



Student is a gifted writer
See Page 9



JV girls win CIF titles
See Page 11



Space center lands \$700K
See Page 3

Friday, March 13, 2009

Vol. 7 No. 47

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

Never too old for a sports injury

By CAROL KEARNS,
WRITERS' WORKSHOP WEST

It has taken me decades to develop a level of coordination that would enable me to participate in competitive sports without completely embarrassing myself. In grade school I loved climbing the jungle gyms and hanging by my knees from the monkey bars, and I was always one of the first kids to be picked for kickball teams in fourth grade.

But somehow, my coordination seemed to disappear in early adolescence, and from then on, it would be almost half a century before I would ever again enjoy the pleasure of athletics and friendly competition.

Instead, I became one of those klutzes that nobody wanted on a team. My vision may have had something to do with this because I started needing glasses in junior high, and naturally, I was not going to wear them except when absolutely necessary. Usually this was limited to copying assignments from the board.

Poor eyesight was probably a major factor contributing to the trouble I had one year when they made us learn how to hit a golf ball. I somehow chopped at the ball, the club coming down on top of and slightly to the back of the ball, and this sent the ball into a backspin that shot up and behind

See INJURY, page 8

Man dies in fatal collision

DOWNEY – A 25-year-old man was killed Sunday night when the motorcycle he was riding slammed into another vehicle at Lakewood and Firestone boulevards, Downey police officials said.

The victim was identified by police as Bryan Miranda, of Bell.

Miranda was heading north on Lakewood Boulevard at 9:33 p.m. and was making a left turn at Firestone when he collided with another vehicle, said Downey police Sgt. Dean Milligan.

Witnesses claimed Miranda turned on a green light, but directly into the path of an oncoming car, Milligan said.

Paramedics transported Miranda to Downey Regional Medical Center where he died, Milligan said.

The driver of the other car, Dayana Barro-Garcia, 25, of Paramount, was taken to Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Bellflower with minor injuries, said Milligan.

Anyone with information regarding the collision is asked to call Downey traffic detectives at (562) 904-2339 and refer to DR# 09-15026.

—ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR



Downey Adult School's vocational nursing program enjoys pronounced success over other programs throughout the country. This quarter, 23 of 24 Downey students passed the state exam. STORY ON PAGE 7

Agencies provide follow-up on reports of unusual odor

By MARK SAUTER,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

DOWNEY – A follow-up meeting was held March 4 to review the findings from the suspicious odor incident reported in January. The Gas Company was the host at the Energy Resource Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine what could be done to stop suspicious odor incidents such as the one that occurred on Jan. 29. The meeting was a joint effort of the Gas Company, Downey Fire Department, city administration and the Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Tricia Zemblano, a Downey resident who lives on Adwen Street, also attended as a guest of the fire department.

The AQMD and Gas Company staff discussed research they had performed since January. Both groups had done searches on their

databases with intentions of finding patterns of releases. The AQMD had done additional inspections of facilities in the vicinity.

The AQMD said one of their inspectors had found problems at one of the South Gate facilities just west of the Downey border. The problems had since been corrected and a subsequent, follow-up inspection confirmed the mitigation of the problem had been completed, AQMD officials added.

A second facility in South Gate was subsequently inspected, and that facility was also found to be in compliance with AQMD codes. The AQMD does annual inspections of many commercial and industrial facilities.

The best method to report a suspicious odor was discussed. Gas Company representatives recommended residents and business owners who believe they smell natural gas to immediately call (800)

427-2200. Once notified, a Gas Company service person will investigate the problem.

AQMD officials recommended people immediately call (800) CUT-SMOG (288-7664) to report any suspicious odors. An investigator will respond after they receive one phone call during business hours. After hours, the AQMD waits for the third call before sending out an investigator. Residents can also file written complaints with the AQMD, which follows up on public nuisance problems when at least 10 residents have complained.

The Downey Fire Department responds to investigate suspicious odor incidents immediately.

The Gas Company and AQMD representatives advised residents they should call the numbers listed above when they notice suspicious odors. Without early notification, it is difficult to track down the possible sources.



Gallatin students donate money

DOWNEY – The Gallatin Elementary School Student Council recently sponsored a "Coins That Care" drive, and in just four days of collecting surpassed their goal of \$1,500.

Students presented a check for \$1,588.71 to the TLC Family Resource Center, a program of the Downey Unified School District that provides free medical, dental, vision, and counseling services, along with food and clothing, to needy Downey families.

TLC coordinator Luz Perez and DUSD board member Nancy Swenson helped present the check.

Request for salary hikes denied again

■ City Council is split on 4% pay raise for city's top management.

By ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A controversial proposal to grant a 4 percent pay raise to more than 30 high-ranking city employees failed to pass this week after City Council members expressed concern surrounding the current sunken economy.

It was the second time in three months the Council has rejected salary hikes for top management. The Council turned down a similar proposal in December.

Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer introduced the latest request, which would have granted a 4 percent pay raise to 36 top city employees, including the city manager and several department heads.

Bayer expressed her support for a similar pay raise for management last December, but the motion was struck down by the Council. At the same meeting, Bayer voted against a 4 percent raise for five secretarial positions.

She did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Bayer was joined by Councilman David Gafin on Tuesday in voting in favor of the latest proposal. Mayor Mario Guerra and Councilman Roger Brossmer voted against it.

The deciding vote fell to Councilman Luis Marquez, but he abstained, saying he needed more information on the city's finances.

If approved, the pay increase would cost the city approximately \$220,000 through next year, according to a city staff report.

Task force to look at 'green' options

By ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is advancing in its efforts to form a volunteer 'green' committee – the first of its kind for Downey – that will research and recommend ways Downey can become an environmentally conscious and sustainable community.

At the urging of Mayor Mario Guerra, the City Council considered and approved the formation of the Green Task Force this week. The committee will meet regularly for 12 months before making its final recommendations next year.

The committee's primary goal will be to "ensure the city operates in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner." It will study a host of subjects, including energy, waste reduction, urban design, urban nature, transportation, environmental health, water, and more.

According to a city staff report, the task force will make periodic recommendations to the City Council before its final, comprehensive report next year.

Eight people will make up the

Under a proposal denied by the City Council this week, but expected to be reintroduced at a later date, the following city employees would receive 4% pay raises:

Executive Management:

City manager
Assistant city manager/treasurer
City clerk
Deputy city manager/special projects
Deputy city manager/community development
Director of public works
Director of development services
Director of community services
Economic development director
Finance director

Middle Management:

City planner
Assistant deputy city manager
Business development manager
City computer system manager
City librarian
Deputy director of public works
Executive director, Columbia Memorial Space Center
Finance manager
Housing manager
Library system manager
Personnel director
Principal engineer
Purchasing manager
Recreation manager
Social services manager
Senior civil engineer
Senior human resources analyst
Superintendent of physical services
Superintendent of water & sanitation
System/network engineer
Theater manager

Source: City of Downey



task force, including two council members. The Downey Unified School District will appoint a representative, and the final five spots have been reserved for Downey residents. The City Council will choose the residents based on an application process.

Residents with expertise or experience in the following areas are encouraged to apply:

Architectural design and construction; business-related recycling; construction industry; environmental non-profits; environmental protection; green building; municipal building codes; operation of a multi-family living complex; residential recycling; restaurant or grocery store owner or manager; small business management; and/or water resources management.

Applications are available on the city's website, www.downeyca.org, or by visiting the Human Resources department at City Hall. For more information, call (562) 904-7292.

State of the City luncheon next week

DOWNEY – Mayor Mario Guerra will be the featured speaker when the Downey Chamber of Commerce presents its State of the City luncheon next Friday, March 20.

Guerra will provide “informative and vital updates on Downey,” the Chamber said in a news release.

The event begins at noon at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Cost is \$25 per person. Seating will also be available for residents who do not want to eat, but still wish to hear the presentation.

For reservations, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

St. Matthias choir to perform

LOS ANGELES – The St. Matthias High School Bell Choir will perform at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on Sunday as part of an event honoring more than 450 high school students.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and is organized by the Catholic Education Foundation.

The Cathedral is located at 555 W. Temple St. in Los Angeles.

Citibank celebrating opening

DOWNEY – The new Citibank at Lakewood and Firestone boulevards will celebrate its grand opening March 26 at 5 p.m.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce will assist with the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The bank was previously located at Stonewood Center while their new location was constructed.

Census rep to speak at meeting

DOWNEY – Carlos Vasquez, a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau, will speak March 24 at 7:30 a.m. at Downey Brewing Company, 10924 Paramount Blvd.

Vasquez's topic will be “Preparing for the U.S. Census.”

The meeting is part of Rise 'N Networking, a program of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. The cost to attend is an order from the menu.

RSVP by calling (562) 923-2191.

Soup supper at Messiah Lutheran

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church in Downey will host a soup supper Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m., prior to Lenten service at 7.

A freewill offering will be taken. Messiah Lutheran Church is at 10711 Paramount Blvd.

Bunco fundraiser at Woman's Club

DOWNEY – The Woman's Club of Downey will host its first annual Bunco Fundraiser on March 21. Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information, call Debra at (562) 619-0269.

Miss Downey pageant March 21

DOWNEY – Twenty-one contestants will compete for the title of Miss Downey and 13 for Miss Teen Downey on March 21 at the Downey Theatre.

The pageant begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$22 and available by calling Susan Domen at (562) 824-7172.

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Hundreds learn how to become citizens

SOUTH GATE – Downey Adult School's Career and Education Center recently participated in a United States citizenship information workshop in South Gate, which was sponsored by Assemblyman Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate).

The workshop, held Feb. 28 at the South Gate Park Auditorium, provided hundreds of people with information regarding citizenship and ESL classes.

The workshop also provided help with naturalization applications and passport photos, while an immigration attorney helped review applications.



Julie Kalousek, an instructor at Downey Adult School, assisted visitors at a citizenship workshop held last month in South Gate.

District ROP students compete in LACOE interview contests

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Ten DUSD Regional Occupational Program (ROP) students, half of them from Downey High and half representing Warren High, Wednesday went head-to-head with other ROP students representing the 21 other school districts in Los Angeles County in the annual L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE) “Student Recognition” competition. A total of 150 students were in the field this year as compared to 119 last year.

Held at the LACOE offices at Clark and Imperial Avenues, the yearly contest is meant to assess and reward ROP students' job interview skills in the context of their chosen careers or areas of interest. Selected from a pool of candidates, this year's DUSD student representatives competed in areas ranging from education to computer assisted drafting to business to film/video production and

commercial photography.

Last year's DUSD students garnered two golds, two silvers, and seven bronze medals (the serious ROP student covets such a medal).

This year's winners won't be announced until March 20, but Phil Davis, director of support programs/career and technical education who oversees the ROP program, has high hopes the students will also do well this time, if not better, because of their own individual efforts and intensive coaching from district staff.

On Friday, March 6, for example, the students took part in a ritual mock interview at the ROP conference room, where panels of judges consisting of teachers, principals, and school administrators took turns testing the student candidates' mastery of job interview skills according to a performance evaluation format. The questions and conditions anticipated as much as possible the expected actual questions and conditions the students were to face on the actual day of competition.

That they were to provide an effective resume after properly filling out a job application, was a given.

In the mock interview proper, the open-ended questions asked each interviewee, to encourage quick thinking/test their response and communication skills, were variations of three main themes: 1)

“What is your passion?”, 2) “What do you regard as your best qualities/traits?”, and 3) “Describe what you perceive as your most meaningful ROP experience?” (Five minutes were allotted to this segment in the actual competition Wednesday).

The students were then to follow these up with a ‘story-board’ presentation (another five minutes) of their imagined/preferred career path. A power point presentation was also allowed. (This took another five minutes).

It became clear that the mock judges/evaluators, who can only be described as high-powered—a sign of the seriousness of purpose the district has endowed the mock exercise—was looking for a full understanding on the student's part of what a job interview really entailed in the actual world.

This meant observing closely such easily-disregarded points as a firm handshake, confidently greeting one's interlocutors, and suitable attire; maintaining eye contact and speaking in a clear and audible voice, keeping the interviewer (s) engaged by using language with precision (avoiding redundancy or filler words); providing ready answers and to-the-point, as well as directly related to the questions asked, while including evidence/examples for a more comprehensive/descriptive rendering of same; articulating native or

acquired skills and knowledge in direct relation to a job, and how these came about, and why they are proud of their work, as well as an explication of a purposeful connection to their learning and career goals; and, finally, emphasizing the supreme importance of a natural, winning smile and a closing ‘thank you’ at the end of the interview.

In one instance, after noting one interviewee's weaknesses, Stan Hanstad, asst. superintendent for personnel services, advised the student to slow down one's presentation (speech) especially if it has been memorized, and, in consonance with talking with passion, letting one's personality shine through, etc.

Another incisive observation was offered by WHS principal John Harris, when he encouraged one contestant not to forget that one was supposed to be in control of the interview, that he/she should work/sway the interviewer to acceptance of one's ‘offer’.

To offset one's nervousness, said another ‘judge’, one only has to take a deep breath before speaking to make a go of it.

How well the students performed Wednesday we'll know in about 10 days. Coming out of the actual interview room, Warren High junior Lacy Johnson, for one, said she thought she did well on all

See ROP, page 8

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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.

Federal funds earmarked for space center

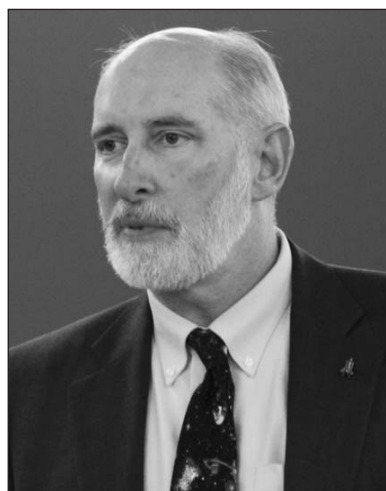
BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey has received \$700,000 in federal funding to complete a new exhibit, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) announced Wednesday.

The spending measure approved by Congress this week allocates millions of dollars to local communities for projects ranging from health care and drug prevention to job training and gang reduction.

“The legislation helps families access quality and affordable health care. It invests in our children by funding K-12 education and assisting families to pay for college,” Roybal-Allard said. “Especially urgent during these tough times, the measure also helps workers train and secure good jobs in safe work environments.”

The Space Center will use the money to build interactive educational exhibits “to enhance the understanding of space-related sciences and to highlight the value of technologies developed through the space program, while inspiring and educating the next generation of scientists and engineers.”



Jon Betthausen

Jon Betthausen, executive director of the center, spoke at the California Historical Society symposium held in Downey last week. He told the group he was preparing to approach the City Council on March 24 and ask for money needed to operate the center.

While the center will rely heavily on volunteers and local students, regular employees still need to be hired, Betthausen said.

The center was scheduled to open last month, but the grand opening has been postponed indefinitely.



The Downey Kiwanis Foundation made a \$10,000 donation to the Downey Unified School District in support of its True Lasting Connection (TLC) Family Resource Center. Left to right: Dr. Wendy Doty, DUSD superintendent; Downey Kiwanis Foundation board Chairman Jerry Wetzstein; and Dr. Robert Jagielski, DUSD director of pupil services.



Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis President Jeremy Fitzl presents a \$5,000 check to Tod Corrin, president of the Downey Unified School District Board of Education. The money will go towards the district's Character Counts program.

Treasure Island Park may get its lights

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The City Council this week approved spending up to \$170,000 to install security lighting at Treasure Island Park, a move city officials hope will make the neighborhood safer for residents.

The action comes one week after a suspected gang-related shooting left one man dead in the secluded Treasure Island neighborhood.

Francisco Josue Iniguez, 20, was shot and killed in front of his younger brother as the two played soccer on the 7300 block of Cleargrove Street on March 2. The two assailants ran and disappeared into Treasure Island Park, police said.

Island residents were surveyed last year and the most requested improvement was lighting, officials said.

officials said.

The city put in a grant request to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy but it was denied. A second grant application – this time to the state's California River Parkways Grant Program – was held up due to the state's budget crisis.

If the grant is eventually approved by the state, “the grant application can be modified to redirect funds...to other improvements,” Councilman Roger Brossmer wrote in a report.

The park is a popular after-hours hangout for people smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol, according to police.

Warren creating a hall of fame

DOWNEY – Downey High School has a hall of fame. Soon, so will Warren.

Warren High School announced plans this week to enshrine its own distinguished alumni into a hall of fame. A committee will consider graduates in the areas of Arts, Athletics, Business, Education, Civic/Community/Government, and Professional.

Inductees will have their portrait and list of accomplishments mounted in a hallway inside one of Warren's new buildings. Warren student Stanley Kim is designing a monolith to be constructed by the construction technology class that will honor the inductees.

“Since [Warren's] inception in 1955, there have been literally thousands of graduates who have made an impact on America and the world with their individual accomplishments,” John Haynes, vice principal at Warren, said in a news release.

For more information, or for a nomination application, call Haynes at (562) 869-7306, ext. 5808, or e-mail jhaynes@dusd.net.

POET'S CORNER

The Nose Knows

The Nose knows which way to go, for the Nose goes on a Head. The Nose knows how to be out front, leading the way, no matter where you go.

The Nose knows which way to go if things are not smelling good. The Bible says they got Eyes to see, but cannot see. The ears to hear, but they cannot hear. I guess the Nose was made to lead. Even the Brain follows the Nose, and so does the Eyes, and Ears. How does the Nose know what the Nose knows. I guess nobody knows, but nobody gets anywhere in life unless they follow their Nose.

Thank you “O” Mighty Father, for Coffee perking in the early morn, Flowers in bloom, Pretty girls in sweet perfume, and thank You for fresh baked Bread.

–James E. Jones, Downey

The Old Man

the old man has no words to speak
no criticism for the weak
no humble tale of heroism
did not partake in activism

he lived his life consumed in thought
its information that he sought
his own existence he denies
life, it can be analyzed
slumped over a dusty book
there must be something overlooked
he could never seem to find the answer
just as earth could not cure cancer
an abject cause he searched over

he devoted his life to understand
every mystar of land
all the secrets in the skies
and the truth behind the lies
searching deep within his mind
for all the knowledge he could find

he had it all but one last thread
now physically the old mans dead
never once his words were said
he kept these secrets in his head
he died before the chance to share
all the answers hidden there
still the world is rather blind
left alone to try and find
all the truth that set him free
all that was and will ever be.

–Jenerous, Downey

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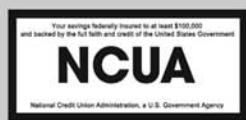
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March 28, 2009



www.arcwalk.org

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Stonewood Center – Downey

Acapulco Restaurant
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Walk Starts at 8:30 a.m.



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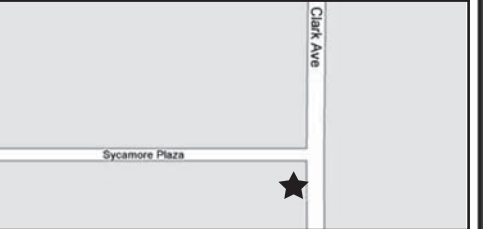
Monday, March 16/10 - 7pm
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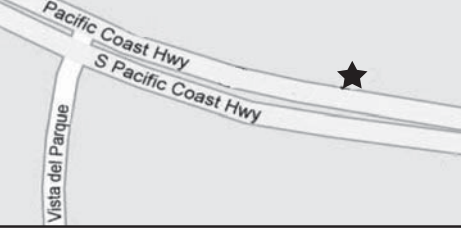
Tuesday, March 17/10 - 7pm
SAN PEDRO
Double Tree Hotel
2800 Via Cabrillo 90731
310-514-3344



Wednesday, March 18/11:30 - 7pm
LAKEWOOD
The Center at Sycamore
5000 Clark Ave. 90712
562-804-4434



Thursday, March 19/10 - 6pm
REDONDO BEACH
Best Western
1850 S. PCH 90277
310-540-3700



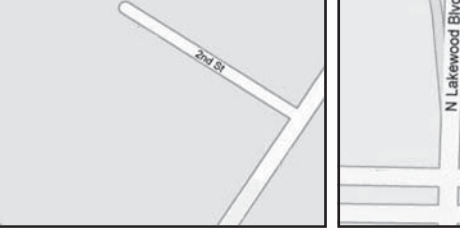
Friday, March 20/10 - 7pm
CARSON
Hampton Inn & Suites
767 Albertoni St. 90746
310-768-8833



Saturday, March 21/10 - 5pm
DOWNEY
Embassy Suites
8425 Firestone Blvd. 90241
562-861-1900



Sunday, March 22/10 - 5pm
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Save the Date
Saturday, March 21/10 - 5pm
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Fuzzy numbers

By Eric Pierce

If not for the neatly-manicured lawns and Neighborhood Watch placards visible in living room windows, it would be easy to confuse the Island community -- that northwest strip of land across the San Gabriel River -- as part of Bell Gardens.

The community is out of the way and, unfortunately for them, forgotten sometimes. They're in the same position as The Boot, the southernmost tip of Downey, which grieved over its own gang-related shooting last year.

According to residents of the Island, they have been asking the city to install security lights at Treasure Island Park for about five years. Residents say -- and police concede this fact -- that the park is a magnet for troublemakers coming in from Bell Gardens.

Last year, the city finally agreed to put in lights, as long as someone else paid for it. They applied for two grants, but both were unsuccessful.

Finally, new Councilman Roger Brossmer did the right thing and requested lights be installed at the park ASAP. If the city has to pay for it itself, so be it.

"I see this as a public safety issue," Brossmer said. And he's right.

You can't blame the city for trying to have a grant pay for the security lights; they were trying to save the city money. But then this week, for the second time in three months, some people are trying to heap a 4 percent pay raise on city management, who are already the highest-paid employees in the city.

If approved, the raises would cost the city approximately \$220,000 through next year. Meanwhile, security lights at the park would cost about \$170,000, according to estimates.

Where are the priorities?

Luckily for taxpayers, Brossmer and Mayor Mario Guerra voted to block the raises. Councilman Luis Marquez is still making up his mind.

But if you ask me, the answer is easy: no more raises for city employees. These are difficult economic times, and we need to be as fiscally conservative as possible.

CORRECTIONS

A Letter to the Editor last week misspelled the name of Fire Chief Jeff Turner. We regret the mistake.

Chatter on the Web

A sampling of comments left on our website, www.thedowneypatriot.com. Join the conversation today.

"Downey Shooting Rattles Island Community (3/6/09)": I have always said "Why do they not just close the entrance from Bell Gardens to Downey there?" The traffic caused by residents of Bell Gardens who use Suva as a shortcut to the 5 freeway is terrible. — *Jose Elizondo*

Dimly-lit area = opportunity for criminal activities. — *Joe the Plumber*

Park lights would not have stopped those two monsters from taking a person's life. Let's not make a knee-jerk reaction by spending \$150,000 the city may not even have. — *Phyllis*

I have been working at the park for two years now, and the only places I see people doing drugs is in an area where there is NO light at all. At least for the parks, crime could be reduced a little bit with security lights. And if people continue using drugs there, it would be easier for Downey residents to give a description of the people committing the crime. When I see people at my park smoking in the back, I call police right away. This is because drug use is usually related to more violent crimes. — *Luis Miguel*

"Downey's Selling Points (3/6/09)": Being a teacher here in Downey, I have heard students state many times that "Downey is so ghetto." I have heard people on the west side of Los Angeles say they do not want to come this way because they do not think the area is good. George M. is right: let's advertise our strengths. Let's promote our history and culture and we can change the image of our city for the good. It can be done it, it just takes the right people to get it started.. — *George Redfox*

"Yoga Expert Giving Free Demonstration (3/6/09)": Yogi is a riot. I've attended a few of his workshops and every time I leave happy and refreshed. — *Jerry*

Store collecting phones for victims

CERRITOS — The Handle With Care Packaging Store in Cerritos is collecting used cell phones to be donate to seniors and victims of domestic abuse.

"Seniors and victims of abuse really need a phone for emergency use," said Mark Hwang, owner of the store. "We'd not only like to help get them a phone, but help the community as well by promoting recycling, which will keep these phones out of landfills."

Phones will be donated to the 911 Cell Phone Bank, which recycles and distributes more than 2,000 cell phones per month.

Phones can be donated in person at the Handle With Care store, located at 20022 State Rd. in Cerritos, or call (562) 468-4647.

Letters to the Editor:

Dump at Alberston's building

Dear Editor:

I have been a local Downey business owner for more than seven years. We cater to high-profile celebrity clients as well as the Downey working class who expect quality work and experience. We are also environmentally conscience and Downey's only "zero impact" sal

My business has been negatively impacted by the lack of development at the former Alberston's building for the past four years. The dilapidated vacancy, unkempt landscaping and dying trees have become an eyesore in the "heart of Downey" and have attracted unsavory characters and crime.

Truckers and RVs are parked overnight all the time. The homeless literally sleep at our doorsteps. People use the entire property as one large dumping ground for large items and waste. There has been a huge beehive in one of the landscaped planters for more than two years.

I hate to sound like I'm rambling but I have been very optimistic and patient. I have made numerous calls to city officials to address this poor display of our city but I've come to a wall. When I heard that Fresh & Easy was taking over the location I was so relieved! Now that news is old and there is no improvement. As a matter of fact, the location has gotten worse.

Now, if the plan fell through, don't you think that the location should look attractive and well-maintained in the meantime? What ever happened to "Keeping Downey Beautiful"?

— *Rosey Ibarra*

Urban Roots Salon

Editor's note: City officials responded to Ibarra's letter and said the trees will be removed, and the parking lot cleaned-up, "by the end of next week."

Flush with money

Dear Editor:

We certainly agree with Mrs. Van Leuven and Mr. Niemand regarding the waste of taxpayers' money (Letters to the Editor, 2/27/09).

Mr. Niemand, in reference to the pay raise for 98 city employees, rightly states that "4 percent is a modest increase in normal times, but these are not normal times." We agree with his statement that "if the city treasury is so flush with cash, let them take that 4 percent and use it to hire a half-dozen or more employees to fix our streets."

The streets in our city and especially Lakewood Boulevard are horrible. The City Council should retract that agreement with the union.

We agree with Mrs. Van Leuven in regard to spending that enough is enough. It seems that President Obama's "plan" is for big spending programs. When will the American people wake up and see that our country is going down the drain and that we don't have an unlimited money supply?

Folks, please write or call your state senators and representatives.

I want to commend Mrs. Van Leuven and Mr. Niemand for writing to let Downey citizens know just what is going on in our city and in Washington, D.C.

— *Buford and Betty Logan,*

Downey

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the writings of Mrs. Van Lueven in the Letters to the Editor. All I hear is the voice of Rush Limbaugh, the new head of the Republican Party.

It is important to remember that President Obama has been in office for less than two months and can't possibly repair the damage that took eight years by the previous administration. It was their reckless spending that got us where we are today.

Instead of rejoicing over the difficulty the new administration is having, let's pray for their success. If they succeed, we succeed. If they fail, then we fail.

— *Lois Rossi,*

Downey

Job fair March 26 in Norwalk

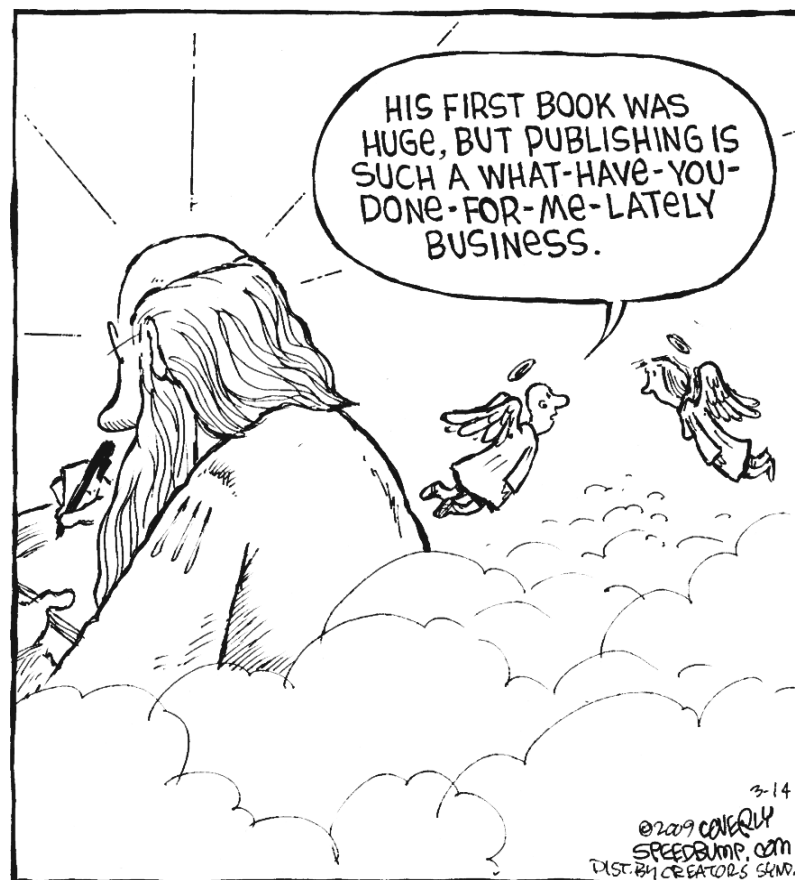
NORWALK — Cerritos College's annual Career Expo and Job Fair will be held March 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Library/Falcon Square sidewalk.

The event, which draws more than 300 visitors each year, is free and open to the public. Attendees are advised to dress in business attire and bring copies of their resumes with them.

The current list of participating employers includes the cities of Inglewood and La Mirada, Compton Unified School District, Disney College Program, FedEx Ground, Los Angeles County Airport Police, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Link Staffing, Primerica, State Department of Rehabilitation, UPS, and more.

A resume writing workshop will be offered March 9 from 11 a.m. to noon in LA 31 and March 19 from 5-6 p.m. in SS 211. A job fair strategies workshop will be offered March 12, 5-6 p.m., in BE 1, and again March 16 from 11 a.m. to noon in SS 141.

For more information, call Christina The at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2367.



Update from the mayor

Dear Editor:

I cannot express how much I appreciated the e-mails and cards and, most importantly, the prayers from so many of you during this recuperation period for my eye surgery. It has been a tough ordeal but because of my family and friends we seem to be out of the worst at this time.

To update you, as of last Friday the doctor said I did not have to lay face down anymore...Yea! What a relief as this has been the hardest part, especially for somebody with as much energy as me (Ok, you can think it, hyper is the word that comes to mind, ha.)

It seems the operation so far has been as successful as can be, so far. We will know next week whether I can see once the gas goes away inside the eyeball (don't say it...Ha!) Basically there were five tears in my retina and they had to take out the vitreous (jelly-like stuff inside the eyeball) and they had to laser and then freeze it against the eye to repair and fix it. If it doesn't hold they have to do it all over again...

But the good news is that I can see light and shapes, even through the gas, and the doctors are happy how it looks inside.

I have been allowed to get out for an hour or so each day and will be building up my endurance to get back to a full schedule, hopefully by next week. But I have been able to go on the computer for an hour or so each day and have been able to respond to most of my city hall duties during this time. [My wife] Ann has had to drive me around and I am sure she can't wait to let me go, but she has been my angel and I could not have been through this without her love and support.

Anyway, I just wanted to update you and thank you so much for everything. I have had many of you get me books on tapes and they have helped me get through the "mental" part of being housebound. I appreciate all of your kind thoughts also.

I was also able to read some items and keep a short schedule on things brought home to me from the city and I was in touch almost everyday with city staff.

I will be back in time to do the State of the City address on Friday, March 20th at the Rio Hondo Event Center at noon. The Chamber has asked me to do this and I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. I have asked the Chamber to make sure that open seating is also provided for citizens that do not want to buy or cannot afford the lunch to be able to hear what is going on in our fine city. We are a very special place with many good and great things happening despite what is happening throughout our country. And I can't wait to share some with you all. We have some new announcements to be able to make that are exciting.

I also want to update you on some other good news just announced (Wednesday). It was announced by our Congresswoman Lucile Roybal-Allard that we were awarded \$700,000 for the Columbia Memorial Space Center. This money is to create interactive educational exhibits to enhance the understanding of space-related sciences and to highlight the value of technologies developed through the space program, while inspiring and educating the next generation of scientists and engineers. I have been blessed to go back to Washington twice along with our staff in pursuing this and I am happy to be able to let you in on it. You will be hearing more about it in the near future. Our learning center should be opening by mid year...pretty exciting for us and our region.

I just want to end by saying thank you again for your prayers and thoughts and I hope to be fully back in the next few weeks. And with God's blessing, hopefully being able to see from both eyes again.

All my best...God Bless and thank you for everything.

— **Dn. Mario Guerra,**
Mayor, City of Downey

Space program more vital than ever

In 1961, when President John F. Kennedy told Congress we'd put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, he knew that the journey of discovery would yield more value than simply beating the Russians to the moon.

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth," were the words of the president in 1961, as he announced the dramatic and ambitious goal.

Now, as we near the 40th anniversary of achieving that landmark with the Apollo 11 lunar landing, the country's space program is at a crossroads. Our Space Shuttle program no longer captures the imagination of our people, and we are even retiring older spacecraft — a reflection of the fact we are scaling back on our missions into space. Our economy is in tatters, and the federal government is looking for places to cut the budget, and NASA is looking like an easy target.

But now is not the time to cut back, according to Tahir Rahman, author of "We Came in Peace for all Mankind: the Untold Story of the Apollo 11 Silicon Disc" (www.silicondisc.com). As it was in the 1960's, when we faced an unprecedented military build-up in the Cold War and a struggling economy, the purpose and need for a space program has not changed.

"Discovery," Rahman said. "Discovery has always been the primary practical application of the space program. Alexander Fleming wasn't looking for penicillin when he discovered it. He was researching something else. We didn't have a clue what an electron was until JJ Thomson saw the first one in 1897. Now, we have a whole infrastructure based on electronics.

"Why should we continue to explore space during a recession, when

money is tight? Discovery. It was one of the founding principles of this country, and we must not forsake it because it's convenient or expedient."

In researching his book, Rahman spoke with many of the original NASA engineers who worked on the Apollo program, as well as astronauts like Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, whose view was that the exploration of space is important not because of what we can find out there, but rather what the journey can help us find within ourselves.

"We will see a manned scientific base being built on the Moon," Armstrong said shortly after the first lunar landing. "It'll be a scientific station manned by an international crew, very much like the Antarctic station. But there is a much more important question than whether man will be able to live on the Moon. We have to ask ourselves whether man will be able to live together down here on Earth."

Understanding that, Rahman believes that space travel should be a more paramount concern today than it was when President Kennedy first set the moon landing goal.

"With more wars, climate change and environmental concerns spotting the globe than when we first launched the space program, there has never been a more important time for us to explore space," Rahman said. "There are few moments when all of us who live on this spinning rock can actually see ourselves as one people, one race. When we look back at ourselves from the cold outreaches of the abyss, and see the Earth as it really is, without the borders shown by maps, without the differences outlined by ideologies and national concerns, we can finally see ourselves simply as human beings. I can think of nothing more basic, more necessary than that."

The Downey Patriot

STAFF	
Jennifer DeKay-Givens	Publisher/Adv. Director
Eric Pierce	City Editor
Henry Veneracion	Staff Writer
Scott Cobos	Staff Writer
Dorothy Michael	Display Advertising
Linda Larson	Classified Advertising
Jonathan Fox	Production
Gibran Latif	Webmaster

TEL (562) 904-3668 | FAX (562) 904-3124 | Hours Monday-Friday 9a.m. - 3p.m.
8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 | www.thedowneypatriot.com

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

- Sat. March 14: 'Princess for a Day,' Trinity Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.
- Sat. March 14: **DJAA registration**, Apollo Park, 10 a.m.
- Sat. March 14: **StoryTime Festival**, Downey City Library, 11 a.m.
- Sun. March 15: **St. Joseph's Table**, Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sun. March 15: **Travelogue film series**, Downey Theatre, 2:30 p.m.
- Tues. March 17: **Ezra Center meeting**, Temple Ner Tamid, 9:45 a.m.
- Tues. March 17: **Tennis classes begin**, Independence Park, 4 p.m.
- Wed. March 18: **ABWA meeting**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 5:30 p.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 13, 1781: British astronomer Sir William Herschel discovers Uranus, the first discovery of a planet using a telescope.
- 1852: Uncle Sam debuts as a cartoon character in a "New York Lantern" sketch drawing.
- 1868: The impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson begins.
- 1884: The United States formally adopts Standard Time.
- 1925: Louisiana prohibits the teaching of evolution in public schools.
- 1969: Apollo 9 returns to Earth after a mission to test a lunar module.

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

OUCH!: This won't hurt a bit
by Shirley Soloway

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rubber-stamp accessories
 - 5 Persian monarch
 - 9 The end
 - 14 Sirloln alternative
 - 19 Balm ingredient
 - 20 Casino game
 - 21 Greek epic poet
 - 22 Indulge
 - 23 Economizing
 - 26 Giving the once-over
 - 27 Royal Ballet choreographer
 - 28 Fancy wheels
 - 29 *The Waste Land* monogram
 - 30 Quenches completely
 - 31 Condescend
 - 32 Nothing special
 - 33 Result in
 - 35 Sheet-music symbol
 - 37 Dull sound
 - 41 Air-purifier component
 - 45 Hazard to navigation
 - 48 Hit the jackpot
 - 52 *Chicago star*
 - 53 Unpleasant burden
 - 55 Countess' husband
 - 56 SAT taker
 - 57 Grain beard
 - 59 Mideast currency
 - 60 Houndstooth and herringbone
 - 62 Called for
 - 64 Early TV comic innovator
 - 66 Speck
 - 68 Supporting premise
 - 69 Sonoma neighbor
 - 70 Urban kids' sport
 - 73 Walkman descendant
 - 76 Colgate alternative

- 78 Succeed at retail
- 79 Ashe Stadium event
- 81 Like a macintosh
- 85 Retrieve
- 88 Cabbage variety
- 89 For the time being
- 90 With the bow, to
- 114 Across
- 92 Euro fraction
- 93 Author Ambler
- 94 Ho Chi
- 95 "Oh, be quiet!"
- 99 Sound of reproof
- 100 Start the day late
- 102 Lockbox, for example
- 103 Pizazz
- 105 Germanic god
- 107 In the distance
- 110 Mess up
- 114 Violinist Isaac
- 117 Brother, for one
- 119 Manipulator
- 120 Tennis great Gibson
- 121 Poisonous
- 122 Quit before 5:00
- 125 Pennsylvania sect
- 126 Follow
- 127 Actor Sharif
- 128 Spilled the beans
- 129 Reach
- 130 Units of force
- 131 Brussels-based intl. group
- 132 Dark, to bards

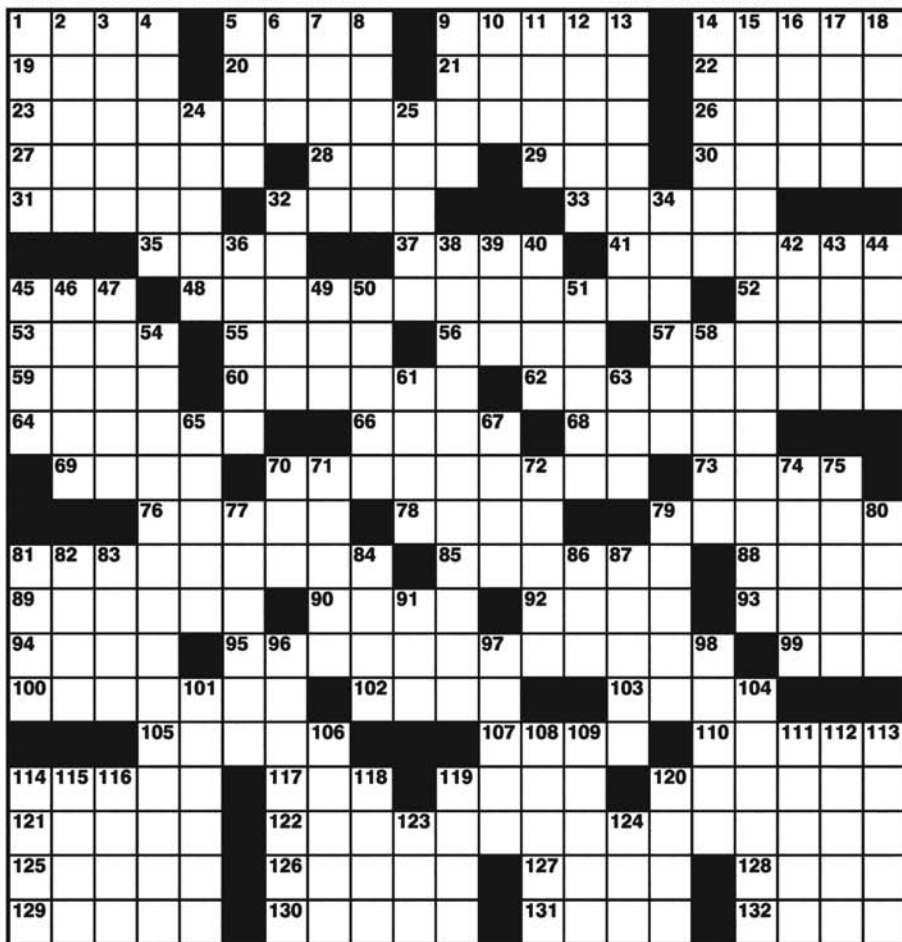
- DOWN**
- 1 Potatoes, in Panama
 - 2 VIP roster
 - 3 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
 - 4 War zone
 - 5 46 Down cover
 - 6 Female turkey
 - 7 ___Saxon

- 8 Arizona tribe
- 9 "Oops!"
- 10 Cal. abbr.
- 11 Send out
- 12 Members of the flock
- 13 Element in insecticides
- 14 What Romeo calls Juliet
- 15 Forget about "caveat emptor"
- 16 Forget about
- 17 Zero
- 18 Work units
- 24 Expectations
- 25 Express oneself
- 32 Rumpelstiltskin material
- 34 Be destructive
- 36 Leaves alone, editorially
- 38 Gets really angry
- 39 Pick-up truck relative
- 40 Fictional detective
- 42 Gusto
- 43 Roaring Twenties designer
- 44 Gauge, in a way
- 45 Piece of flatware
- 46 Leek relative
- 47 Tropical fruit
- 49 Rage
- 50 Fashionista Calvin
- 51 Together
- 54 Nominal punishment
- 58 *Ghostbusters* actor
- 61 Medics
- 63 Bro., for one
- 65 ___ diem
- 67 Up to it
- 70 UN observer grp.
- 71 WWII sub

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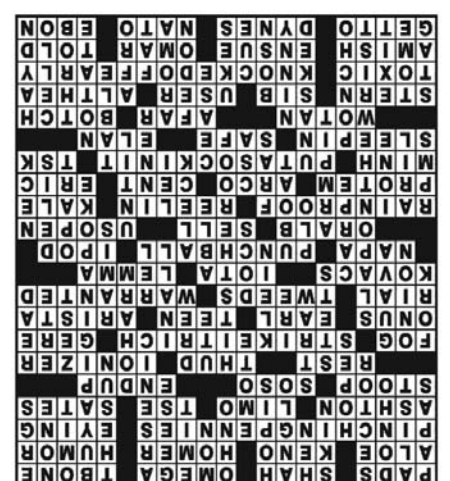
3/8/09



- 72 "Smart" guy
- 74 Eye-popping designs
- 75 Local grocery stores
- 77 61 Down call it "axilla"
- 79 Up to
- 80 Notable swan feature
- 81 Record-player speeds
- 82 Seed cover
- 83 Actress Skye
- 84 Monks' addresses
- 86 3 Down neckwear
- 87 Deeply felt
- 91 Davis org.
- 96 Not invited
- 97 Discontinue
- 98 Postpone, in the House
- 101 Armless garment
- 104 Mark up, as a score
- 106 Chowderhead
- 108 Consumed
- 109 Kitchen come-on
- 111 Beat
- 112 String-quartet member
- 113 "Surprise Symphony" composer
- 114 Just for the boys
- 115 Weighty volume
- 116 Go out
- 118 Petty officer
- 119 3 Down accompaniers
- 120 Bushy do
- 123 Pool pole
- 124 Nutrition-label listing

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.

The dance career of Sir Frederick the U.S. OPEN. The PONCE Stadium as the primary venue for Across) succeeded Louis Armstrong he attended as a teen. Opening in by an Anna Pavlova performance (27 Across) was inspired



Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



Have you or has someone close to you experienced hair loss? What causes it? Can anything be done to prevent it, or to reverse this non-life threatening yet nevertheless distressing condition?

Every hair on our head follows a cycle of approximately one year: it grows, rests, and then falls out. About 90% is growing at any one time, with the balance resting for a period of two to three months. After resting, the hair goes through a shedding phase. It is normal to shed 50 to 100 hairs per day. Once a hair is shed, a new one starts growing from the same hair follicle, and grows about 1/2 inch per month. Hair is made of protein, the same material that is found in fingernails and toenails. Note, therefore, that eating adequate amounts of protein can aid in hair growth. Among other food items, protein is found in red meat, chicken, fish, eggs, cheese, beans, soy products, grains, and nuts.

For many men, hair loss is inevitable. It is hereditary and progresses with age. These genes may be passed from either the maternal or paternal side of the family. Male pattern baldness, or common baldness, is by far the most typical cause of hair loss, and in our country alone approximately 40 to 65 million men suffer from it (depending on the criteria used). Often in the late twenties, the hairline begins to recede and the hair on the top of the head becomes thinner.

There are other conditions that can lead to hair loss:

- Three to four months after a major stress (emotional or physical) such as an accident, surgery, or illness, people of either gender may experience significant hair loss. This hair loss is temporary.

- Hormonal problems may cause hair loss. Disorders of the thyroid gland, whether over or under active, can cause hair to fall out. Hair loss can also occur when male or female hormones (androgens and estrogens) are out of balance. Correcting these hormonal imbalances may stop the loss.

- Pregnancy can be a factor. Many women notice hair loss three months post partum (after the baby's birth). This is

again a hormonal problem, and is temporary. High levels of female hormones cause hair to stay in longer than normal, and when levels fall back to normal, hair goes back to its old cycle.

- A number of common prescription medicines have side effects that cause hair loss. The most common culprits are blood thinners, gout medicines, chemotherapy agents used for treating cancer, birth control pills, antidepressants, and even too much (nonprescription) vitamin A. The problem will reverse itself if the medication is stopped.

- Infections also may cause hair loss. For example, fungal infections of the scalp are treated with an antifungal medication to reverse the problem. Of course, any significant infection that causes major physical or emotional stress (see above) can also cause a reversible hair loss.

- Certain diseases such as lupus or diabetes can cause hair loss. Hair loss can serve as a valuable early warning sign, so it is important to diagnose the cause as early as possible.

- Hair loss may even be the result of wearing pigtails or cornrows! Pulling tightly on the hair causes a type of hair loss called traction alopecia. This type of damage must be halted early on or it will become permanent. In addition, the hot oils used in "permanents" may cause hair loss due to the inflammation and swelling of hair follicles.

In order to determine the cause of your hair loss, your doctor will ask you about your diet, if it is balanced, and whether it contains adequate nutrition – especially protein. You will want to list your medications in order to determine whether one might have resulted in hair loss as a side effect. The doctor will take a health history, in order to reveal whether you have undergone unusual stress or illness in the past three to four months. If you are a woman, you will discuss your menstrual cycles, pregnancies and menopause. A physical exam should be done, including looking specifically for scalp infections. Lab tests may be taken to determine whether there are any hormone imbalances, diabetes, thyroid disease or rheumatologic diseases.

Treatment for common inherited male pattern baldness is complex. There is no cure at present, but finasteride (Propecia) is a prescription hair loss medication (for men only) and has been analyzed in a five-year study. An impressive 77% showed scalp hair growth versus only 15% of test subjects taking a placebo. Side effects of

Propecia appear to be minimal: They include decreased libido in 1.8% of subjects, and decreased volume of ejaculate, impotence, or breast tenderness in less than 1%. Minoxidil (Rogaine) is an over-the-counter medication rubbed directly into the scalp and may work for both men and women. In a study published in 2005, one-year follow-up data showed that areas of the scalp with hair loss became smaller in 62% of the patients, unchanged in 35% and larger in 3%.

Finally, hair transplantation is a surgical approach that has made great advances in recent years. Healthy hairs with follicles intact are harvested from an area of the scalp with normal hair growth and the individual hairs are re-implanted into areas of the scalp with hair loss. The results can look very natural. Costs run roughly five to six dollars per hair, or \$3,000 to \$9,000 for the procedure.

Allow me to "part" with some suggestions:

- Eat a balanced and nutritious diet for hair health.

- Treat your hair carefully. Be careful with foreign chemicals, heat and tight hairstyles (ponytails, buns, etc.).

- Avoid compulsively pulling, twisting, or rubbing your hair. Rogaine and Propecia have proven efficacy for growing new hair and preventing further hair loss. Other over-the-counter products have not yet been proven.

- Many find success with a natural looking wig or hairpiece...or by developing a fondness for the bald look.

See your doctor to ensure that there are no infections or other underlying problems responsible. Where feasible, work together to eliminate or alter medication that may be causing the hair loss. It is crucial that you get a proper diagnosis, and treatment when possible. There may be a reversible cause to your hair loss.

I wish you good health!

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and current chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Doctor to speak on osteoporosis

DOWNEY – The American Business Women's Association, El Dorado chapter, will meet Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Dr. Ragaa Iskarous will speak about osteoporosis prevention.

For reservations, call Debbie Stuver at (562) 884-6429.

Downey nurses among best-trained in nation

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School's vocational nursing program saw 23 of their 24 students pass the state exam this quarter, exceeding the school's average success rate of 95.83 percent, far above state and national standards.

The nursing program began in 2006 and was accredited by the Bureau of Vocational Nursing in 2007.

Two classes completed the extensive program and qualified to take the NCLEX-PN exam, the licensure test administered by the

state.

The national average pass rate is 83 percent. The state's pass rate is even lower at 73 percent.

"Downey Adult School's vocational nursing strives for excellence," a school representative said in a statement. "The school is attempting to provide our community with competent nurses. Many of the graduates are now working in clinical facilities. Graduates have had great success stories including some that are now supervisors in the facilities due to high-

quality training."

To be eligible for testing, students must have completed 1,536 hours of academic and clinical curriculum. Students are expected to pass each nursing course with a minimum average of 75 percent.

Local physician honored for work

DOWNEY – Downey physician Dr. Mark Schneider was named 2009 Physician of the Year by the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC) on Feb. 14.

The award is presented annually to a person who, in the opinion of the award committee, "best represents the qualities and traits of an outstanding physician and surgeon."

Schneider, a past president of OPSC, is active at Downey Regional Medical Center. He is a past president of the medical staff, present chief of family medicine, program director of the family practice residency program, and a member of the hospital board of directors.

Schneider is an associate professor of family medicine at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, and holds academic appointments at Touro



University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo and Las Vegas. He is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Schneider practices family medicine at Community Medical Group in Downey with Drs. Martin Sechrist and Donna Wong.



Many people are not aware of the many ways in which oral health is linked with overall health. For instance, according to a survey recently conducted by the Academy of General Dentistry, nearly 60% of those surveyed did not know that a painful jaw is one warning sign that may indicate an impending heart attack. Thus, a visit to the dentist may be a patient's first sign of an impending dangerous heart event. In fact, research indicates that over 90% of systemic diseases have oral symptoms. With this in mind, careful dental examinations of patients with a history of heart disease (or other conditions) for signs of oral pain, infection, or inflammation is crucial to overall health.

In some cases, the cause of jaw pain is from referred pain that comes from other areas surrounding the jaw. Any dental pain should be investigated since early treatment is almost always a good idea, especially if a dental infection is suspected. We are dedicated to our patients' good health and well being and you are more than welcome to join our family of patients. We offer comprehensive general and cosmetic dentistry. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where our goal is to make each visit to our office a comfortable and positive experience. Please call (562) 923-3714 to schedule an appointment. Oral health is a long-term commitment we share with each patient.

P.S. Recent studies also suggest that people who have gum disease are at a higher risk for heart attack.

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Paul Gallardo, M.D.
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The Downey Elks Lodge #2020 distributed more than 1,700 dictionaries to all third grade students in Downey, including both public and private schools. The donation was part of Downey Elks' "Project Dictionary," chaired by LeAnn Sears. "We are pleased to be able to support our community in this effort," said Downey Elks member Ron LeVar. The dictionaries were distributed Feb. 17. Photo by Ron LeVar

Injury: Even at 62, you're never too old to be a 'real athlete.'

Continued from page 1

me about three feet. Luckily no one was hurt.

By high school I avoided sports altogether. I told myself that it didn't matter, and this was easy self-deception because these were the days of Marilyn Monroe, Doris Day, and Debbie Reynolds. Billie Jean King was not a name in my home, and social pressure seemed to discourage girls from being overtly athletic.

Deep inside, though, I remembered the fun of my childhood, and I envied the girls who could run and jump and make something happen with a ball. From then on I limited myself to hiking and occasional bike rides.

When my younger daughter, who came later in my life, played years of soccer and volleyball, I found that I could have some fun with a ball in a way that didn't put me on the spot. I said I was helping her practice as we passed the ball back and forth in the park. This secret pleasure ended as she grew taller, because I was afraid of any challenge for the ball.

One year I made the mistake of getting carried away during a parents versus girls volleyball game. I had come to terms with my glasses and could see the ball, but I ignored my other limitations - my age and lack of practice.

I had been watching the girls hustle and spike and dive for the balls, and now that I was on the court, I was ready to perform in a similar fashion. As I watched the ball come high over the net, I started backing up while yelling, "Mine!" But my feet couldn't go fast enough, and I fell backwards squarely on my tailbone. At my age the pain was so great that I thought I had broken something. The game was put on hold until the paramedics could put me on a stretcher and take me to the hospital. Nothing was broken, but I had trouble walking for six months.

A few years before I turned 60, a friend at work persuaded me to attend one of the tennis socials of her tennis club. She assured me that people played just for fun at the socials. No one would be competitive in a bad sort of way. I felt the time was right for me. If this tiny, very feminine friend of mine could do this, I should be able to as well.

My husband, who jogs and bicycles and works out at the gym, helped me practice hitting a tennis ball for months. It turned out that trying to hit that little ball in the right space was just as exhausting for him as for me. After about three months we felt ready to play with others, and we went to our first event.

The organizers wisely paired us up for doubles with a lady who was returning to the game after hip replacement surgery, and a gentle-

man who was very thin and walked like he might tip over. Yet even with their infirmities, these two had a skill level that showed decades of experience. They could place the ball where they wanted. "Hit it where they ain't," the man kept telling me.

After two hours of trying not to embarrass myself, I was exhausted. But my friend was right about the social event. The members were gracious, encouraging, and urged us to come again next month.

I took lessons and started playing several times a week, thrilled by my incremental progress in being able to run and hit this little ball. I may have been nearly five decades older, but I had regained the enthusiasm I felt as a child. Unfortunately, I forgot my limitations again.

One night ended in a manner similar to my experience on the volleyball court - I was careless from my overconfidence, and I suffered an embarrassing injury. I was playing a weekly singles game with a young woman who had started learning tennis at the same time I did. We enjoyed the exercise and felt we were getting better together. One of the balls came high and deep, and I knew I would not be able to back up enough to hit a proper forehand. So I turned my back to the net and tried to lob the ball backwards over my head and into my opponent's court.

The ball went where it was supposed to, but I hit my forehead with my racket and split open the skin right below my hairline. Fortunately there was a coach at the clubhouse with a first aid kit, and she put a bandage on my cut. I

refused to go to the emergency room because I was afraid that my tennis partner wouldn't want to play with me anymore. We went back to the court and finished the set.

After two years of playing tennis I felt people at the tennis club were going to see a real qualitative improvement in my game. I was much stronger, a little more skilled, and not so nervous around other players. But then I developed a genuine sports injury - tendonitis in my right shoulder. I had been struggling to develop a more professional serve, and I wasn't doing it correctly. For a year I couldn't move my right arm over my head, so I had to go back to my wimpy pop serves.

I persevered with icepacks, physical therapy, weight training, and a new, heavier tennis racket. It all worked, and a year later I was better than ever, but still not good enough to beat the experienced doubles players. While I was treating my tendonitis, some of these ladies had knee surgery, and one had suffered a mini stroke. But they still had that awesome hand-eye coordination and I still could not beat them; the doubles team that I was on always lost. But as ever, the players were gracious and supportive.

I am now almost 62, and my latest injury is a pulled muscle in my left thigh. I don't know how I did this, but my husband teases me that I'm a real athlete. I go out and play, and then I come home and put ice on it. I will be forever grateful to the tennis club that invited me to play because the mantra is true: "You're never too old."

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DJAA registration begins this week

DOWNEY - Open registration will be held this week for the Downey Junior Athletic Association's (DJAA) 2009 baseball season.

There are no try-outs, but children must be currently enrolled in the first through eighth grade in a Downey school or live in the city.

Registration will be tomorrow at Apollo Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday from 5-8 p.m.; and Thursday from 5-8 p.m. Players should bring a birth certificate, current report card or school ID, and the registration fee.

Registration is \$60 per child and includes trophies, pictures and game officials. Uniforms are sold separately.

For more information, call (562) 861-3727 or e-mail info@djaasports.org.

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.

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

ROP: Students learn valuable tips for adulthood.

Continued from page 2

counts. A serious second-time ROP enrollee, she competed in the business office category, and is already looking forward to registering for her third ROP (cosmetology) class next year. "I want to pick up as many skills as I can," she said.

Ryan Ha, a Warren High commercial photography student under longtime photography teacher George Redfox, made a power point presentation, showcasing his impressive photo slides using his Nikon D80 camera. He said he's eyeing a military photography/photojournalism career. Redfox commended the descendant of Pusan, South Korea ancestors as a "hard-working, disci-

plined, very serious, enthusiastic" student.

The other contestants were, from WHS: seniors Emily Gregorio (film/TV production), Jasmin Medrano (marketing), and Nicolette Kleszynski (graphic arts/animation); and from DHS: junior Lafleche Giasson (education), and seniors Nancy Rodriguez (education), Briau Tyson (professional dance), Christina Vasquez (pharmacy technician), and Vicente Velasco (computer assisted drafting).

Win or lose, the students are sure to learn valuable lessons in many practical areas as they progress from eager, responsible student to productive, achieving adult.

West MS collecting e-waste

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.

Downey raising money to fight leukemia

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.

Over the past four years, Downey High has raised \$198,425, school officials said.

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.



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- Municipal building codes and practices
- Operation of a multi-family living complex
- Residential recycling
- Restaurant or grocery owner or manager
- Small business management
- Water resources management

Apply for the volunteer Green Task Force

The City of Downey is forming a volunteer Green Task Force consisting of five community members and other representatives who will meet monthly for a full year and will make recommendations to the City Council on best policies and programs for furthering a sustainable city. The City is seeking a diverse cross-section of Downey's residential, business and school community to become members of this task force.

Applications are available at the City's website: www.downeyca.org or at the Human Resources Department in City Hall
Applications are due Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Up next in travelogue series: 'My Private Italy'

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
DOWNEY THEATRE,

DOWNEY – Filmmaker Steve McCurdy will return to the Downey Theatre this Sunday to present his newest cultural documentary, 'My Private Italy.'

The film begins at 2:30 p.m. and is the eighth of the 2008-09 Armchair Adventure Travelogue Series.

"My Private Italy" is a personal journey through the sights and sounds, people and places, and magic of the everyday experiences in mostly northern Italy. McCurdy meets a mask maker in Venice, attends a wedding in Livorno, stays in the mountain top town of St. Luce, participates in the festival of San Cataldo, travels to a ghost town Compania, and meets dozens of people along the way.

His journey takes him to Venice, Bassano del Grappa, Varese, Livorno, St. Luce, the Cinque Terre, Florence, Supino, Buccino, Vecchio Romagnano al Monte and Rome.

McCurdy's adventures are interspersed with old 8mm home movies from the 1950's and 60's that take the audience back to a bygone Italy. The film's message of cultural preservation, along with the charm and "enchantment of everyday experiences," challenges viewers to enjoy Italy without trying to change it too much and, at the same time, to preserve and enjoy their own cultural heritage.

"This is a collection of images that need to be shown, voices that need to be heard, and stories that need to be shared before they're lost or forgotten or before no one cares anymore," McCurdy writes.

"Captured on film is my adventure. This is my private Italy."

McCurdy began his film and video production career in 1988 after graduating with a B.A. in broadcast communications. His emphasis was in Educational and Corporate Media Design which led to employment as a scriptwriter. Two years later, he went to work for WordPerfect Corporation, where he was the senior producer and associate manager of the Corporate Video and Film Department.

In 1994, McCurdy left to pursue freelance work and started his own company, Creative Light Productions. Since then, he has directed and filmed in more than 20 countries on five continents, and has worked on hundreds of projects as a producer, director, writer and editor. He has produced films for

major companies including Novell, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq.

McCurdy began a transition into documentary and travel film in 2001. He was last featured in Downey three years ago when he presented the travelogue film, "Postcards from Italy."

The Armchair Adventure Travelogue Series features full-color, feature-length travelogues with live, in-person narration by the travel adventure producer. Films are shown Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Downey Theatre.

Tickets will be available beginning Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the theater box office. Regular admission tickets are \$7, and \$6 for seniors and students (cash or check only).

For more information, call the box office at (562) 861-8211. The box office is open Monday through Friday between noon and 4 p.m.

Miss Bellflower contestants sought

BELLFLOWER – Applications for the annual Miss Bellflower competition in June are now being accepted.

An orientation for contestants will be held March 24 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Brakensiek Library in Bellflower. Applications are available at Bellflower libraries and schools, or online at www.missbellflower.org.

For more information, call Janna Enkhorn or Lucy Wilson at (562) 685-3636.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"The Breath of God"** by Harry Turtledove. Once the great Glacier enclosed the Raumsdalian Empire but now it's broken open. Count Hamnet Thyssen faces a new world as he leads an exploration of the new territory, in hopes of finding the legendary Golden Shrine.
- **"Drood"** by Dan Simmons. Based on the historical details of Charles Dickens' life, "Drood" explores the still-unsolved mysteries of the famous author's last years and may provide the key to his final, unfinished work: "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."
- **"Land of Marvels"** by Barry Unsworth. Unsworth, has written a thriller set in 1914, in which he brings to life the schemes and double-dealings of Western nations grappling for a foothold in Mesopotamia in the final days of the Ottoman Empire.
- **"Murder at the Academy Awards"** by Joan Rivers. From the woman who pioneered the Oscar night interview comes a fabulous red carpet story that blends the classic whodunit with a dash of celebrity glitz, glamour, and, of course, gossip.
- **"Promises of Change"** by Joan Medlicott. National bestselling author Medlicott delivers a new tale featuring the beloved ladies of Covington, as they once again rely on family and friends while embracing life's trials and celebrations.

Non-Fiction

- **"The Breaks of the Game"** by David Halberstam. Follow Halberstam on a yearlong journey with the 1979 Portland Trail Blazers and witness professional basketball from the inside. This insightful account is evidence of how much basketball has--and hasn't--changed since 1979.
- **"The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal"** by Julie Greene. This groundbreaking history of the Panama Canal offers a workers-eye-view of the momentous undertaking and shows how it launched the American century.
- **"Facebook Marketing: Leverage Social Media to Grow Your Business"** by Steven Holzner. Using true case studies, Holzner introduces powerful new techniques from Facebook marketers and helps readers avoid pitfalls that can cost them money and credibility.
- **"Hands of My Father: A Hearing Boy, His Deaf Parents, and the Language of Love"** by Myron Uhlberg. Heart-tugging and hilarious, Uhlberg's memoir tells the story of growing up as the hearing son of deaf parents--and his life in a world that he found unaccountably beautiful, even as he longed to escape it.
- **"Six-Word Memoirs on Love and Heartbreak"** edited by Rachel Fershleiser and Larry Smith. From the creators of the "New York Times" bestseller "Not Quite What I Was Planning" comes a collection of six-word sagas exploring the complexities of the human heart.

Visit www.downeylibrary.org and click on "New and Notable Books" to browse more titles

Symphony concert tickets on sale now

CONTRIBUTED BY THE
DOWNEY THEATRE,

DOWNEY – The spring concert presented by the Downey Symphony is always a rich mix, because it includes live auction action, a reception for musicians and audience, and this year a solo performance by the winner of our new Young Artist Competition.

It all happens on Saturday evening, March 28, in Downey's Civic Theatre. Under the baton of Music Director Sharon Lavery, the orchestra will play Brahms' Second Symphony and will accompany rising star Nigel Armstrong in Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1. As usual, Lavery will discuss the evening's music prior to performance.

Last year's successful bidder for a moment with the baton, Rhona Weinberg Gewelber, will be on the podium to conduct the opening work of this concert, and a lively auction for the same opportunity in 2010 will be handled by our auctioneer and concertmaster, Carolyn Osborn.

Tickets priced at \$20 and \$25, with a student rate of \$10, are

available now by phoning the symphony office, (562) 403-2944.

The concert begins at 8 p.m., the theater is at 8435 Firestone Blvd., parking is free, and the community is cordially invited to enjoy an exceptional evening in support of our own symphony orchestra, now 51 years young.

Wow! There's no water in the city!

DOWNEY – Andres Gomez, a student at Maude Price Elementary, was awarded first place by the Downey Council PTA last week for his story, "Wow! There is No Water in the City!" His story appears below, unedited:

It all started on Friday morning.

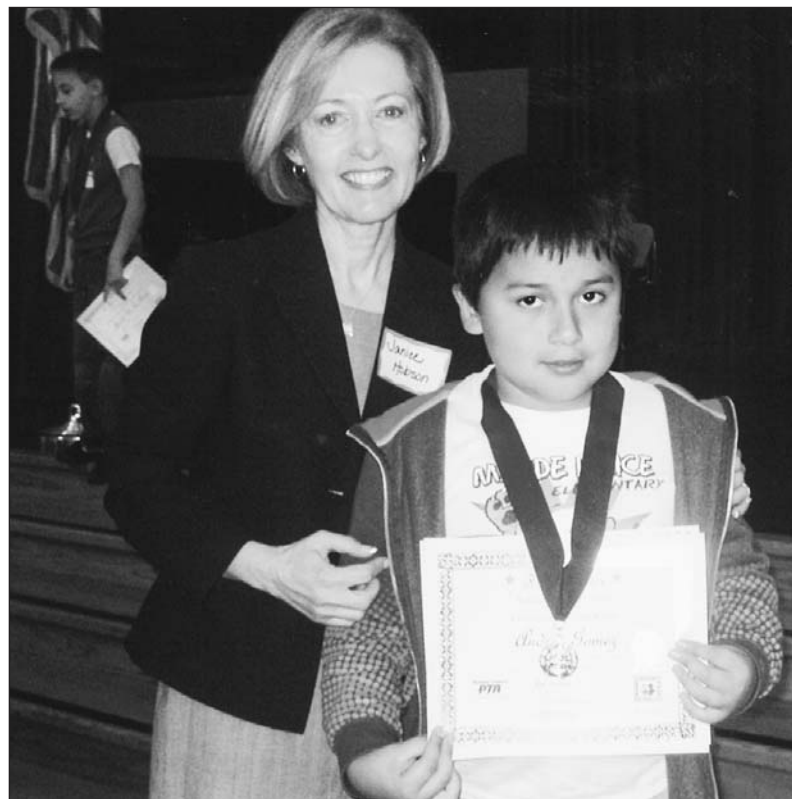
Our neighbor call my mom to tell her the news about the water. It was contaminated! I started to get ready to go to school. But wait a minute, I could not wash my face or my teeth, the water was dirty. My mom gave me a bottle of water to drink at the school, I did not want to take it, after all, we always have water at the school. I was wrong, the drinking fountains were close.

It started to look suspicious, but all I could think about was my swimming class. It was a very hot day, and I wanted to swim in the pool. When we went to the class the pool was close because of the water problem. I felt very sad about it.

To make me feel better my dad invited me for dinner to my favorite restaurant.

Guess what? It was close. I could not believe it. We drove around and all the restaurants were close. Not just we did not have water in the city, but also we did not have any restaurants. How could this happen? In the next couple of days everything felt very dry. I really miss taking long fresh showers, also washing my teeth and playing with the water hose in the garden. I learn to wash my teeth with just a cup of water, also I can clean my hand and face with a little more water. I learned to appreciate the water we have.

Finally we got a call, the water was safe to use. Wow!



Andres Gomez, a student at Maude Price Elementary was recognized by the PTA for his story, "Wow! There is No Water in the City!" He's shown with Principal Janice Hobson.

Call Linda Larson to put your ad in The Downey Patriot Classifieds section. Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am. (562) 904-3668

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RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN PG (11:00, 11:40, 1:30, 2:15, 4:05, 4:50), 6:40, 7:30, 9:15, 10:00

WATCHMEN R Fri to Sun: (11:15, 12:00, 2:45, 3:30), 6:15, 7:15, 9:45, 10:45; Mon to Thur: (11:15, 12:00, 2:45, 3:30), 6:15, 7:15, 9:45

JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (DIGITAL 3DX) G (11:45, 4:30), 9:20

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

CORALINE 3D (DIGITAL 3DX) PG (2:00), 7:00

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

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

Times for Friday-Thursday, March 13-19, 2009

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Easter Brunch

at the Rio Hondo Golf Club

Sunday April 12
10am-4pm
Brunch Menu Includes

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24⁹⁵ Adults
15⁹⁵ 10 & under

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Tuesday
Meat Loaf Supper, Honey Roasted Ham, Roast Half Chicken

Wednesday
B.B.Q. Beef Ribs, Roast Turkey, Teriyaki Sirloin Strips

Thursday
Roast Half Chicken, Hot Roast Beef, Linguine w/Chicken and Mushrooms

Friday
B.B.Q. Beef Ribs, Red Snapper, Roast Turkey

Saturday
Meat Loaf Supper, Sirloin Tips, B.B.Q. Beef Ribs

Sunday
Honey Baked Ham, Roast Turkey, B.B.Q. Beef Ribs

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Croshaw returning to OASIS

DOWNEY – Popular entertainer and singer Johnny Croshaw will perform at Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School. "Johnny's beautiful baritone voice and winning charisma entertains with great music ranging from classic Irish songs to a variety of country music at its best," said OASIS instructor Harriett Paine. "This outstanding one-man show is a great way to celebrate and we are thrilled to have him back."

The OASIS program is open to all older adults. Meetings are held inside the Harriett Paine Event Center at Downey Adult School.

Enrollment is free and begins at 2:45 p.m. The program begins at 3:45 and is followed by an optional dinner, which may be purchased at time of enrollment for \$3.50.

Downey Dial-A-Ride can provide transportation to residents who qualify. For more information, call (562) 940-6200.

DRMC awards banquet in May

DOWNEY – The Downey Regional Medical Center Memorial Trust Foundation and Awards Banquet will be held May 4 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

For more information, call e-mail DeeAnna.Hampton@drmc.org or call (562) 904-5055.

Father's Day golf tournament

DOWNEY – Sponsorships and donations are being accepted for the Light and Life Christian Fellowship Father's Day Golf Tournament on June 29.

The event will be at the Rio Hondo Golf Club and begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Nathan Sharp at (562) 862-0910.

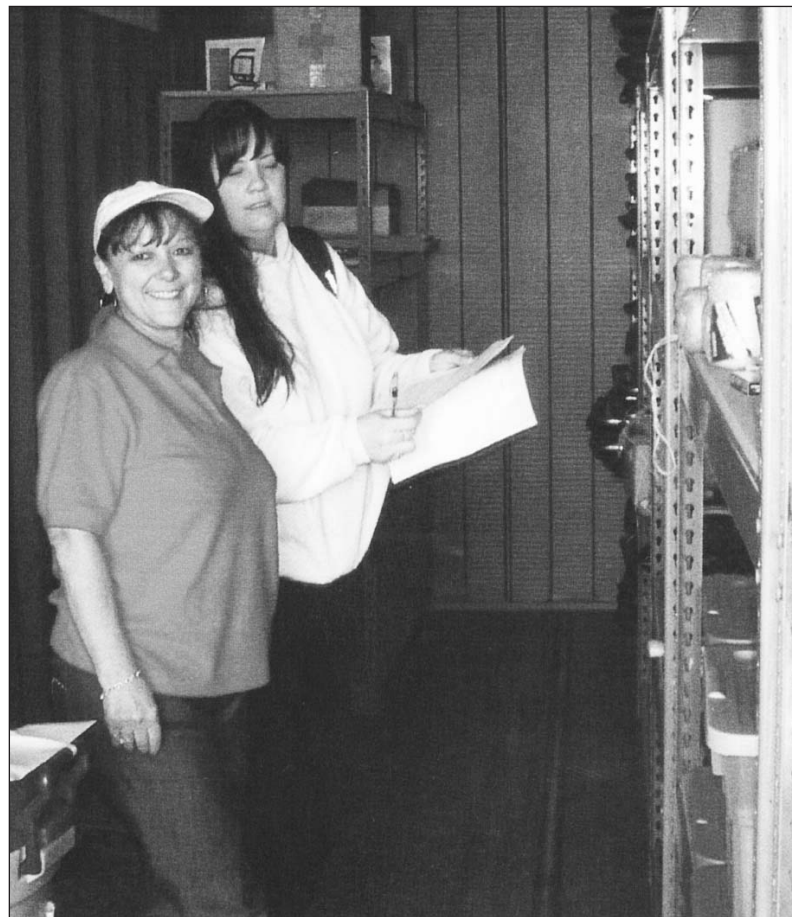
Still time to be princess for a day

DOWNEY – Space is still available for the Downey Rose Float Association's "Princess for a Day" event tomorrow at Trinity Baptist Church.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the event runs from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Girls ages 5-12 will receive lunch, a goody bag, tiara craft, photos with the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey courts, a dance lesson, and have fun with hair and make-up. The event is limited to 125 girls.

Cost is \$25 and proceeds will benefit the 2010 float, "Jewels of the Pacific."



Downey's Emergency Preparedness Committee met last Saturday to check on the condition and inventory of four city emergency preparedness bins. The bins, located at Downey and Warren high schools and Sussman and Griffiths middle schools, serve as points of distribution for hand tools and supplies should an earthquake hit the city. LeAnn Sears and Dorothy Van Zuilen, above, are part of the 10-member preparedness committee.

Comedy fundraiser April 4

DOWNEY – Improv groups, stand-up comedy, and dancers from OnStage Dance Center will headline a comedy fundraiser April 4 at the Downey Theatre to benefit the Downey Rose Float Association.

The event is titled "A Night of Comedy," and proceeds will help with the construction of Downey's 2010 float, "Jewels of the Pacific."

Tickets for the 7 p.m. show are \$10 and available by calling (562) 760-9880 or e-mailing chameleoncomedy@yahoo.com.

Sean Feliciano, 20, mourned by family

DOWNEY – Sean Feliciano, a former water polo captain at Downey High School before graduating and leaving for UC Santa Barbara, died March 3 inside a university fraternity house. He was 20.



According to the *Daily Nexus*, UC Santa Barbara's student newspaper, Feliciano committed suicide. He had been diagnosed with depression last year, the newspaper reported.

Feliciano, a lifelong resident of Downey, was born July 6, 1988. He attended Rio San Gabriel Elementary, East Middle School, and Downey High School.

He was an Eagle Scout, played water polo, was a member of the swim team, and president of Kiwins, a youth service organization.

"My heart is broken, but he was a great man who loved everyone he met and those who knew him felt the same," Bob Feliciano, Sean's father, told the Patriot. "As a dad he was my hero, and I know that he will be soaring with the eagles in heaven."

Services for Sean were held yesterday at Downey First Presbyterian Church.

Sean is survived by his parents, Bob and Joan; brother, Chris; sisters, Cindy and Sandra; and other family.



Arlie Struve passed away March 30. A longtime volunteer, she will be remembered at a memorial service tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Downey First Baptist Church.

Services tomorrow for Arlie H. Struve

DOWNEY – Arlie H. Struve, a Downey resident since 1950, passed away peacefully in her sleep March 30.

She was born March 20, 1926 in Mesa, Idaho and was married to the late Donald T. Struve for 57 years. She attended secretarial school in Boise, Idaho and worked in Vernon, Calif. until 1954.

Since moving to Downey, she was a member of Downey First Baptist Church where she served as a deaconess and taught Sunday school for 35 years. She also worked with Child Evangelism for many years.

She was a member of the Post Office Ladies Auxiliary for more than 50 years, volunteering monthly at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

She is survived by her three children, Margaret, Mark and Catherine; six grandchildren, Brandon, Garrett, Cody, Mary C. and Alyssa; and four great-grandchildren, Hailey, Hunter, Hope and Gunner.

Memorial services will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Downey First Baptist Church.



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Warren's junior varsity girls' basketball team went undefeated in league play to win the San Gabriel Valley League title. "The team played with confidence, desire, discipline and persistence," said Head Coach Carnel Anderson. "If there is a word to describe the team's success, it's 'teamwork.' Everyone blended together, sacrificing areas of their game to make the coaches' philosophy and system successful." Top row, left to right: Emily Helsley, Jasmin Mitchell, Courtney Clark, Tina Iosefa, Erin Tidwell and Maria Lopez. Middle: Christi Ibarra, Tina Makary, Susy Martinez, Coach Carnel Anderson, Veronica Ventura, Jazmin Molinet and Denise Velasquez. Bottom: Amanda Chacon, Brenda Zamora, Sanjana Narkar, Christina Colbert, Genevieve Quinones and Denise Barragan.



The SoCal 12's are led by veteran volleyball coach Bob Crowell. From left: Morgan Donaldson, Caroline Fuentes, Madison Flareau, Amy Crowell, Cheyanne Guyon, Molly Donahue, Kathleen Bastidas, and Alyssa Nicklas. Back row: assistant coaches Josh Melton, Cynthia Fuentes and Janae Miley. For more information, visit www.scevolleyball.com.

SoCal 12's travel up north

DOWNEY – The SoCal Elite 12-asics volleyball team recently traveled to Santa Clara for three days to play versus Northern California teams.

The team is trained by veteran volleyball coach Bob Crowell, who is now in his 24th year of coaching. "The experience was great and competition was tough, but we learned a lot and found we are faster and thinking quicker on our feet," Crowell said.

The SoCal 12's, as they call themselves, recently went 5-2 at an Anaheim tournament to earn second place.

High schools begin preseason baseball

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Downey and Warren baseball began their journey toward the CIF Southern Section playoffs last week, both participating in opening rounds of the Loara and Newport Elks pre-season tournaments.

The Vikings dropped their Loara Tournament opener against Canyon 1-6, but rebounded in their second game with an 8-0 trouncing of La Mirada.

A seven run sixth inning gave Downey plenty of breathing room for pitcher Jeremy Ruiz to cruise to his first victory of the season with a shutout. Ruiz was efficient and struck out five while walking only one.

No Downey player collected more than one hit, but Bryant De La Campa and Anthony Roller provided the power, each hitting a homerun. More than half the team with plate appearances collected a hit.

Warren starts the season cold, dropping their first three games. In

their most recent game before press time, the Bears struggled to keep up with the offensive power of Orange, losing 11-3.

In the first two games of the season, Warren was shutout 4-0 by Nogales and lost 13-7 to Costa

Mesa.

The Bears schedule is tough to start the season with six of their first seven games on the road until meeting up with league rival Gahr at home on March 27.



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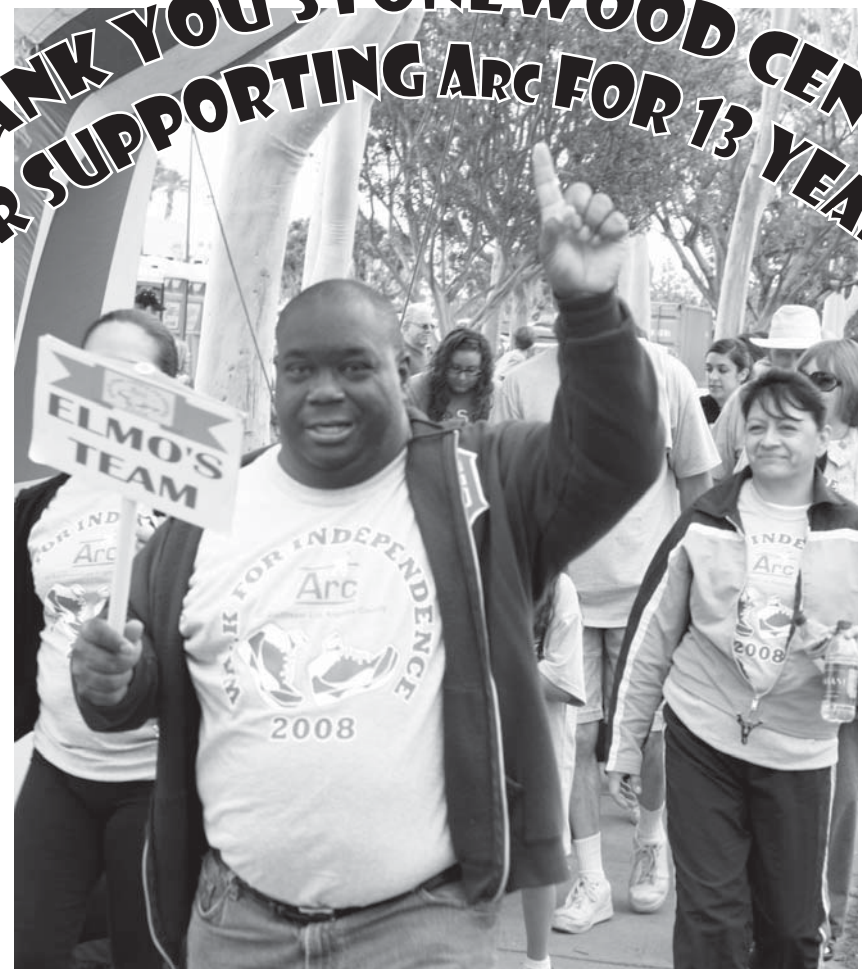
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Vietnam veterans celebrated

WHITTIER – Vietnam veterans will be honored at a special event March 29 at California High School in Whittier, 9800 Mills Ave. Custom cars and motorcycles will be on display, as well as military vehicles and memorabilia. There will be a climbing wall for children, and retail and food vendors. The event is free and the public is invited. For more information, call (562) 696-3965 or e-mail whvvd@aol.com.

Winners named in art competition

DOWNEY – Thirty-eight students were announced last week as winners of the 2009 Los Angeles Student Art Competition, representing a collection of artwork by students in elementary, middle and high schools. The winning students, selected by judging committees from among hundreds of entries received from throughout the county, were chosen for their creativity, craftsmanship and use of media. In addition to winning gift certificates and other prizes, the young artists will have their pieces placed on public display at local venues. Twenty of the winning entries will be put on permanent display in the hallways and offices of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey. The other 18 winners will be featured as part of a display with other entries in three local shopping malls – including Stonewood Center – from March 7-22. LACOE held a recognition ceremony for its display artists Tuesday during a meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Education. Stonewood Center host-

ed its own reception last week. “The individual creativeness and impressive level of technical skills displayed by these student artists are a reminder of how important quality arts education programs are for our children,” said Geraldine Walkup, the visual and performing arts program administrator for LACEO, which presented the program in partnership with the shopping malls and other sponsors. The competition, open to students of all grade levels from public and private schools, is among the largest student art contests of its kind in the state.

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Tina Fucinari recently completed Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate's exclusive "Smart Start Success Course" and has joined the company's team of sales associates. "We are very excited about having Tina Fucinari join us," said Mel Berdelis, broker and owner of the office. To reach Fucinari, call (562) 861-7257.

Golf tournament in Pico Rivera

PICO RIVERA – The Hispanic American Airborne Association will present their annual golf tournament March 29 at the Pico Rivera Golf Club. Cost is \$50 and registration begins at 10 a.m. The event will include contests, prizes and raffles. Lunch will be served at VFW Post 7734. To register, call Javier Curiel at (562) 699-8901.

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.

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.

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Outstanding ...North Downey

Downey 4 bedroom, 3 bath home, 3 fireplaces, large pool, spa, formal living room, family room, alarm system, formal dining area, copper plumbing. Virtual Tour – www.towncenter.com/9327

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Read Across America Week at Maude Price Elementary



Maude Price Elementary joined schools across the nation in celebrating Read Across America, a celebration of the importance of reading.



Nickelodeon star Miranda Cosgrove attended Maude Price as a child. She returned and hosted two assemblies, where she stressed the importance of reading.



Members of the Downey police and fire departments joined in on the celebration, which began Monday with a kick-off assembly hosted by the Cat in the Hat.



Civic and community leaders turned out for the event, including Downey Patriot publisher Jennifer DeKay-Givens, above center, and Mayor Mario Guerra.