flashes of talent but are never able to put it together and come out with a squad that can be competitive. As their record from last year indicates, unless their returning players improved immensely in the off season, it's hard to even imagine them finishing higher than fifth.

Unorganized would probably be the best way to describe Dominguez baseball. They haven't been over .500 in league play for what seems like eternity now. Not much has changed over time and the best way to put a last place finish is this: Dominguez High School is a basketball school.

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The Kiwanis Foundation presented a \$50,000 donation to Downey Unified School District last week in support of a new computer lab at Sussman Middle School. This marks the second DUSD middle school (Griffiths, '07-08) to date that has received a similar donation for a new computer lab. The Kiwanis Foundation has pledged to support the two remaining DUSD middle schools in the future with like donations. From left: Jerry Wetzstein, Downey Kiwanis Foundation board chairman; Dr. Wendy Doty, superintendent of DUSD; and Mario Trujillo, Downey Kiwanis Club president.



"Dames at Sea," a musical produced by the Downey Civic Light Opera and starring many local favorites, is now in its final weekend at the Downey Theatre. For tickets, call (562) 923-1714. Photo courtesy Downey Civic Light Opera



Century 21 My Real Estate and the American Red Cross collected 37 pints of blood at a community blood drive Feb. 12. "We are happy to help make a difference in the lives of others," said Steve Roberson, broker and owner of My Real Estate. "With additional help from within the community, we have an outstanding donation of life to those who need it so desperately."



Warren High School made it to the CIF water polo finals last week, the first in school history the Vikings have made it past the first round. Warren came up short in overtime, but will be honored at a CIF banquet next month. Photo by James Quick III