

# The Downey Patriot



**Competing for Miss California**  
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Friday, May 22, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 5

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

*She takes assistance to a whole new level*

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

It's been an eventful past few weeks for Mary Lou Schmidt even as her two-year stint as president of the Assistance League of Downey (ALD) winds down and ends this month.

The most recent renovation of the 6,000-sq. ft. almost century-old Casa de Parley Johnson – ALD's home (it was bequeathed to ALD in 1986 by Johnson's widow, "Gypsy") located at 7749 Florence Avenue – that began in January was completed only 3 weeks ago. She oversaw that.

As part of the deal with the Los Angeles Conservancy, to whom the house's exterior was deeded, ALD is responsible for its upkeep. This means proper maintenance of its garden (and patio), scene of many a party and social affair. This the 42-year Downey resident also oversees.

Schmidt, a BS in Education graduate of Pepperdine University and who once served as Downey Family YMCA program director, says the renovation of Casa de Parley Johnson was at least 10 years overdue. "For one thing, no structural improvement had been done since 1980," she says. The hand-hewn supporting redwood beams that overhang the patio had already showed signs of rotting in several places and they had to be replaced. It had been a decade since painting was done. The original bricks forming the walkway had to be reconstructed. Total estimated cost of the intertwined make-over projects: \$100,000.

See SCHMIDT, page 4

## Police ask for help in catching murder suspect

■ Ly Cong Tran was killed in an apparent robbery inside a Downey water store.

BY ERIC PIERCE,  
CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – Normally, Ly Cong Tran would have been home with his family in Westminster by 7 p.m. But after falling behind on his mortgage payments and facing the possibility of losing his home, Tran decided to extend the hours of his Downey-based drinking water shop.

The decision would cost him his life.

Tran, 45, was the victim of a deadly robbery inside Downey Drinking Water, 13105 Lakewood Blvd., on May 15. According to police, a man wearing a baseball cap down over his eyes and brandishing a handgun entered the store at about 7:45 p.m.

Surveillance video shows a brief struggle before the two disappear out of camera range. A brief scuffle can be heard and then a single gunshot rings out.

Police say Tran was shot in the head.

Video shows the suspect heading out the store with what appears to be a red box tucked underneath his arm. Witnesses last saw him running towards Lakewood Boulevard, away from the strip mall.

As police turned to the public and media for help in finding the suspect, Tran's family grieved and finalized funeral plans.

Tran was married with two sons, family members said. The youngest was 10, and the other had recently started classes at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

"They were a very close family, very loving," said Becky Tran, Ly Tran's sister-in-law. "Even for dinner, if one was not home, they waited. (Tran) was very much a family man."

Becky Tran said the family was having financial difficulties and were at risk of losing their Westminster home. Ly Tran was looking into a loan modification, but in the meantime he extended the hours of his store, which sells drinking water and *agua frescas*.

"He normally closes the store at 7 (p.m.), but to save the house he wanted to open the store more, to try to make the house payment," Becky Tran said. "He loved his home. He loved his yard. He worked very hard because he was afraid to lose his house."

Family members said this was the second time Ly Tran had been robbed at the store, which he had owned for six years. The first time, they said, the assailant took the money and ran. Ly Tran returned home that night "very shaky and scared," relatives said.

After the first robbery, Ly Tran's wife – who asked that her name be withheld – urged her husband to install surveillance cameras.

"They couldn't afford it, but they made monthly payments. Ly installed it by himself," Becky Tran said.

The Tran family is still struggling with Ly Tran's death. According to Becky Tran, his wife suffers from nightmares and his oldest son has refused to watch the store's surveillance video, which has been released to the media in hopes of generating leads.

A private funeral will take place today at "the cheapest mortuary we could find," relatives said.

"We know everyone cares, but I don't think we're capable enough to deal with (an outpouring of support)," Becky Tran said. "We want to be in private right now."

Relatives hope to raise money



**WANTED FOR MURDER:** Police believe this man is responsible for the murder of 45-year-old Ly Cong Tran, who was gunned down May 15 inside Downey Drinking Water.

for Ly Tran's family by establishing a trust fund in the near future. Ly Tran was the family's sole provider.

"He had a very big heart," Becky Tran said. "Every day he go to work and go straight home. Everything he do with the family. He didn't go out to the bar or stuff like that. He liked to be with his family."

"This has hit us very, very hard."

The suspect is described as a male Hispanic, 30-40 years old, 5 feet 5 to 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a medium build and a medium complexion. He was wearing a dark-colored V-neck pullover shirt and blue jeans. He was also wearing a distinctive cap with the letters "SF" on the front.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call Detective Aubuchon at (562) 904-2361 or Detective Hernandez at (562) 904-2368.



Theresa Anne Swain stars as Peggy in "42nd Street," opening Thursday at the Downey Theatre. For tickets to the musical, which plays through June 14, call (562) 923-1714.

## Millions offered in energy incentives

■ Businesses can reap major rebates for energy efficient projects.

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – The more than \$20 million in rebates and incentives being made available this year by Southern California Gas Co. to business owners that can present qualifying energy-efficient projects is sweet music to their ears. This is offset, however, by the mostly discordant notes produced by economist Jack Kyser's prognosis of the Southern California economy which is still definitely mired in a recession.

This was the gist of the presentations Tuesday at The Gas Company's 4th annual Energy Efficiency Expo held at its Firestone Boulevard facility in which more than 300 business representatives took part.

According to The Gas Company's senior vice president/regulatory and finance Lee Schaverien, rebates may be realized mostly from cash payments on "hundreds of pieces of qualifying equipment," incentives from cash payments attached to "flexible" energy-efficient programs that are not covered by rebates. The Gas Company offers help, usually free,

"before, during, and after" a project.

In its main outline, this is how the program works: when buying a piece of energy-efficient equipment, for instance, a business can reduce its purchase cost by a rebate or incentive from The Gas Company. A loan for the balance of the equipment cost can then be financed by The Gas Company, at zero percent interest: a private corporation can get a \$100,000 loan, while a government agency can qualify for up to a \$250,000 loan.

"The first step to saving energy and money," says The Gas Company, "is knowing how your business uses energy." Energy efficiency assessments are free. The rebate program kicks in when a business replaces or upgrades equipment with energy-saving features.

Examples are those relating to such items as food service equipment, gas coolants, water heaters and boilers. For major commercial/industrial building projects, incentives (not to mention tax incentives) kick in when sustainable building design, indoor air quality, energy modeling, and LEED certification features are involved.

A panelist, Yusheng Xu,

See ENERGY, page 3

## No damage, injuries reported from quake

BY MARK SAUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**DOWNEY** – Downey residents and business owners received an unexpected jolt last Sunday night at about 8:30 p.m.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) rated the magnitude of the earthquake as a 5.1 initially, but later lowered the severity value to a 4.7. The severity of the shaking and the dramatic jolt at the end of the event made the experience a memorable one for many.

Downey Police and Fire personnel immediately canvassed the city for any earthquake related problems. The protocol for all

Downey units is to clear their respective indoor locations as soon as possible and to drive a prescribed route through the community.

The responding crews pay particular attention to areas and structures housing large numbers of people and those buildings protecting residents with special needs. Street and infrastructure conditions are also of great concern.

Fortunately, Downey Police and Fire personnel were unable to find any related problems after the earthquake. However, both Communication Centers reported an increase of calls for assistance immediately after the earthquake.

The Downey Unified School District staff reported they had not

found any damage or problems as a result of the earthquake.

A number of property and car alarms are typically activated by the shaking and moving. These (generally false) alarm activations are cleared one by one by police officers and firefighters.

Some health emergencies develop as a result of the earthquake. Many times items (or people) fall, resulting in injuries. Some health conditions are exacerbated by the nervousness and uncertainty caused by the sudden shaking and rolling.

On Wednesday afternoon, an aftershock with a 4.1 magnitude was felt in Downey. These types of events are predictable after larger earthquakes like the one experi-

enced on Sunday.

The unnerving thought that occurs immediately after each earthquake is whether the most recent shaking is a forewarning of things to come or basic adjustments in the earth's surface. Sunday's shaking reportedly started eight miles below the surface under the area of Los Angeles County known as Lennox (very close to the Hawthorne/Gardena area).

Experts from the USGS predict a magnitude 8.0 earthquake will hit the Southern California area within the next 30 years. An earthquake of such a magnitude is expected to cause major problems for residents and emergency responders alike.

Remembering our military and those that are or have defended our freedoms





Downey Regional Medical Center's 24th Annual Golf Classic raised more than \$55,000. From left: Ken Strople, hospital president and CEO; Greg Bonn, executive vice president, fund development; and Jack Kennis, tournament chair and emergency department physician.

## Golf Classic raises \$55K

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center raised more than \$55,000 at the 24th Annual Golf Classic held May 4, hospital officials have announced.

The money will benefit the hospital's cardiac catheterization laboratory.

Jack Kennis, an emergency department physician at Downey Regional for more than 25 years, chaired the tournament, which was held at the Rio Hondo Golf Club.

Twenty-eight sponsors supported the event, including CareMore, the tournament's grand sponsor for the second straight year.

## Downey scout earns awards from Catholic Church

DOWNEY – Anthony Gamboz, a 16-year-old Downey resident, was awarded the Pope Pius XII Emblem and Chi Rho Award at a May 17 ceremony at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.



The Pope Pius XII program is Catholic Scouting's church-related ministries and vocation program. It consists of youth-led discussions on occupations, ministries and current issues facing the church and society.

The Chi Rho Award is a recognition given to Scouts who have earned all four of the Catholic Religious Emblems, including Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII.

Currently in the 10th grade, Gamboz began as a Cub Scout in the third grade with OLPH Catholic School Troop 9. He achieved Eagle status last December. He joined Boy Scout Troop 441 in January.

## Downey Cemetery to observe Memorial Day

DOWNEY – American Legion Post 270 will help observe Memorial Day at a special program Monday at the Downey Cemetery.

The ceremony will feature remarks by the Downey Cemetery District Trustees, a wreath-laying, a rifle salute by Post 270, and the playing of Taps.

Past commander Larry Batulis will offer a few prayers and a brief eulogy will be given from present commander James Higuera.

No parking will be permitted at the cemetery. A free shuttle service will take guests from the Lakewood Boulevard Green Line parking lot to the

cemetery, and then back.

The ceremony will take place at the Veteran's Memorial Wall and garden inside the cemetery. The program begins at 11 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

The Downey Cemetery traces its history back to the 1870's and serves the cities of Downey, Bellflower, Paramount and parts of South Gate.

For more information on the Memorial Day program, call Stephanie Shorthill at (562) 904-7236.

## Watts short films to be screened

DOWNEY – Two short films about Watts, Calif., made a month before the infamous riots of August 1965, will be presented Thursday inside the John Downey Room at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center.

The showing begins at 7:30 and is part of the Downey Historical Society's regular program.

The first film is a black and white, 13-minute short called "Felicia" (a junior in high school). Felicia is shown observing the area as it was in the spring of 1965. Produced by Stuart Roe, Felicia comments on hopes and frustrations experienced by the black population.

The second film is called "Watts Towers Theatre Workshop" and features Steven Kyle Kent. In July of 1965, a drama student at the University of Southern California began working with a group of teenagers from Watts. The film was made and shown as a PBS special, produced locally by KCET.

The program will also feature a 5-minute 16mm home movie of the Watts Towers filmed in 1970 by Cal State Long Beach professor Josephine B. Schultz.

Steven Kyle Kent will be the program's guest speaker. The community is invited to attend.

## Wine tasting to benefit Relay for Life

DOWNEY – Granata's Italian Villa will host a wine tasting today from 3-5 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society's Downey Relay for Life.

Tickets are \$25 and include three wine tasting tickets, unlimited appetizers, a door prize ticket, and five opportunity drawing tickets (drawing to take place June 6).

The event is casual and the community is invited. For tickets or more information, call Sharon Newberg at (562) 940-6211.

## Christian meeting June 10

DOWNEY – Marilyn Waterhouse will be the guest speaker when the Downey Christian Women's Club meets June 10 at Los Amigos Country Club.

Her topic will be "How to Check Your Baggage and Soar like an Eagle."

Also at the meeting, Pat Bedes will speak about Rancho Adult Day Services. Beverly Madru will provide music.

The lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$13 and reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114. The community, including men, is invited.

## NARFE to review recent convention

DOWNEY – The National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees Southeast Chapter will meet Wednesday at noon at Furman Park.

Jack Mires, president of the Whittier chapter, will review the recent convention and a representative from "Points for Profit" will talk about a new fundraising program.

For more information, call Bob Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

## Church hosting 5K run/walk

DOWNEY – The Moravian Church of Downey will host its second annual 5K Run-Walk on June 13 starting at 8:30 a.m.

The 3.1 mile route starts in the church's parking lot at 10337 Old River School Rd. and winds through the neighborhood before finishing back in the parking lot.

The top male and female finishers in each of four age categories will receive medals, and all participants will receive T-shirts and "green" goody bags. There will also be a raffle for sponsor-donated items.

More information and registration forms are available by calling the church office at (562) 927-0718 or online at [www.thebelfry5k.com](http://www.thebelfry5k.com). Pre-registration is encouraged.

## Health office completes renovation

DOWNEY – Optimum Care Home Health, a longtime member of the Downey business community, will celebrate its newly-renovated office with an assist from the Downey Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

The office is at 7340 Florence Ave., Suite 219, west of Old River School Road. The company specializes in skilled nursing, home health aid, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, and more.

The event is from 2-6 p.m., with the ribbon cutting at 4. The community is invited.

## Carnival at Rio San Gabriel

DOWNEY – Rio San Gabriel Elementary School will host a "safari fun carnival" next Friday, May 29, from 3-7 p.m.

There will be games, raffles and food. The community is invited.

For more information, call Nur Nabulsi at (562) 301-2396.

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- Amazing Bugs!
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- World of Chocolate and Candy Making
- Lights! Camera! Drama!
- Super Hero Writers
- Rock Guitar Boot Camp
- Twilight as Literature

**Session 1: June 22 - July 9**  
**Session 2: July 13 - July 30**

NOW ENROLLING!

for more information, visit [www.summer101.net](http://www.summer101.net)

OR CALL 562.940.6200

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3	Up To	\$35,800
4	Up To	\$43,200
5	Up To	\$50,600
6	Up To	\$58,000
Each additional person		\$7,400

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**Paulie Pesh and The Vitals will perform tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Downey. The Vitals will perform work written by Pesh along with contemporary tunes. Their musical style is a combination of folk, rock and jazz, influenced by The Police, Billy Joel, Paul Simon and Elvis Costello. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and can be purchased by calling (562) 861-6752. Tickets are also available at the church office on the corner of 7th Street and Downey Avenue, and online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).**

## Family Fun Night this Thursday

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School's 11th annual Family Fun Night will take place Thursday from 4-9 p.m. The family-friendly event will feature an exotic petting zoo, dunk tanks, face-painting, international music, pony rides, food booths, inflatable jumpers for kids, laser tag and more. Free hair cuts will be given, and there will also be an opportunity to adopt a pet.

## Historical society luncheon June 27

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Historical Society will host its annual June Luncheon on June 27 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and guests are invited to bring their favorite Downey history story to share with the crowd. Cost is \$20 and reservations are available by writing to the Downey Historical Society, P.O. Box 554, Downey, CA 90241.

## Stonewood recycling cell phones

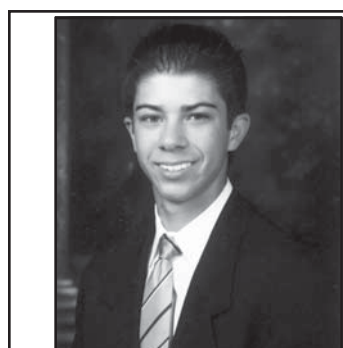
**DOWNEY** – Now through June 4, Stonewood Center is collecting old cell phones for proper recycling. Phones can be dropped off at Guest Services inside the mall during normal business hours. The new program is part of Stonewood Center's ongoing focus on sustainability, which includes a special gift card in partnership with American Express that helps plant trees in U.S. forests with every purchase.

## Church hosting community picnic

**DOWNEY** – The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church will host a community picnic Monday from 11 a.m. until sundown. Shish kebab and chicken kebab dinners will be offered for \$15. There will also be raffles, prizes and games for the entire family. The community is invited to attend. The church is located at 9516 Downey Ave., north Florence Avenue.

## Senior awarded \$500 scholarship

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School senior Erik Rodriguez has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from Cecilia Martinez-Morris, owner of a local State Farm Insurance office. Martinez-Morris annually awards the Robert and Alicia Martinez Memorial Scholarship to students "who show potential for successful college careers." The scholarship has been awarded the past five years to Downey high school seniors. The award is named in honor of Martinez-Morris's parents. "My parents believed in the power of education and instilled in me a passion for education," Martinez-Morris said. "I established this scholarship in their honor to help make education attainable." Rodriguez was presented with the scholarship Tuesday during Downey High School's 35th annual Senior Awards Night at Cerritos College. For more information about Downey High School's Seniors Scholarship Program, call Terri Curiel, the school's scholarship coordinator, at (562) 869-7301, ext. 5519.



**Kylan Peterson  
St. John Bosco**

Kylan you are everything we hoped for in a son and more. We are so proud of you and the choices you have made. Tomorrow as you cross the stage making the transition from high school senior to young adult beginning the next stage of your life, please remember you are not alone. We will always be your biggest fan, most faithful ally, and best friend.  
Mom and Dad

# Report alleges abuse at county animal shelters

**DOWNEY** – An investigation by CBS 2 news uncovered alleged acts of animal abuse at several county animal shelters, including the one in Downey. CBS 2 said it obtained three surveillance videos that allegedly "show what some L.A. County animal shelter employees do when they think the public's not watching." According to the report, an ani-

mal control officer at the Downey shelter can be seen "putting his foot on the dog he just brought in. While it's fully restrained on what is called a catch pole, he pins the dog down, jabbing the pole in its throat." CBS 2 said it had surveillance videos from other shelters showing similar abuse. In a video from a Baldwin Park shelter, an animal control officer is

apparently dragging a dog by a rope. Another officer is allegedly seen "flinging a Chihuahua into the cage. The tiny dog is tossed in like a piece of meat." CBS 2 also said it interviewed a former shelter worker, who said the task of euthanizing animals was a "sought after position." CBS 2 alleged that dogs were either intentionally or mistakenly euthanized after they were put on hold for

adoption or were awaiting the return of their owners. The Los Angeles County animal shelter in Downey is at 11258 S. Garfield Ave. It is not to be confused with the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAA-CA), which is also in Downey. The complete CBS 2 report can be viewed online at [www.cbs2.com](http://www.cbs2.com).

# Guns, drugs seized in stereo shop raid

**DOWNEY** – A week-long investigation by law enforcement officials netted four arrests and more than a dozen firearms at a Downey car stereo shop on May 6. Jorge Valencia, 36, of Downey, is accused of selling narcotics from First Class Audio, 8556 Rosecrans Ave. An alleged gang member, he was arrested in front of the store for

being in possession of a loaded gun. Also arrested were Gilmer Ake, 42, of Paramount; Carlos Rodriguez, 35, of Alta Loma; and Luis Orozco, 30. Orozco, also a gang member, was arrested after he drove past the store and sheriff's deputies recognized his vehicle as described in

the search warrant. Deputies allegedly found a loaded handgun inside a hidden dashboard compartment. Law enforcement officials searched the shop and found 12 rifles, five handguns, an undisclosed amount of marijuana, and three baggies of cocaine. Additionally, 14 "railroad torpedo"

explosives were recovered by detectives. All suspects were booked at the Sheriff's Department's Lakewood station. Heading the investigation was the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

# Energy: Zero-interest loans available, but economic forecast still bleak.

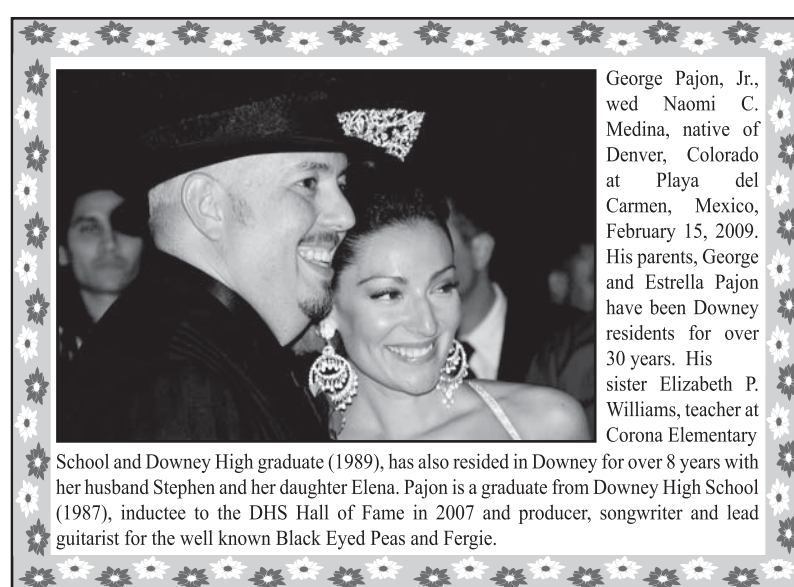
*Continued from page 1*

president of Tri J Heat Treating Co. in Pomona, narrated how he rearranged his work process to make better use of his most efficient furnaces, which The Gas Company identified during an on-site assessment. In his testimonial, Xu said, "I saved about \$20,000 last year on energy costs and I didn't spend a dime to do it." A second panelist, Jeff Mueller of American Die Casting in Fontana, had this to say: "The Gas Company offered to help finance my new energy-efficient furnaces through a \$50,000 loan with no interest, no points and no fees. It was a no-brainer." Jack Kyser, founding economist of the Kyser Center for Economic Research of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation and a frequent commentator on the economic scene,

was meanwhile one of the guest speakers and he offered a no-punches-pulled assessment of the economic environment in which businesses will operate and residents will live for the foreseeable future. He said "lots of interesting things" will continue to happen, particularly in the job market and in the film industry. He sees lots of unemployment ahead—especially in retail, manufacturing, and construction, and most probably aerospace, although he notes some signs that retail may be bottoming out, while inventories are being used up, always a hopeful sign for manufacturing. "The situation in SAG (Screen Actors Guild) politics is one of the most poisonous I've seen," he said. People used to luxurious travel are suffering under the "AIG effect," while he predicted "a lot of turmoil" within the banking industry.

Retirees have seen the value of their endowments shrink, he went on. There is, however, amidst all this gloom and doom, an upside: the rate of inflation may be easing a bit, housing permits have shown signs of stability and may even be at the start of an upswing ("Yes, you can afford to buy a house in Southern California now"), and opportunities are presenting themselves in potential new industries (in green, technology, "creative", food service, furniture, even the arts). "Whoever comes up with solutions to the problems we face stand to make big money," he said. If and when the longed-for economic recovery comes, it will be a

very muted one, Kyser said, maintaining that it could manifest itself at the end of the year, but most likely it will occur at the end of 2010. But for now, he said, "People are afraid." His suggestions to business: utilize available support services, keep costs under control, coddle your best customers, look for business opportunities, and otherwise "maintain a balanced view of the economy." This was before the votes were tallied on the six proposed state budget amendments (five were voted down), with all that this implies.



George Pajon, Jr., wed Naomi C. Medina, native of Denver, Colorado at Playa del Carmen, Mexico, February 15, 2009. His parents, George and Estrella Pajon have been Downey residents for over 30 years. His sister Elizabeth P. Williams, teacher at Corona Elementary School and Downey High graduate (1989), has also resided in Downey for over 8 years with her husband Stephen and her daughter Elena. Pajon is a graduate from Downey High School (1987), inductee to the DHS Hall of Fame in 2007 and producer, songwriter and lead guitarist for the well known Black Eyed Peas and Fergie.



Family and friends that were among the more than 150 attendees that graced the Pajon/Medina wedding and traveled to Playa del Carmen, Mexico from different parts were: Silvia and Carlos De La Pena, from Monterey, Mexico; Paul and Irene "Nena" Proenza and their son Alex with his wife Sharon, from Miami, Florida; Maria and Donald Nickle, Jr. from Hampton, Connecticut; and from beautiful Southern California: George and Estrella Pajon, Stephen and Elizabeth Williams and their daughter Elena; Lucy and Emilio Valle and their son Michael; Sonia and Peter Lugo; Gladys and Jose Dovarro; Santi Iniguez-Pajon; Fergie and her husband Josh and Taboo also from the famous Black Eyed Peas

# California is in a Water Shortage

**Money-Saving Tips**  
*Save 50 Gallons a day!*

- Indoor:**
- Fix Leaky Faucets (20 gallons a day)
  - Wash only full loads of laundry (15-50 gallons per load)
  - Shorten showers by one or two minutes (5 gallons a day)
- Outdoor:**
- Water before 8a.m. (25 gallons a day)
  - Use a broom instead of a water hose to clean driveways (150 gallons each time)
  - Check sprinkler systems for leaks (500 gallons a month)

## What Can You Do?

Central Basin Municipal Water District has been helping local communities conserve water for more than 18 years. To further this effort, Central Basin is partnering with your city to increase awareness through the *Shut Your Tap!* campaign.

**Join the campaign today!** Visit [www.shutyourtap.org](http://www.shutyourtap.org) to find out about free workshops and other resources available to you. While you're there, get information on the California drought and find simple tips for conserving water at home, work or school!



A message brought to you by  
Director Ed Vasquez  
Central Basin Board of Directors

## Schmidt: Helping others is her passion.

Continued from page 1

The new coatings on the beams had hardly dried when ALD's annual Volunteer Luncheon was held last Thursday. On May 2, the Assisteens' (one of ALD's two auxiliaries) Tea and Fashion Show followed. The next major social event: the installation of new officers this Thursday (incoming ALD president is Judy Faust).

Respite at last? No. Starting June 1st, Schmidt, who was born and raised in South Gate, immediately takes over as chairman of H.O.M.E. (acronym for Housing of Medical Emergencies), an ALD collaboration with Rancho Los Amigos that provides temporary, low-cost housing to families whose loved ones undergo treatment at the medical center. Schmidt had previously served for more than five years as H.O.M.E. chairman, from the time it opened in January 1998 until about the middle of 2003. She became Philanthropic Chairman then, assuming the ALD presidency in 2007.

She considers H.O.M.E. her 'baby', having been involved with its planning and early development years before it opened. Now she says she can't wait to run it again.

"It's so important to me that we provide for those people whose lives change in a split-second," she says, noting that most of the cases that have been served by H.O.M.E. are produced by violent car accidents. (Rancho is world-renowned for its rehabilitative treatment of stroke, spinal injury, and head trauma patients).

At last estimate, some 10,000 patient families have availed of the facility since it opened. Because of Rancho's worldwide reputation, they have come from both the U.S. and some 50 foreign countries. The availability of this on-site housing facility, says Schmidt, has been proven to "contribute directly to improved patient care by allowing family members to accompany patients on admission, be present during surgery or critical illness, assist in their daily care, and receiving training in the post-hos-

pital care of their patient."

Each of the 10 units at the H.O.M.E. facility, which is within walking distance of the hospital, features two twin beds, a dresser, night stand, telephone, TV, table and chairs, as well as a large kitchenette equipped with a microwave and refrigerator. A washer and dryer is also available, as well as a large family room lounge area. The registration office comes with a computer for families to use.

Schmidt remembers the facility immediately filled up as soon as it opened in January 1998. "The fee per day has remained at \$10," she marvels, "a real bargain then and now."

The Assistance League of Downey is a chapter of the close to 30,000-member National Assistance League, which has its headquarters in Burbank. ALD itself has close to 200 members, some 50 active members and about 40 sustaining members and associates. Its array of programs and services, every one tailored to local communities' needs, include its

famous Operation School Bell, Books-on-Wheels, Kids on the Blocks, 2nd Tyme Around Thrift Shop, etc.

Its two equally active auxiliary organizations, the aforementioned Assisteens (made up of young students who support ALD programs) and the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary (made up of professionals who attend evening meetings and perform various support activities) currently number about 56 and 43, respectively.

"We have as much impact on the community as any service organization here in Downey," says Schmidt. As the latest example, she cited the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary's donation recently of \$14,500 to the TLC Family Resource Center.

"Right now," she says, "the ALD leadership is focusing on attracting new members. By joining the club, they will be using their talents to work for so many good causes. We're all volunteers. It's time for these many talented people to stand up and be counted."

## POET'S CORNER

### My Friend

She says it spells  
but I don't know what  
her mink stole given her by her lover.

She thinks it wonderful that my car works.

I eye her beauty through my glass  
the bubbles dancing fire against her whiteness.

Her eyes move about my room  
like lizards

She finds our meetings "interesting"  
but can't say why  
neither can I.

-John Adams,

### Builder of Defiant

#### Towers

Fresh from Italy  
Simon Rodia walked the rails  
from Wilmington to Watts  
to pick up curios to set into  
rosettes he'd outlined  
nights and Sundays.  
Luckily he had a stash of  
broken crockery  
brought home from his day job.

"Up, up and away"  
Wire screen and rebar  
odds and ends  
lots of wet concrete  
carried in a galvanized bucket  
gave substance to his towers  
ninety feet the tallest.  
Thrilled sightseers  
but made city hall dwellers  
nervous.  
The mayor's engines  
pulled and heaved and  
finally gave it up.

Neighbor children tried graffiti  
it blended in.  
Only Simon knew  
when the work was finished.  
When it was  
he looked at it once more and left forever  
"I wanted to do something big."  
He said.  
-John Vincent,  
Downey

## Brotherhood hosting breakfast

**DOWNEY** - The Brotherhood of Temple Ner Tamid will host a Memorial Day breakfast Monday in the temple's Fellowship Hall.

The "Jewish style" breakfast begins at 10 a.m. The event includes door prizes donated by Joe Kaufman, with a grand prize of a 14K gold chain, courtesy Harold Mark.

Cost is \$10 per adult Children under 12 are \$7.

Reservations are necessary by sending a check to Temple Ner Tamid, Attn: Brotherhood, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA 90241.

## Summer 101 program for kids

**DOWNEY** - Parents are encouraged to register their children early for the Downey Unified School District's Summer 101, a summer enrichment program for students entering first through eighth grade in the 2009-10 school year.

Students who enroll will take part in a variety of classes taught by DUSD teachers. Classes include "Amazing Bugs," "Fairy Tale Friends," "Twilight as Literature," "Animation and Cartooning," "Rock Guitar Boot Camp" and more.

Classes run from 9 a.m. to noon for three weeks beginning June 22. A second three-week session is also offered.

"Teachers from the Downey Unified School District are excited about the prospects of helping their students learn skills through fun activities and unique teaching methods. This is a format that is 'outside the box,'" said Roger Brossmer, principal of Downey Adult School. "It's curriculum that we can introduce to our students in an entertaining and fun way. The kids will love it, and the parents can feel confident that their students are being cared for by DUSD professionals."

School officials urged parents to register their children early. For more information, visit [www.summer101.net](http://www.summer101.net) or call (562) 940-6200.



Myster writer Jeff Sherratt, shown with fellow author Paula Woods, will be part of a book-signing event June 6 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Four authors will participate in the event.

## Mystery writers to lead discussion

**DOWNEY** - Some of Southern California's best mystery writers will be in Downey on June 6 for a book-signing and luncheon event sponsored by Friends of the Downey City Library.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Downey High School graduate and mystery writer Jeff Sherratt will join a panel consisting of authors Michael Mallory, Gary Phillips and Darrell James. Their books will be available for purchase and signing after the discussion.

Cost to attend is \$20. Reservation forms are available inside the Friend's Gift Shop inside the library. Deadline for reservations is May 30.

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**11th Annual Family Fun Night**  
May 28th, 2009

**NOBODY CARES**  
Downey High School  
4:00-9:00PM

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## Fireworks

By Eric Pierce

Downey Mayor Mario Guerra is pushing for a fireworks show this July 4, but how the rest of the City Council embraces the idea (and costs involved) remains to be seen.

Guerra is lobbying for a fireworks show at the new and still unopened Discovery Sports Complex. Guerra envisions a day-long event involving the city's youth sports teams and local high schools, culminating in a night-time fireworks display.

"I see local organizations and community groups selling food and raising some money for their causes.. I see games being provided by our Community Service.. I see sponsorships to be able to offset some of the cost," Guerra wrote in a mass e-mail. "I see a great family atmosphere all day long...I see families having a great time... I see community... I see Downey at its best."

Of course, the biggest hurdle to Downey having its own fireworks show is cost. The city will have to pay for fire and police services, plus city staffing. And then there's the fireworks show itself.

"[We] hope to raise most of the money by sponsorships...And by having a city fireworks event we can also hope to save some fires from happening and [providing] the safe experience we all want for our families," Guerra wrote.

It's not clear yet exactly how much a fireworks show could cost, although some preliminary reports put the figure at about \$50,000.

The City Council is likely to vote Tuesday.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Not so rosy

Dear Editor:

I'm wondering why Conroy's Flowers on the corner of Imperial Highway and Lakewood Boulevard is still "under construction."

The improvements and beautification of Imperial Highway have been finished for quite some time, and it all looks fantastic...and then there's Conroy's.

Maybe they should save the money from the "free rose they give with each purchase" and use it to finish the building.

— **Dee Smith,**

**Downey**

### Suggestions for going green

Dear Editor:

Downey's Green Task Force has moved aggressively with its agenda. As reported, it has already adopted its mission statement! ("Green Task Force Adopts a Mission Statement," 5/8/09)

Now that it has done so, perhaps the city can start acting: first to reduce energy use in city-owned facilities, and second, encourage private entities to do the same by providing some no-cost to the city incentives, in addition to "leading by example".

With buildings being the largest users of energy, it is a good place to start. The city should audit each of the city's buildings or building complexes for current energy use. Each building or building complex, including the Downey Theater, the library, the City Hall complex, the Rio Hondo Event Center, the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, the Columbia Memorial Space Center, each city park with related buildings, the Stewart and Gray maintenance yard and the other yards should be individually audited with a finding of potential energy savings with minimal investment.

Edison and the Gas Company provide such audits at no cost to the building owner. If there is need for some additional costs to manage this effort, now is the time to provide for it in the city's budget under preparation. This effort is generally a routine function of facilities management. Coca-Cola could be asked to provide some guidance, if this expertise is lacking in the Green Task Force or staff.

It would indeed be a public service and a great example for the city to publish the audit findings and potential savings and follow up action. It would "improve the public's knowledge" and encourage by example. Transparency would greatly enhance the credibility of the city for the value it places to its green initiative. Reporting progress periodically, say quarterly, by the responsible city managers would emphasize the buy-in by all in city administration and their commitment to fiscal responsibility.

There is no need for City Council action to get the audit program going. It should be viewed as a warranted, responsible action in light of the current economic climate. It would surely help in reducing city costs, especially in light of the forecasted shortfall in city revenues. Adding to the program the installation of photo voltaic panels on some buildings where the economics can be shown to be a no-brainer may require council action. The tank roof of the city water tank at the Stewart and Gray yard should be a shoo-in!

A second program that needs not wait on Green Task Force action but may require Council action but involves no cost to the city is implementing a policy of providing expedited Planning and Building and Safety permits/approvals to applicants who propose, say, 15% better than Title 24 energy profile. An emergency ordinance could put this program in place without wait. Waiving permit fees, or partially reducing fees, on purely energy improvement projects by homeowners and businesses would certainly demonstrate that the city is serious about "encouraging and transforming" green behavior.

— **Harold Tskelenis,**

**Downey**

### Not the time to be ambitious

Dear Editor:

As a longtime Downey resident, I was surprised and shocked to read your lead article last week ("Developers Envision a Grand Entrance to Downtown," 5/15/09).

Any individual or investment group contemplating such a bold move during these tough economic times must be smoking some really strong stuff. Thousands of automobile agencies and other businesses are going under, adding to the already bloated numbers of unemployed. Before the housing and commercial real estate bubble burst, during the heyday of a wildly expanding economy, this project might have been a good idea — maybe.

Having survived more than 10 years of the Great Depression (1929-1941), I learned many valuable economic lessons; save your money, live frugally, and always be prepared for another unexpected economic downturn.

Living during the greatest economic bust in United States history leaves one with unforgettable memories — a week doesn't pass that I don't reflect on those difficult times.

— **Byron Dillon,**

**Downey**

### Torture and abortion

Dear Editor:

I agree with Ms. Anita Rivero's well-stated criticism of "waterboarding and other forms of torture" (Letters to the Editor, 5/15/09). She correctly points out that "we are a society that follows our own laws," except that she uses the adverb "supposedly" in the same sentence.

What needs to be made clear, however, is that those that were engaged in these acts of torture, whether at Guantanamo Bay or Abu Ghraib, are not a reflection of "we the people" but a reflection of the agency they represented and their policies. Therefore let us always remember that we the people should never have to apologize to anyone for these atrocities, nor should these acts be seen as a reflection of our society as being non-law-abiding or depraved. Nevertheless we should be concerned that these actions and policies may lead to increased terrorism which will inevitably affect us, the people, unless these are quickly reversed and those responsible be brought to justice.

Now let us review what Ms. Rivero opined regarding abortion because here we disagree entirely. However, before we even begin, it should be so obvious to anyone that if she is so worried about the torture issue, then, approving of the abortion industry, (legal in man's eyes but illegal in God's), would be the moral equivalent of straining at a gnat while swallowing a camel.

Since Ms. Rivero seems to be so concerned about the large percentage of children dying of malnutrition in third world countries, may I point out that much of the cause of this tragedy rests with the United Nations, a corrupt organization which channels our tax-dollars and humanitarian aid into the hands of equally corrupt government officials which in turn use it to control and oppress their own people for political gain with no regard for the welfare of the poor including malnourished children. The solution is not to abort the babies but to get the U.S. out of the United Nations as proposed under H.R. 1146, a bill currently introduced in Congress.

That children are a financial burden to any parents is a given. Show me a child that isn't. In fact there are many 25-year-olds today that still come home to mom and dad to borrow money. Should we have them "aborted" as well? The one thing that can be safely said of abortion supporters and their legislative friends or judges is a simple fact: They have already been born!

Incidentally, if anyone reading this letter did have an abortion, please know that you have not committed the unpardonable sin. Forgiveness is available only for sinners. Cry out to God for His mercy today.

— **Dan Cristea,**

**Downey**

### Pro-choice

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Anita Rivero. ("Explanation Given," 5/15/09) The interrogation and national security measures taken by our government were not illegal and we should be thankful that we have been protected from a terrorist attack on our country ever since 9/11.

Regarding abortion: I'm pro-choice. Women should have the choice whether or not to become pregnant, and they do have that choice (with very rare exceptions), and they do know how to prevent pregnancy. Those rare exceptions do not justify killing a baby.

As to malnutrition and starving, the problem is not that our planet can't provide enough food for everyone, the problem is a moral one. Distribution, not supply, is the problem. Greedy, unjust, uncaring and corrupt national leaders are the cause of lack of food for the malnourished. Leaders who expect bribes for food and medicine entering their country, then stash it for their own interests. Leaders who deny education to all but the elite. Leaders who look the other way when terrorists force people to flee as refugees.

Yes, enough food can be produced — we just need to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

— **Marilyn Evans,**

**Downey**

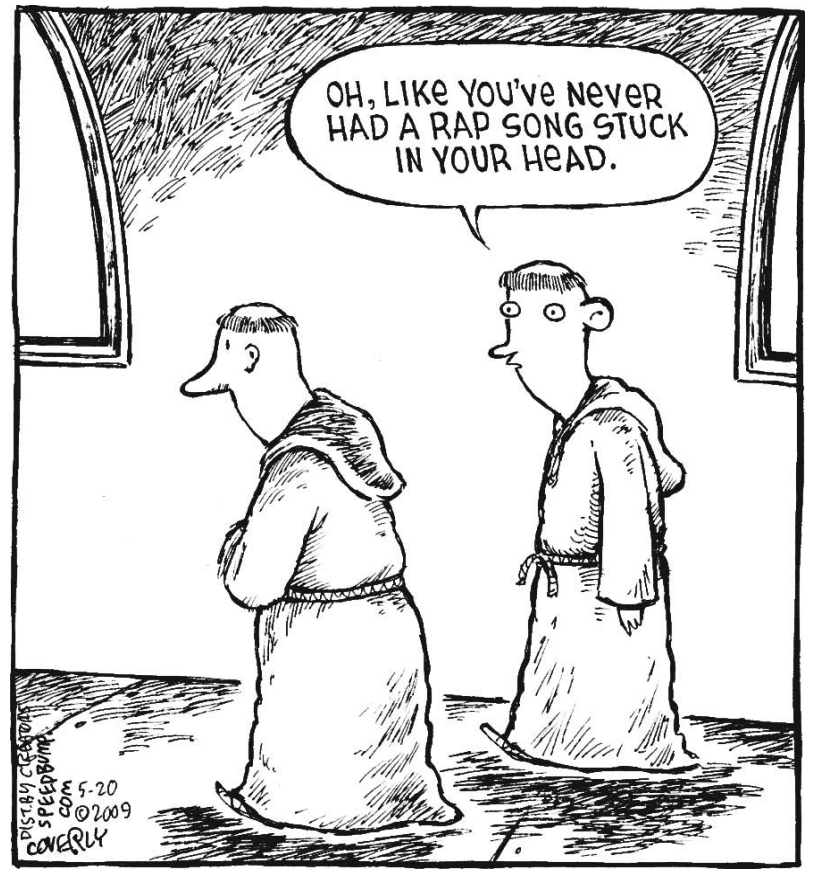
## Roybal-Allard says bill would help small business owners

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) yesterday voted for the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act to assist small businesses put more people to work and prosper.

"Realizing that small businesses are the economic engine of our communities, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act provides an important investment to help small businesses succeed. The legislation expands some of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) most successful programs which last year alone helped to create 73,000 jobs in our country," Roybal-Allard said. "I am particularly pleased that the legislation establishes Veterans Business Centers to provide specialized entrepreneurial training and counseling to our nation's veterans.

"Overall, by upping our federal investment in SBA entrepreneurial development programs, we strengthen our small businesses and our economy by putting more people to work, while providing the U.S. Treasury with a nearly 3-to-1 return for every dollar spent."

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the measure today in a vote of 406 to 15. It now awaits passage in the U.S. Senate.



### Solution for water shortage

Dear Editor:

A private company is going to build a \$320 million desalination plant along the coast of northern San Diego County. It was approved May 13 by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The plan could provide more than 18 billion gallons of water by the year 2012. This project has been planned for a decade. The plant will be built next to the power plant in Carlsbad.

Let's hope we could follow suit for our area. This would end the water shortage and provide more jobs.

— **Mike Sandoval,**

**Downey**

### Call for action

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to see positive responses to the letter I sent in two weeks ago. ("High Hopes for Avenue Theatre," 5/8/09) It is refreshing to know that like-minded individuals within this city are letting their opinions be seen, but much like with my proposals for the Avenue, there needs to be action taken.

I am inviting all persons who are concerned, dismayed or simply wondering about the fate of the Avenue to the upcoming City Council meeting (May 26) to voice their opinion directly to those in charge of pushing the buttons or to simply be there to support the idea that the citizens of Downey genuinely care about the preservation and advancement of their past.

The best way to bring about a change in the mindset of our leaders is to let them know that we are concerned about the decisions, especially those like their insisting on not informing the public of what will become of the Avenue until they have decided outside of the public's view.

I plan to see a packed council chambers with all of you there!

— **Jared Head,**

**Downey**

### Collapse of auto industry in Downey

Dear Editor:

Casa de Gonzalez at Studebaker Road and Florence Avenue is among the 1,100 dealers GM announced they are closing. Earlier this year the Ford dealership at Lakewood and Gallatin closed. The year before that the Lincoln-Mercury dealership across the street closed. The used car dealership along Firestone Boulevard near Old River School Road recently closed. The Pontiac dealership next door may also close. If it does, that leaves a vacant parcel nearly a quarter-mile in length from Old River to All-American Home Center.

If the Chrysler dealership on Firestone near Woodruff Avenue closes, that will leave the city of Downey with only Toyota and Nissan dealerships at either end of Firestone Boulevard, and a handful of independent used car lots scattered throughout the city.

Clearly, Downey's automobile industry is near collapse. This is an economic crisis facing the city that is equivalent to what we confronted with the collapse of the aerospace industry in the early 1990's. The city reacted fairly well to the aerospace collapse by acquiring the Boeing plant and redeveloping it, although with only moderate financial success to date.

What is the City Council doing about the collapse of the auto industry and the vacant parcels left all over the city in the aftermath? I recommend that Council consider creation of a city-wide redevelopment zone taking in all former and current automobile dealers and develop these underutilized parcels to their highest, best use in generation of retail sales tax.

How ironic that Firestone Boulevard, the major thoroughfare in our city, was named after the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company plant located near Alameda Boulevard to the west, when the southeast area of Los Angeles County was thriving with automobile manufacturers and dealers. Now all we have left as a symbol of that once great local industry is a Bob's Big Boy under construction which will end up being nothing more than a place for a generation past to gather, show off their vintage cars and talk about the "good old days."

But if the City Council is proactive and doesn't squander resources in the perpetual redevelopment of Downtown Downey, something better may come of the collapse of the automobile industry in our city.

— **Brian Heyman,**

**Downey**

### California citizenship

Dear Editor:

H.L. Julian used the words "American citizen" three times in her Letter to the Editor ("Affordable Housing's Negative Stigma," 5/15/09). Why isn't she assuming we're talking about American citizens? Because we can't assume.

How will the developer she is proud to know make sure he only rents to American citizens? She says that California has a higher unemployment rate than many other states. Why California? How do we make sure that only American citizens are employed in California?

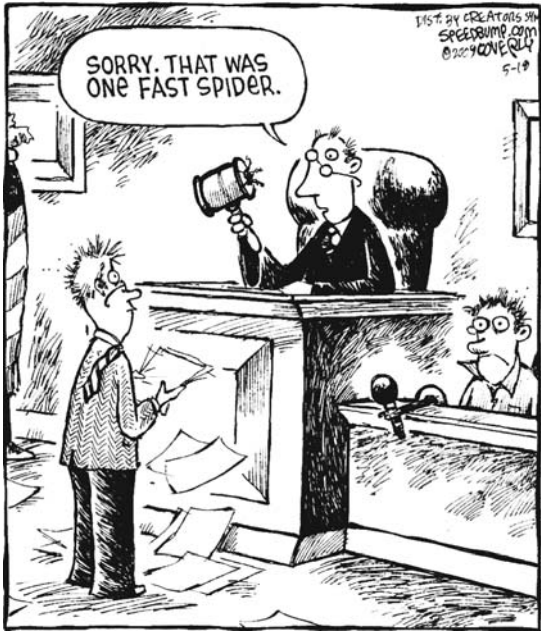
Inviting people with "low income" to live on Downey Avenue will not improve safety or increase business in Downtown.

— **El Bee,**

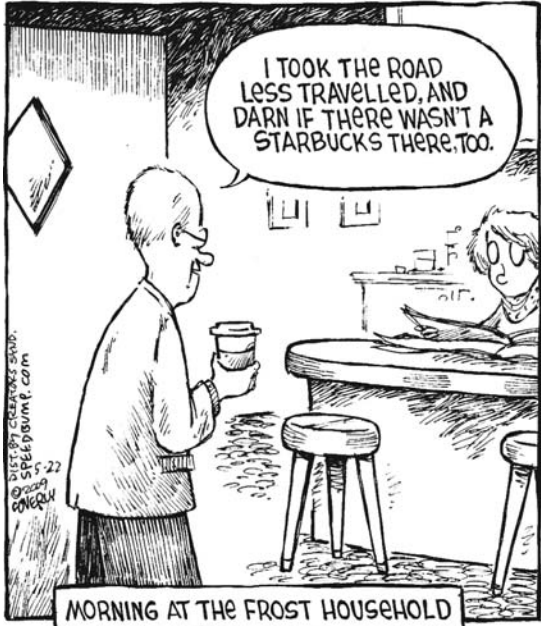
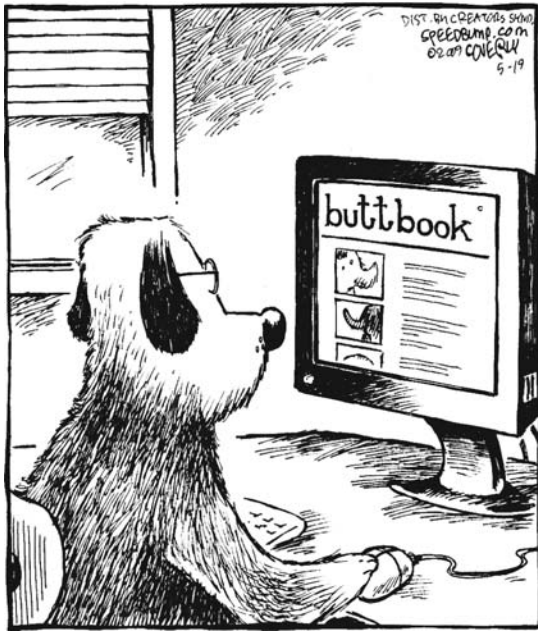
**Downey**

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

## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For May

- Fri. May 22: **Wine tasting fundraiser**, Granata's Italian Villa, 3 p.m.
- Sat. May 23: **The Vitals in concert**, First Presbyterian Church of Downey, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. May 25: **Memorial Day program**, Downey Cemetery, 11 a.m.
- Mon. May 25: **Community picnic**, Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, 11 a.m.
- Wed. May 27: **NARFE meeting**, Furman Park, noon
- Thurs. May 28: **Family Fun Night**, Downey High School, 4 p.m.
- Thurs. May 28: **Downey Historical Society meeting**, Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. May 28: **"42nd Street" opening night**, Downey Theatre, 8 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.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley Senior Center, for info, call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info, call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- 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...

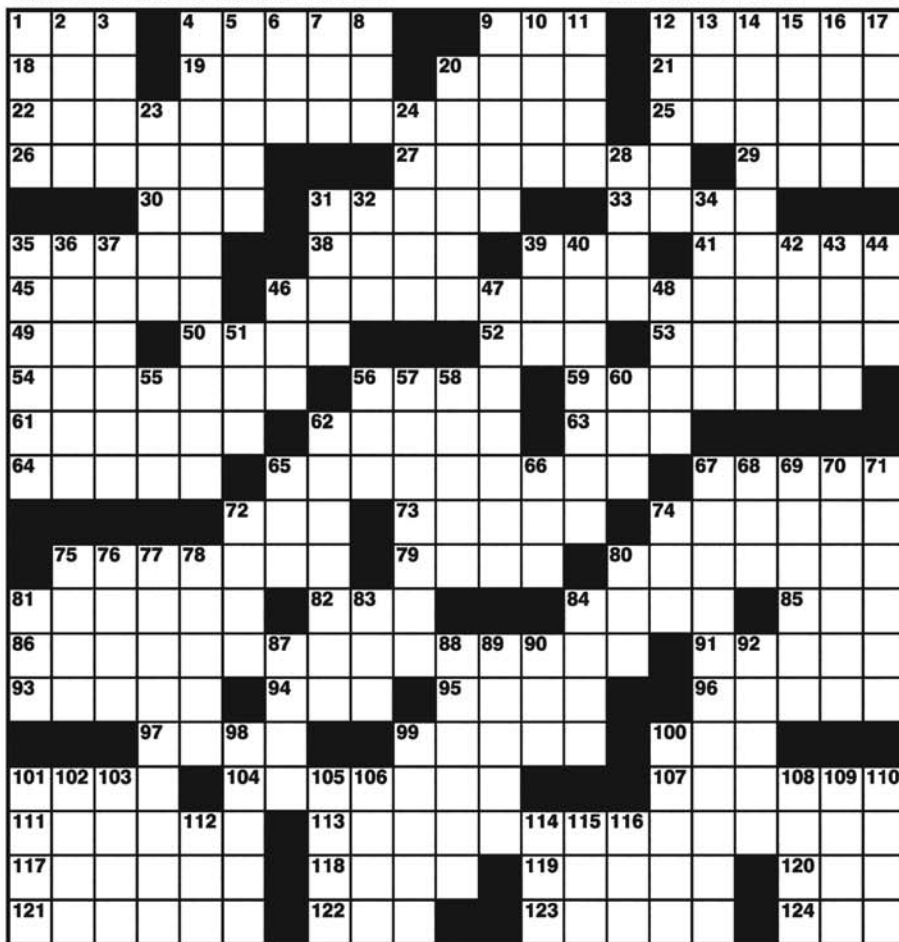
- May 22, 1761: The country's first life insurance policy is issued in Philadelphia.
- 1868: Reno gangsters rob a train in Marshfield, Ind., making off with \$96,000 in cash, gold and bonds.
- 1907: Actor Laurence Olivier is born. Also born May 22: broadcast journalist Bernard Shaw (69), rock singer Morrissey (50), R&B singer Johnny Gill (43), and English model Naomi Campbell (39).
- 1992: Johnny Carson hosts his last episode of NBC's "Tonight Show."
- 2002: The remains of congressional intern Chandra Levy are found in a Washington, D.C. park.

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**APPLIED ANATOMY: Featuring body language**  
 by David W. Cromer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Government agent
  - 4 Deceives
  - 9 Floor cleaner
  - 12 Twist master
  - 18 Checker
  - 18 Chair part
  - 19 Get-up-and-go
  - 20 Portend
  - 21 Shovel part
  - 22 Vicinity
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  - 33 Honest-to-goodness
  - 35 Cut drastically
  - 38 Dash device
  - 39 Put to work
  - 41 Ship of the desert
  - 45 Stale, as styles
  - 46 Michael J. Fox film of '85
  - 49 Sound booster
  - 50 Withstand
  - 52 Churchillian sign
  - 53 Playground retort
  - 54 Knitted decorations
  - 56 Seedy establishment
  - 59 Gets new actors for
  - 61 Add to the club
  - 62 Undersea tracker
  - 63 Ginlie
  - 64 Take the wrong way?
  - 65 "High performance" vehicle
  - 67 News anchor Couric
  - 72 Shipping unit
  - 73 Get smart
  - 74 Mythical giants
  - 75 Products of solar energy
  - 79 \_\_\_-bitty
  - 80 Collectable cars
  - 81 Landscaping tool
  - 82 Directional suffix
  - 84 City of Yemen
  - 85 Meadow
  - 86 Flee
  - 91 Atlanta university
  - 93 Prefix for physics
  - 94 That: Sp.
  - 95 Geometry calculation
  - 96 Betrays boredom
  - 97 "Zounds!"
  - 99 Vehicles with runners
  - 100 Scrubs network
  - 101 Units of resistance
  - 104 Makes contact with
  - 107 Get ready
  - 111 Rich dessert
  - 113 Bureau
  - 117 Makes changes to
  - 118 Rhythmic swing
  - 119 Gussy up
  - 120 Ovine outburst
  - 121 Make more changes to
  - 122 Gun-control agcy.
  - 123 Sound qualities
  - 124 Space-bar neighbor
- DOWN**
- 1 Opposite of avec
  - 2 Get ready, for short
  - 3 Place to learn CPR
  - 4 Cover all costs
  - 5 Diet-label phrase
  - 6 Qty.
  - 7 Dash letters
  - 8 Seashell seller of rhyme
  - 9 Astronomer's sightings
  - 10 Probability stats
  - 11 Mexican money
  - 12 Rub against
  - 13 Actor Holbrook
  - 14 Moves in waves
  - 15 Real-estate ad abbr.
  - 16 Minor anomaly
  - 17 Hankerings
  - 20 Paid for
  - 23 Mr. Kringle
  - 24 Ruin partner
  - 28 For the asking
  - 31 Have the lead
  - 32 Washington's Sea-\_\_ Airport
  - 34 Lexus alternative
  - 35 Trump, at times
  - 36 Cranston of old-time radio
  - 37 Have hopes
  - 39 Beehive State athlete
  - 40 Tank type
  - 42 Mixed breed
  - 43 Love god
  - 44 Summer sign
  - 46 \_\_\_-relief
  - 47 Have more than one's fill
  - 48 Stand up to
  - 51 Serpentine swimmer
  - 55 Mauna \_\_\_
  - 56 Uno y uno
  - 57 Slope
  - 58 Parker for hire
  - 60 Musician's asset
  - 62 Picturesque moments
  - 65 Lower one's lawn
  - 66 Vociferate
  - 67 Chili ingredient
  - 68 Reckless Greek goddess
  - 69 Candle component
  - 70 Trainee of a sort
  - 71 Opinion pieces
  - 72 Matador's foe
  - 74 Nail-polish target
  - 75 Takes in
  - 76 Miami's NBA team
  - 77 Talked to
  - 78 Clear, as a window
  - 80 AMA members
  - 81 \_\_\_ Na Na
  - 83 Greek P
  - 84 Word of woe
  - 87 Go over
  - 88 Most fit
  - 89 "\_\_\_ my case"
  - 90 Was on top
  - 92 Caged squawker
  - 98 Alamogordo event
  - 99 Place for books
  - 100 Concur
  - 101 Persian poet
  - 102 Logical flaw
  - 103 Trumpet accessory
  - 105 Pac-10 sch.
  - 106 Voucher
  - 108 Singer McEntire
  - 109 Caspian Sea feeder
  - 110 HS juniors' exam
  - 112 \_\_\_ Lanka
  - 114 Make a choice
  - 115 Opposite of "to"
  - 116 Home office, perhaps

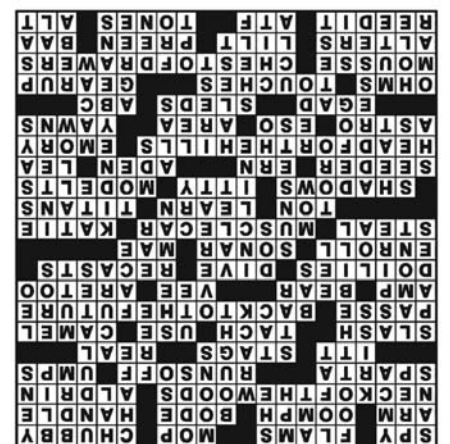
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

The nickname of Apollo 11 astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin (25 Across) came from his sister's mispronunciation of "brother" as "buzzer." Atlanta's EMORY University (91 Across) was named for Methodist minister John Emory, who had inspired the school's founders. LAMONT-CROSTON (36 Down) was the alter ego of old-time radio hero the Shadow.



## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



In medicine, one size does not fit all. Two people suffering from the same disease may be given the same drug, yet react quite differently. *Pharmacogenetics* is the extremely exciting new field of medicine that asks *why*.

Each of us has a unique genetic make-up. It is this gene variation that can lead to different responses to medication. Pharmacogenetics examines these inherited differences in genes, which then dictate our body's responses to drugs, and it explores the ways in which these variations can be used to predict whether we will respond well or not to a particular drug. The potential of pharmacogenetics can lead to not only safer drugs, but also will enable physicians to tailor their treatments in a scientifically targeted way to be more successful for each individual patient on the first try.

Why is there a need for such a field? A 1998 study of hospitalized patients published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that in 1994, there were 2.2 million cases of serious reactions and 100,000 deaths due to

adverse drug reactions. This was not necessarily due to bad medicine. There was and still is simply no good way to predict which drug is most appropriate for each individual case.

How exactly will understanding gene variation be used to predict your response to a particular drug? Currently, scientists are racing to catalog as many genetic variations as possible. 99.9% of all human genes are actually identical. The other 0.1%, making each of us unique, is made up of three million *Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms*, or "SNP"s. A single SNP is a variation of one nucleotide between the DNA sequences of individuals. Pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions, together with the Wellcome Trust, have set up the SNP Consortium to better understand and compile these variations. It is these variations that are at the heart of understanding any individual's response to drugs, and therefore SNPs can be used as a diagnostic tool to predict how you or I will react to a given drug.

However, in order for SNPs to be used for this purpose, an individual's DNA must be examined and sequenced for the presence of specific SNPs. The problem is that currently, this process is slow and expensive. Ultimately, as technology and therefore the cost and efficiency in evaluating SNPs evolves, doctors will be able to sequence a patient's DNA and look for these SNPs in a quick, affordable, and routine way right in their office. This will give the doctor an indication of a patient's response to a specific drug, prior to prescribing it.

How will this affect the care you receive from your doctor? In the future, physicians may use "SNP-chips", tiny microarrays designed to detect your own unique collection of SNPs. Your DNA will be washed over the chip and, with computer analysis, your doctor will know which gene variations you carry, which diseases you are predisposed to, and which medications you may best respond to. So picture yourself one day, possibly soon, entering your doctor's office, having a simple, rapid DNA test, and enabling your doctor to select precisely the correct drug the first time, avoiding trial and error, avoiding serious side effects, and helping you get better much sooner.

If this new technology has downside risks, they concern the ethical issues of just who will have access to your DNA code and thus knowledge of your future risk of getting particular diseases. Your insurance company? Your employer? Your government? How about your family, or potential spouse? This raises far too many legal and ethical issues for today's column...

Welcome to the future of medicine. As always, the best of health to you all!

*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.*

## Are Downey residents at risk for diabetes?

By Dr. Bruce Hensel,  
Special to the Downey Patriot

Twenty-four million Americans have diabetes. That's a 61% increase since 1990, a 3 million increase since 2006. 57 million Americans have "pre-diabetes" that may lead to the disease. Worst of all, 6.2 million people don't know they have it. When non diabetics eat, sugar goes into the blood stimulating the pancreas to release the hormone insulin. Insulin helps the sugar move out of the blood and into the cells where it's used for energy.

Type one diabetes occurs when the body no longer makes insulin and sugar cannot get into the cell; it builds up in the blood, causing weakness, increased thirst, and increased urination. Without treat-

ment brain cells don't receive the sugar they need and patients can lose consciousness. Other sugar-starved cells start to burn fat, leading to an acid build up that can quickly lead to death. Over time, high blood sugars may damage blood vessels and increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and lead to other organ damage.

The risks of diabetes may be 2-4 times higher among African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. People in these ethnic groups may need frequent tests to detect and treat diabetes. Since the disease can strike anyone of any age or any ethnic group without warning, we all need to check with our doctors to see which tests are right for us and when.

Type two diabetes used to be

called "adult onset diabetes" but it has marched on in children due to the development of obesity. There has been a 10 fold increase in Type two diabetes in the last decade. But there is good news. Research shows that some Type two diabetics may yet be able to stop taking medicine all together if they can just lose weight.

Choosing a healthy lifestyle path can save your life. The diabetes epidemic in Downey is real; but the future is bright. If you or someone you know has diabetes, new tests and treatments can help to live a long and healthy life.

*Dr. Bruce Hensel is an Emmy Award-winning medical, health and science reporter who is an advisor to CareMore Health Plan in Downey.*

The San Antonio Guild will hold a "Lipstick Jungle" fundraiser June 7 at the Rio Hondo Event Center with proceeds benefiting the Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles. The event will include lunch, a fashion show, boutique and live auction. Cost is \$35 per person and reservations are required by calling (562) 923-4653.

At right, Guild members Floralie Anthony and Lois Rossi are pictured with nurses from the Childrens Hospital's Outpatient, Hematology and Oncology Department.

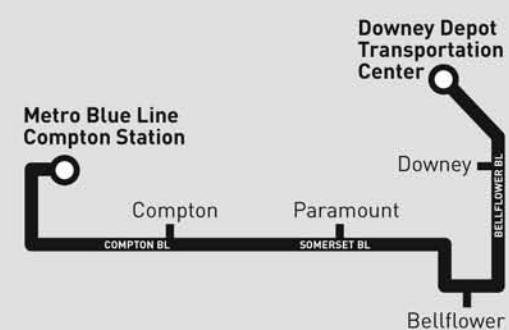


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Danielle Rodriguez, left, and Carli Ciatti will compete in the CIF finals for track and field tomorrow at Cerritos College. Rodriguez is a freshman while Ciatti is a junior. Both attend Warren High School. Photos courtesy Warren athletics

Andrea Duran, a silver medalist with the U.S. softball team during the 2008 Olympics, was keynote speaker during Downey Ponytail's closing day ceremonies last Saturday at Independence Park. Duran helped Downey's 12U All Star team raise money for upcoming tournaments by signing balls and other memorabilia for small donations.

## Lady Bears advance to CIF finals in track and field

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Warren freshman Danielle Rodriguez and sophomore Carli Ciatti have both advanced to CIF's track and field finals that will be held tomorrow at Cerritos College.

Rodriguez will compete in the 1600m run after turning in the third best time in the finals qualifier. A

4:59.98 helped her nab one of nine spots in this weekend's final.

This year, Rodriguez was the San Gabriel Valley League's champion in the run. Her time is the third fastest in the state by any freshman. She had also set the school record and league record by finishing with a 5:07.02 in the SGVL finals last week. While seen

as one of the elite competitors in the field, Rodriguez is also a scholar athlete, holding a 4.00 GPA.

Ciatti has mastered the pole vault in which she broke and set new school records four different times this year. Her CIF finals qualifying height was 10-foot-3 inches. Earlier this season, she won the Los Angeles County champi-

onships that were held at Warren. Ciatti also holds the SGVL crown and was able to waltz her way to the championship with a 9-foot-9 inch vault. Ciatti is also a 4.00 GPA student.

Girls pole vault begins tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and the 1600m is second in order of the running events that are beginning at 1 p.m.

## At long last, Downey back in the playoffs

BY SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Happy memories come flooding back when Downey thinks about their deep run in last year's CIF baseball playoffs. The Vikings won their first two games before being eliminated by a very tough Quartz Hill team that barely edged the Vikings by one run.

This year, they're hoping for a different outcome as they are a No. 1 seed coming out of the San Gabriel Valley League.

The Vikings' first league championship in over 10 years has propelled them into the playoffs with the expectations of making yet another long run. This year they escaped the pressures of a wild card game and were able to receive

a few extra days of rest.

Downey will begin their march toward a championship today versus El Rancho. The Vikings open up their playoff run at home and game time is at 3:15 p.m.

### Softball

A dramatic 5-3 win over Downey set the stage for a league championship, and a 14-0 drumming of Dominguez captured the

San Gabriel Valley League softball crown for Warren.

With the championship, they also captured a No. 1 seed in the CIF softball playoffs that were set to start yesterday. The Bears were scheduled to take on Highland at home at 3:15 p.m.

Scores were not available at press time.



Heather Schnars is hoping to raise money to compete in the USA High Performance Volleyball Championship in Florida in July. Only a freshman, Schnars already plays on Downey High School's varsity team.

## Athlete hopes to travel to Florida

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School freshman Heather Schnars has been selected to represent Southern California in the USA High Performance Volleyball Championship to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in July.

Schnars is a member of Downey High School's varsity volleyball team, which went undefeated this year to win the San Gabriel Valley League Championship.

Schnars began her volleyball career as a fourth grader with a travel club. She went on to compete with the Sussman Middle School volleyball team, which went undefeated in 2008.

Schnars is currently playing for the Protégé Volleyball Club in Whittier. Her coach, Kimberly Binder (Smyser) is a graduate of Warren High School.

Schnars's family is trying to raise \$2,000 to send her to the Florida championship. To become a sponsor, e-mail [klw6327@lausd.net](mailto:klw6327@lausd.net) or send money orders and checks (made out to SCVA) to: Attn: Heather Schnars, 7524 Stewart & Gray Rd., #201, Downey, CA 90241.

## Bill would help cities create park space

**SACRAMENTO** – Assemblyman Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) has gained support for Assembly Bill 521, a proposal that would ease the development of recreational parks and open space on utility rights-of-way "at an affordable rate."

The bill passed the Assembly floor last week with bipartisan support and a vote of 64 to 10.

Urban communities, including the southeast cities in Los Angeles County, lack the public health, environmental, economic and social benefits that come with having ready access to parks and open

space, De La Torre said.

Green space also reduces environmental heat, increases property values, and provides critical recreational opportunities for families and communities, he added.

"AB 521 will increase the amount of parks and green space in

urban communities," De La Torre said. "It's a common sense approach that allows the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to work with local governments to better serve their mutual constituents."

Currently, when utility compa-

nies lease land that is part of its transmission and distribution of right-of-way, it must first get approval from the PUC for both the intended use and the rent that it will charge.

AB 21 is now in the Senate for further consideration.

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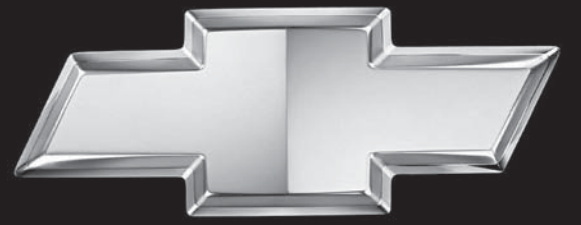
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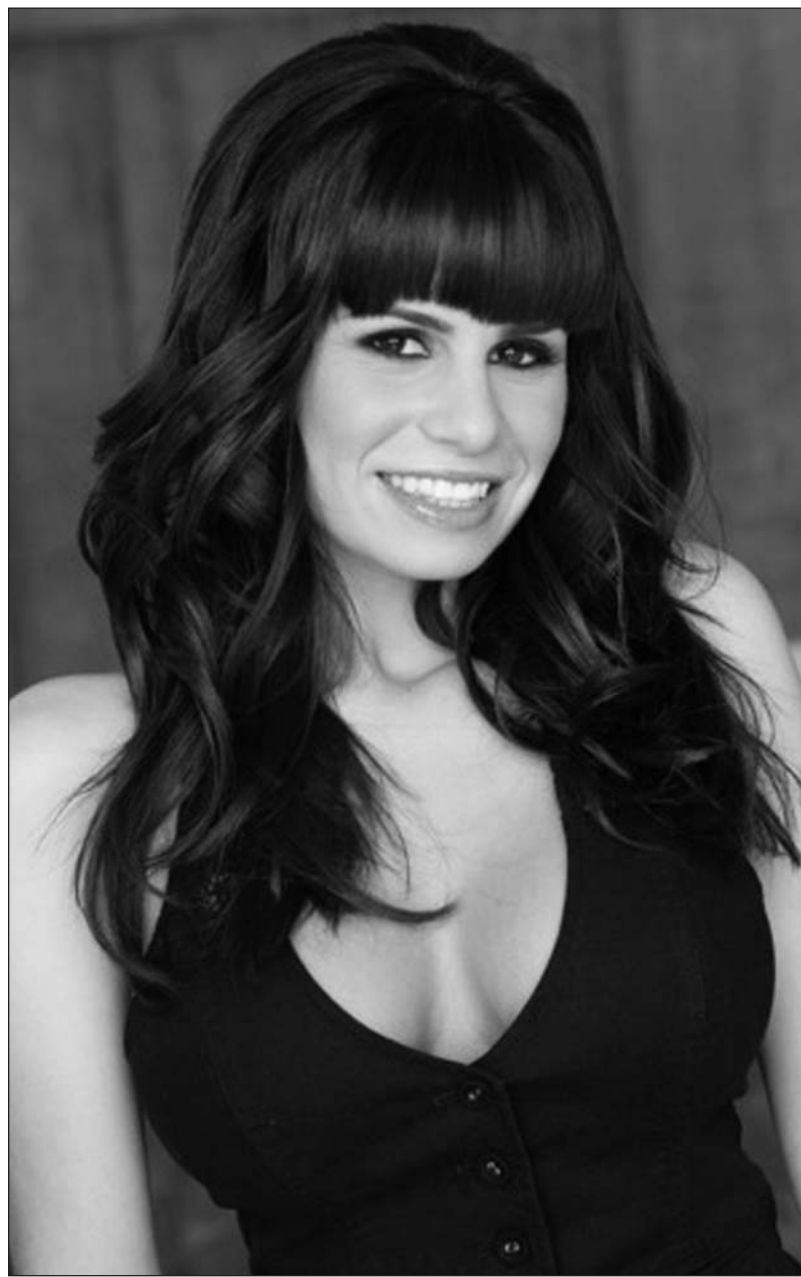
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Downey resident Vanessa Ortega will represent Downey when she competes in the Miss California USA Pageant in November. She will also compete in the Miss Universe Pageant in August. Interested sponsors should visit [www.vanessaortega.us](http://www.vanessaortega.us).

## A Man's Best Set

By BEN PLATT,  
DOWNEY WRITERS'  
WORKSHOP WEST

It's about 5 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon. I'm in a large lobby of a Greek tourist hotel. The picture windows face the busy street and we're a hundred yards from the beach. The traffic hums. I sit on a cool white Naugahide but the knot in my gut is as tight as the strings of my guitar.

Facing me are the two hotel managers. Stefanos and Julie are married. Stefanos is in his late 30's, over six feet tall, and he is starting to lose his hair. His voice grinds like a car in first gear, yet for me he's quick with the joke. His Julie lights up the room with her soft eyes and her glamour girl grin. She's American, about fifteen years younger. He tells me what to see and how to get there. She gives me color commentary. I've just left the service and here in Athens - and all Europe for that matter - they're the only friends I have.

Since I arrived a week ago they have an edge about them when they talk to each other. Maybe it's the age difference, or the different cultures. Now as they sit at opposite ends of the same lounge sofa, I hear him growl, "I'll send you a postcard." She answers, "If you think I'll be here." Thick dark clouds are about to burst outside - just like in here.

I've played twice for them before on my guitar, harmonica setup and they've loved it. Now they've agreed to listen to me play one more time before I leave.

I love playing for them - they clap harder than anyone. My music is me, I am my music and love is something I haven't touched in a long time, except from Stefanos and Julie. That's why I need to get them together tonight. I won't stop until I do. It's all about the love.

I quickly set up, I get my acoustic six strings in tune, put on my harmonica holder and force my G harp in but it slips on the couch. I try again, but it slips out of my fingers and bangs on the

floor. It's less than a second, but it feels like forever. The lobby becomes my personal dungeon. I rattle my chains. Sometimes it takes time to connect. I'm slow as a semi at rush hour on the Santa Ana.

I'm packed, paid up, and my plane ticket is in my pocket. I could walk out, but I promised I'd play. I pick up my harmonica and jam it in place, strum a little to tune again, and return to real time. I'm back in gear to double clutch into music.

My first song is bluesy and sharp. It's got a bite, but they aren't biting. Stefano's eastern gaze is still frozen. Julie's eyes are burning west by northwest. I play louder, sing harder but I get nothing. Stefano tells me he's got to get back to work, but Julie tells him he better not move.

Without stopping, I merge into another song, a love ballad. Now Julie looks at me. The phone rings, he stands, starts for it but it stops after the third ring and he lumbers back. After three ballads, they glance at me. After six Julie smiles. Stefanos is tapping the beat with his foot as I jump into some original songs. Julie claps.

The sun slices a final streak of crimson and gold through the clouds before it sets. I'm going to make it, and so are Julie and Stefanos. They're studying each other now, sliding across fields of Naugahide to get close. My every note, every word soar. It's my best set, and they smile at me like they know it. Now they're laughing and cuddling. Julie blows her nose. They hold each other tight. They don't know it, but something is grabbing me too as I pack up and slip upstairs.

I leave before dawn and I never see them again. It doesn't matter. We all got the love.

*Writers' Workshop West, active since 1962, is open to anyone interested in writing fiction, non fiction, drama, and poetry. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Downey High School library. For information, call*

## New Titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **"Atmospheric Disturbances"** by Rivka Galchen. At once a moving love story, a dark comedy, and a psychological thriller, this highly inventive debut novel explores the mysterious nature of human relationships.
- **"City Without End"** by Kay Kenyon. In this series, Kenyon has created her most vivid and compelling society, the universe Entire. Reviewers have called this a grand world, an enormous stage, and a bravura concept.
- **"The Ex-Mrs. Hedgefund"** by Jill Kargman. The author of "The Right Address" and "Momzillas" creates a hilarious, deliciously scathing send-up of the ultra-rich, ultra-ambitious hedge fund set.
- **"The Exchange-Rate Between Love and Money"** by Thomas Leveritt. A dysfunctional love story set in Sarajevo 2003, this brilliantly original and funny novel is set amid reconstruction programs, mercenaries, black marketers, private enterprise initiatives, and the international justice business.
- **"Second Violin"** by John Lawton. Lawton adds another spellbinding thriller to his Inspector Troy series with this sixth installment. Moving from the Nazi-infested alleys of pre-war Vienna to the bombed out streets of 1940s London, this uncommon thriller delivers a suspenseful and intelligent spy story and historical narrative.

### Non-Fiction

- **"Internet for Seniors in Easy Steps"** by Michael Price & Sue Price. "Internet for Seniors in Easy Steps" starts with the basics of the Internet then describes the practical possibilities -- and fun -- of surfing the Net. Simple, step-by-step tutorials make learning a snap.
- **"Puttin' On the Ritz : Fred Astaire and the Fine Art of Panache"** by Peter J. Levinson. Levinson presents a surprising portrait of Fred Astaire and how he became America's most elegant song-and-dance man.
- **"The 7 Great Prayers for a Lifetime of Hope and Blessings"** by Paul and Tracey McManus. In the tradition of "The Purpose Driven Life," this inspirational and life-changing book will motivate, comfort and heal.
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Auditions begin at 4 p.m. at the Samueli Theater in Costa Mesa. The show is looking for boys and girls under 5 feet tall and between the ages of 8-12. Professional experience is not required but candidates will be asked to dance and sing during auditions.

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**STAR TREK** PG-13 *Fri to Mon.* (10:30, 11:15, 2:10, 5:05), 7:55, 9:40, 10:40; *Tue to Thu.* (11:15, 2:10, 5:05), 7:55, 9:40, 10:40

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE** PG-13 (11:20, 1:55, 4:40), 7:25, 10:00

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## Sylvia English was active Christian

**DOWNEY** – Longtime Downey resident Sylvia English passed away May 14 after a 9-month battle with leukemia.

She was born Sylvia June Clawson on Oct. 22, 1930 into a large pioneer farming family in Curtis, Neb., one of eight children and 37 cousins.

She moved with her family to Los Angeles in 1948. In 1950, while attending Bethel Methodist Church, she met and married her husband, Edward A. "Ted" English. The growing family settled in Norwalk, where they lived for 25 years.

They moved to Downey in 1983 where Sylvia English was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Downey First Baptist Church. Active in Downey's Christian community, she was employed at Joy Christian Bookstore and served as president of the Downey Christian Women's Club for many years.

In 1997, Sylvia and Ted moved into a rural area of Atascadero, Calif. She is survived by her husband, Ted; eight children, Victoria (Ian) Smith, Scott (Debi), Deborah, Christine, Geoff (Celeste), Brian (Bernadette), Catherine (Mark) Robson, and Bruce (Joanne); brothers, Delbert (Barbara) Clawson and Charles (Esther) Clawson; sisters, Genevieve Megil, Zella Clawson and Alta Morelli; grandchildren, Gabrielle, Zachary, Landon, Brittany, Steven, Michael, Lauren, Julie, John, Tyler, Alithea, Lillian, Tess, Hannah, Jack, Sarah and Brett; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral service was held Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church of Downey. Burial will take place tomorrow at the Clawson family plot at Curtis Cemetery in Curtis, Neb. A memorial service will be held at the Atascadero Bible Church in Atascadero in early June.

Donations in her memory can be made to Escuela del Rio, P.O. Box 6007, Atascadero, CA 93423. Memories and condolences may be posted online at [sylviaenglish.blogspot.com](http://sylviaenglish.blogspot.com) or mailed to 8223 E. Suva St., Downey, 90240.

## James Jensen, former 'Realtor of the Year'

**DOWNEY** – James "Jim" Jensen, formerly of Huntington Park, passed away May 4 in St. George, Utah where he and his wife had retired in 1997 to help their daughter-in-law with her children as she completed her teaching degree. He was 86.



Jensen was born Nov. 24, 1922 to J.A.P. Jensen and Lola Wagstaff in Huntington Park. After graduating from Huntington Park High School, he joined the Army Air Corps during World War II and was stationed in England. He took seven trips into Paris during the war.

Jensen was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where he served as bishop of the ward. As a child, he played the piano, which he continued to do well into his 80's and often played at various church functions.

He married Minnie Roeine Seamons, formerly of Logan, Utah, in the

Logan Temple on Dec. 2, 1943. After the war, they were called to serve an LDS mission to Argentina. Upon their return, Jensen worked with his father and brother in the family real estate business, Jensen Realty, in Huntington Park.

He was named Realtor of the Year by the Southeast Board of Realtors. He continued to run the family business until his retirement.

After 63 years together, Minnie passed away in 2007. They had raised three children together. Their two sons attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jensen is survived by his daughter, Kaylene Momeny of Downey; son, Randy; daughter-in-law, Mary Grace Jensen of St. George, Utah; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 9 in St. George, Jensen, who was predeceased by his son, Jerry, in 1991, was buried with military honors.

## Emma Villella was Rockwell employee

**DOWNEY** – Emma Elizabeth Villella, a former longtime Downey resident, passed away peacefully April 30.

She was born Sept. 11, 1936 in Jackson County, N.C. to Walter and Sallie (Underwood) Bryson. She was a sister to Geneva, Juanita, Hayes, Herbert, Chloe and Mammie.

In 1954, she married Pat Villella at Donaldson Airforce Base in South

Carolina. The following year they moved to Los Angeles where she gave birth to Theresa and Kenneth.

While in Downey, she worked at Rockwell, Boeing and Goodyear, among other places.

A memorial service was held May 6 at San Rafael Parish in San Diego.

## Michael John Crane passes away at 67

**DOWNEY** – Michael John Crane, a Downey resident for about 35 years, passed away May 16. He was 67.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; sons, Sean and Matthew; and grandchildren, Alicia and Matthew.

Arrangements were by Miller-Mies Mortuary.



The Downey Chapter of Assistance League recognized nine Assisteens at the annual Iridescent Ball held March 28 at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach. Over the past four years, the young women participated in numerous philanthropy projects that benefited the community, including Operation School Bell, Story Time Festival, Christmas caroling, and more. Pictured above: Ashley Ballou, Kimmery Galindo, Emily Gregorio, Jennifer Guerieri, Yorlin Guido, Allison Rohrer, Kelly Russell, Mia Trimino and Molly Worthy.

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# Gangs Out of Downey's stature continues to grow

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

When Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) landed football great Jim Brown to speak at its annual luncheon last April 22, it was a major coup for the organization. Exactly a month later, Brown's speech and presence still resonate. The high visibility GOOD reaped from the celebrity's endorsement further cements its worth. But even before Brown put his stamp of approval on GOOD, its work of thwarting the inroads of gang culture in the community had already been earning rave notices at the federal and state levels. The state, for instance, recognizes it as a model of a community-based nonprofit intent on helping improve city life.

There was a little noticed event, however, that occurred last March 17 in Santa Ana that may in the end prove to be of deeper and more far-reaching significance. The occasion was a press conference in which the 2008-09 Orange County Grand Jury issued a report titled "Education of Parents in the Development of Strategies to Keep Their Children Out of Gangs." The report addressed gang prevention and intervention efforts in Orange County.

GOOD chairman Dr. Robert Jagielski and former chairman Darrell Jackson were both invited to attend. The reason was not far-fetched: GOOD and its arm, the 10-20 Club, were prominently mentioned in the report. Jagielski avers that an invitation like this, GOOD being an operation of another county, is unheard of. It was a clear acknowledgement of the soundness of GOOD's program and its adjunct, the 10-20 Club. Jackson and Jagielski later fielded questions from the Orange County press corps.

The Grand Jury basically looked at how Orange County (its probation officers, district attorneys, etc.) was handling the problem of how to prevent children from joining gangs. Its findings both surprised the body and confirmed the effectiveness of some of its "excellent" programs. One

item that particularly caught their attention was that the ideal target age for working with high-risk children was at the elementary level, and not children of middle school age as was initially thought.

Another was that one of the most effective, if not the most effective, ways of preventing children from joining gangs in most cases is to engage their parents as well from the start.

In any case, the report contained a Vanderbilt Law School study that said the typical career criminal imposes about \$65,000 in costs through age 12 and about \$230,000 through age 14, but that throughout a lifetime of incarceration, these costs "aggregate to nearly \$5.7 million"; and that thus, the savings may indeed be enormous if juveniles can be prevented from becoming career criminals (stated in another way, it said "effective early intervention not only saves the taxpayer money in the long run, it also saves many of Orange County's citizens from the tragedy [and ensuing emotional strain] caused by the frequent violence of gang activity").

The Grand Jury found that Orange County indeed harbors some excellent and effective gang prevention/intervention programs in its midst, among them the District Attorney's Tri-Agency Resource/Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET), which focuses on the "most violent, hardcore" gang members, as well as its Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP) program, which targets children who are young enough to be reached before they join gangs ("Stop crime before it starts"). Then there are the youth and family resource centers, youth leadership academy, the 8 percent early intervention program ("8 percent of juveniles are chronic repeat offenders due to such factors as delinquent peers, a pattern of stealing as well as drug or alcohol use, family neglect/abuse, school-related behavior aberrations such as truancy/failure in class/expulsion").

The search for solutions involving gang culture in Orange County also includes the role played by privately run organiza-



DUSD administrator Dr. Robert Jagielski is current president of Gangs Out of Downey.

tions. "Although these organizations are not within the Grand Jury's jurisdiction," the report said, "they are worthy of mention because of their effectiveness in the prevention and intervention of gang activity." It cited the work being done by boys and girls clubs, "KidWorks" ("This group transforms neighborhoods in Santa Ana by building on the strengths and potential in the community through education, character formation and personal development"), court-appointed special advocates (CASA), etc.

The report also cited what is referred to as the "Pio Pico Collaboration," considered Orange County's premier school-based program spearheaded by teachers and the principal of Pio Pico Elementary School in Santa Ana. The program provides a social safety network for students who are struggling academically, and seeks to reduce school failure, truancy, classroom misbehavior, and violence and gang involvement.

That said, the Grand Jury posits the need for continued financial support of these programs.

Referring to GOOD, the report said it is "one of the most impressive examples of effective intervention programs in Los Angeles County."

It describes how students identified as at-risk youth begins at Downey Unified School District's (DUSD) Pupil Services Program

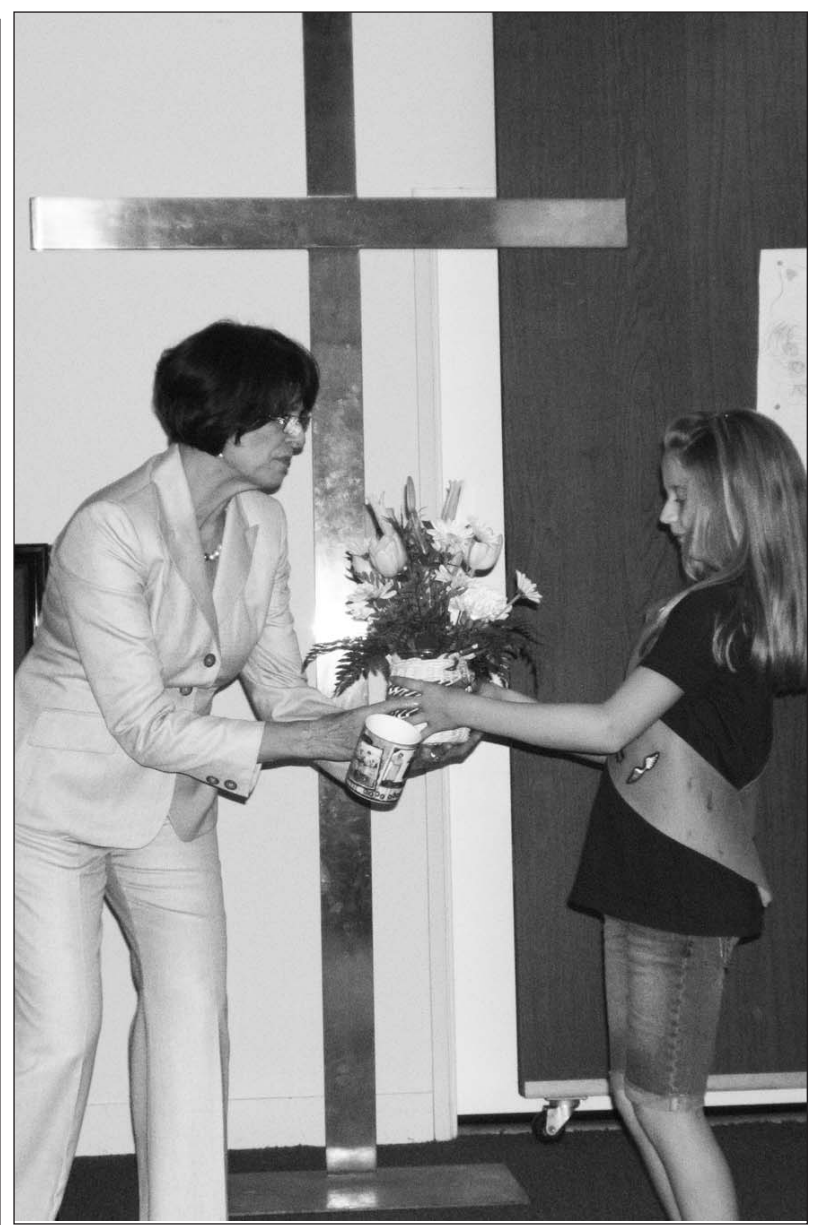
(administered by Jagielski), which refers them to the 10-20 Club (run by Jackson, with an assist from Ernest Caldwell). Jagielski emphasizes that the whole program is a "collaborative effort with DUSD, the city of Downey, the Los Angeles County probation department, the Family YMCA of Downey, and the city's Parks and Recreation Department," even as it counts on the support of local residents, civic leaders, business owners, city staff, law enforcement officials, as well as city, state, and federal elected officials.

A significant passage in its glowing report on the GOOD program runs: "One of the most effective aspects of Downey's program is its incorporation of local businesses into the gang prevention efforts. The city has a full-time coordinator to lead the effort. Local businesses benefit when gang activity including tagging and crime diminishes and, for this reason, they are willing to donate both money and goods to help rid the city of gang activity. This is a vital action and one that is not fully utilized in Orange County (itals. mine)."

A full description of GOOD and the 10-20 Club forms Appendix 2 of the report.

Meanwhile, commitment and hard work by members of the Downey Police Department are paying off, says Police Chief Roy Campos. He says that the FBI crime index in Downey for the first quarter of this year is down 16 percent. This means an over-all decline in homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft cases.

But we all know that crime, as well as the insidious activity of gangs, will always threaten the peace. "It is our job," Campos says, "to make citizens not only be, but feel, safe. To achieve this, we have to stay at all times vigilant."



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) visited with three Girl Scout troops earlier this month, where she explained her role in Congress.

## Roybal-Allard pays visit to Girl Scout troops

DOWNEY — Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard spoke to Girl Scouts from troops 2485, 3245 and 2675 at a joint meeting at Downey Memorial Christian Church on May 8.

During the visit, the congresswoman discussed her role and duties as their representative in Congress and how federal legislation directly impacts their daily lives.

Roybal-Allard urged the students to make their voices heard by exercising their right to vote

and participating in other ways in the political process. She also encouraged them to do well in school and explained the many educational resources provided by her office to assist students.

Downey resident Mikayla Minnig, of Troop 2485, presented the congresswoman with flowers. The pair last saw each other on March 18 when 10-year-old Mikayla traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify before the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, about living with painful juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Mikayla's testimony focused on her story on behalf of the nearly 300,000 other children with juvenile arthritis and the need for more research at the National Institutes of Health.

**Word of MOUTH**  
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

Patients needing to replace lost teeth have another option besides partial/full dentures and traditional bridges. Dental implants can be used to replace all, a few, or only one missing tooth without any of the characteristic disadvantages often associated with dentures. Because implants make use of titanium anchors placed firmly in the jaw, they are permanently set and will not slip. As a result, when the prosthetic teeth are attached to the anchors with connectors (abutments), dental implants provide both the look and feel of natural teeth. Those patients with sufficient jawbone to support dental implants are the best candidates for the procedure. If necessary, a bone graft procedure can be undertaken to provide implants with an adequate foundation.

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The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to commencement and graduation ceremonies. For only \$25.00, you can honor your graduate with a 1.986" by 3" announcement. They will be listed by school and by name.


Deadlines for High School announcements is June 8 and will be published on June 12, 2009.

Include the following information:  
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ACTUAL SIZE

## Father's Day is June 21!!! Send a message in The Downey Patriot!



The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to Father's Day. For only \$25.00, you can honor your father, grandfather or that someone special with a 1.986" by 3" announcement.

Deadlines for announcements is June 15 and will be published on June 19, 2009.

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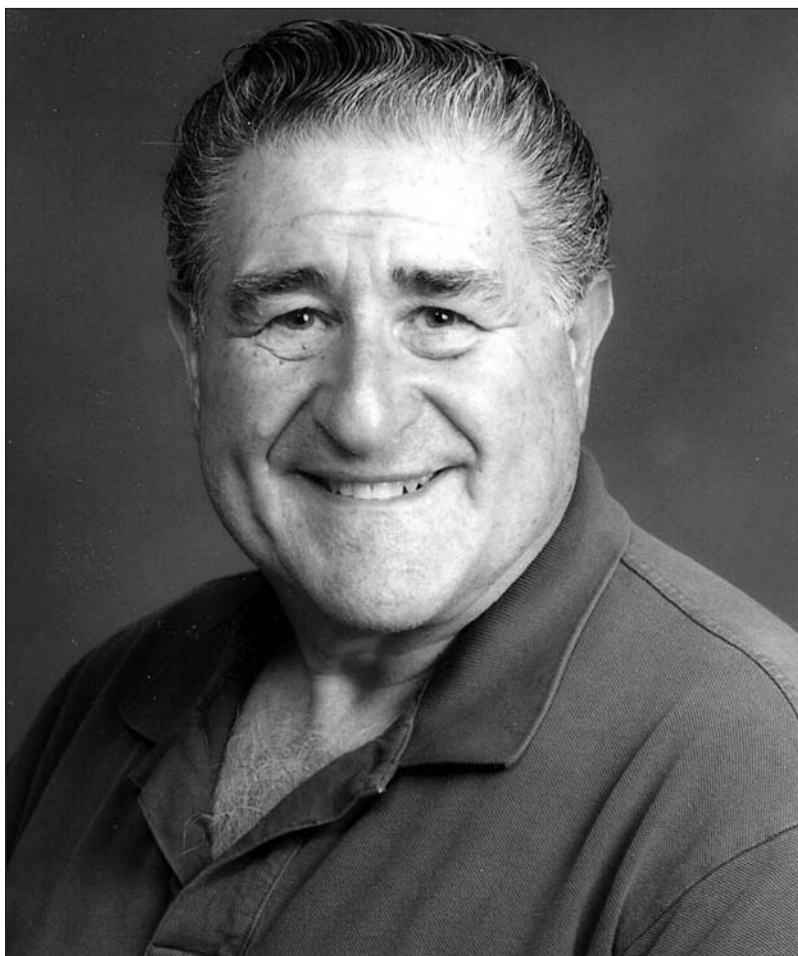
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Longtime Downey resident and business owner Joseph Commodore is the latest addition to the Century 21 My Real Estate staff. "Joseph not only brings a vast amount of experience and talent to our office, he is distinguished by his community involvement with the Downey Dolphins swim team, Downey Regional Medical Center and the YMCA Distinguished Service Award. We are delighted to have Joseph join our team," said Steve Roberson, broker and owner of My Real Estate. To reach Commodore, call (562) 927-2626.



Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate has announced the addition of Miguel Lopez to its sales staff. Lopez recently completed Prudential's exclusive "Smart Start Success Course." To contact Lopez, call (562) 861-7257.

## Kids invited to summer bowling program

**DOWNEY** – Registration is now underway for the Youth Bowling Program at Del Rio Lanes which begins May 30.

The summer program runs every Saturday morning through Sept. 9, although alternate times for bowling are available on weeks when children cannot attend. Children are placed into teams as determined by age groups. Bumper bowling is available for children as young as 3.

Weekly fees are \$10, which includes the games and shoes. The first week's registration is \$36, and includes that week's games.

The program's final day will include a pizza party and awards for everyone who participated.

Registration can be completed at Del Rio Lanes, 7502 Florence Ave., every day starting at 9 a.m. For more information, call Christine Tarvin at (562) 927-3351.

## School offering new dental courses

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School will soon begin offering three new certification courses through its dental program.

Certification classes for California Dental Radiation Safety and Dental X-ray licensing begins June 1. Coronal Polishing and Ultrasonic Scaling certification starts July 14, and Infection Control certification will be offered in the fall.

For more information on enrollment, call the dental program coordinator at (562) 940-6200 or e-mail bdimaranan@das.edu.

## Critter Run, party for SEAACA

**DOWNEY** – The roar of motorcycles will fill the air when SEAACA hosts its sixth annual Critter Run on July 26.

Critter Run is a motorcycle ride benefiting the animals and programs at SEAACA (Southeast Area Animal Control Authority).

The 100-mile ride is organized by the Mid Cities HOG Chapter and L.A. Harley-Davidson. SEAACA will host an after-party following the ride, with food, drinks, tours, vendors, pet adoptions, live music, and more.

SEAACA is seeking sponsors and vendors for the event. For more information, call Aaron Reyes, director of operations at SEAACA, at (562) 803-3301, ext. 223, or e-mail aaron@seaaca.org.

## Children's Bible school this summer

**DOWNEY** – Trinity Baptist Church of Downey will host a Vacation Bible School – a week of songs, activities and games that help children understand the Bible and the world – beginning July 27.

The class is held daily from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call (562) 927-1473.

## Bachelor's degree now easier to attain

**NORWALK** – Students interested in a bachelor's degree program in business are being encouraged to consider an automotive marketing management program offered through Cerritos College and Northwood University.

Northwood is a traditional four-year private university based in Michigan. Students in the program attend all classes on Cerritos College's campus and take higher-level courses from Northwood instructors after meeting general degree requirements through Cerritos College courses.

Automotive students may also tailor their bachelor's degree to reflect an emphasis in automotive management.

The combined course offerings from both Cerritos College and Northwood University comprise the bachelor's degree program and offer students substantial savings, school officials said. The first three years of

the four-year degree cost \$20 per unit. The final year of the degree is offered at Northwood's tuition rate but still takes place locally at Cerritos College's campus.

With Northwood serving as the business university at Cerritos College, students who have earned their associate's degree at Cerritos can enroll in Northwood's program to earn a bachelor's of business administration (BBA) degree.

The adult degree program is one of 30 located throughout the country and has become a model for working adults to further their education, according to school officials.

For more information on the bachelor's degree program, contact Northwood's offices at (562) 988-9506 or go online to cerritos.edu/northwood.

## Cerritos has new insurance courses

**NORWALK** – The Business Division at Cerritos College will offer two new insurance courses, Introduction to Insurance and Insurance Code and Ethics, in the summer session.

Both classes will be offered in the 6-week second session beginning July 6.

The Introduction to Insurance course provides a background of the modern property/casualty insurance system, how insurance products and services are distributed to the consumer, and explores civil, tort, and con-

tract law.

The Insurance Code and Ethics course is designed for insurance majors and those looking to work in the insurance field. The class addresses ethical considerations one must support in order to succeed in the insurance industry.

Cerritos College is the only community college in Southern California which offers a California Insurance Career Program.

For more information on insurance courses, visit [www.cerritos.edu](http://www.cerritos.edu)

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"Jesse Ibarra went above and beyond and did a fabulous job! I give Jesse the highest scores!" – Patty Valdez

"Manuel Acuna did a good job!" – Saida Rojas

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