

The Downey Patriot



**Downey wins
CIF title**
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'grease' up**
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**Tournament
raises \$2,500**
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Friday, June 5, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 7

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

Council upbeat at budget discussion

■ Revenues decline, but reserves will help city weather economic downturn, officials say.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Except for a few questions about overtime costs (justified by the Fire Department in its case for vital training and physical conditioning of its manpower) and the potential safety problem posed by inadequate staffing at at least one of the city's parks (both cases to be further reviewed), the \$148.7 million 2009-10 city budget submitted Tuesday by city manager Gerald Caton to the City Council for study really raised no eyebrows.

The tone and direction of the discussions were for the most part straightforward. Revenue concerns, for instance (construction permit fees; plan check fees; sales tax revenue; business registration, etc., were all down last year) as well as fiscal uncertainty concerns (state faces massive deficit—some \$21 billion; local property taxes—in the amount of \$2 million—may be borrowed by the state; economic recovery may be slow; auto dealership closures; decrease in property taxes, etc.) are counterbalanced by the city's actual and projected strengths (a 'respectable' fund reserve—in the order of \$50 million—with which to endure the

economic downturn; federal stimulus funds and grants, amounting to \$15.7 million; \$45.8 million in capital projects; Tierra Luna/Downey Studios potential, etc.).

Perusal of the delayed supplemental 'budget reductions list' prompted one or two individuals from the floor to appeal for the restoration of funding for their favored program (Downey Rose Float Association's Kelley Roberts was one) but otherwise Councilman Roger Brossmer quieted them down by pointing out that the list indeed imposed draconian cuts, but all they represented was a worst-case scenario, and the cuts were unlikely to be carried out.

The mood of the budget study was thus upbeat, and everybody seemed in agreement that Downey is well-prepared to, in the words of Caton, "weather the economic storm."

That said, the proposed \$148.7 million budget breaks down into nearly \$101.5 million for city operations (with Police and Fire, as expected, accounting for about 70 percent) and almost \$47.3 for

See BUDGET, page 2

You know you're ready when...

BY MARK SAUTER,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The recent earthquake caught a lot of people by surprise. It rumbled like many of the others, and then it did something many were not prepared for, it didn't stop. Instead of the rolling motions slowly fading away, the shaking intensity increased. Perhaps it was more similar to the end of a good competition; the Sunday evening earthquake in May finished with a flurry of action.

Thankfully, the earthquake ended before the knockout punch was delivered. Experts are predicting we shouldn't bank on always being so lucky.

This message is the start of a series of messages on emergency preparedness for our community. The title came from a brainstorming session the members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee held in April. They were searching for a catchy motto for their public education efforts. Once they thought it over, the

phrase "you know you're ready when..." seemed to fit every one of their informational messages.

Preparing ourselves for the many predictable emergencies we face in Southern California is the most important action we can take for ourselves and our community. Educating ourselves and learning a few emergency skills is the best way to reduce the likelihood of needing our local Emergency Services. Developing an emergency plan for the predictable consequences of a major (or minor) disaster will certainly improve the way we recover from our losses. Building a supply of the necessities we will need to get through the next emergency will assist us as we discover (first hand) many resources really are limited immediately after an emergency.

Limited Resources ?

Since the Sunday evening earthquake a surprising number of people have commented on the problems with our phone system immediately after earthquakes. The trouble is generally described as a lack of dial tone for land-line

See PREPARE, page 8

Disaster drill Wednesday morning

DOWNEY – A disaster drill intended to test local hospitals and emergency services will be held Wednesday morning.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey Regional Medical Center and the

Downey Fire Department are participating in the drill.

Residents should not be concerned if they notice an increase in emergency personnel that morning, officials said. The drill should be complete by 11:30 a.m.

24-hour Relay for Life kicks off tomorrow

■ 'American Idol' finalist Allison Iraheta scheduled to make appearance.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Allison Iraheta, the talented teen singer with fiery red hair that made it to the final four on "American Idol," is expected to make her anticipated hometown debut at this weekend's Relay for Life at Downey Adult School.

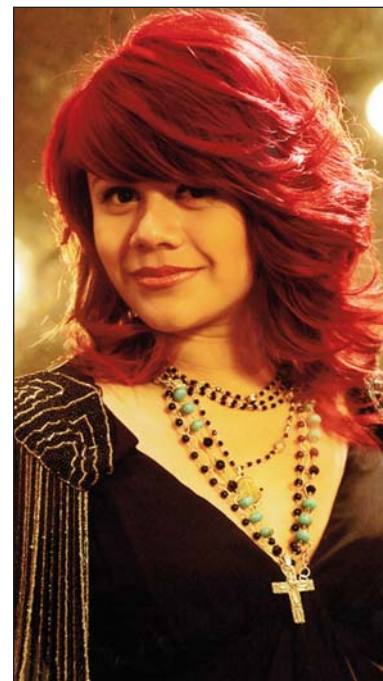
Iraheta is expected to arrive at the school at 9 a.m. for opening ceremonies, said Councilman Roger Brossmer, principal of the adult school.

While she isn't expected to sing, Iraheta will kick-off the Relay for Life, a 24-hour fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

More than 600 Downey residents are expected to take turns walking or running around a track to raise money for cancer research, community education, legislative advocacy and patient service programs.

With Iraheta's appearance, organizers hope the turnout is even larger.

After auditioning in San Francisco, Iraheta advanced to the final rounds of 'Idol.' After her elimination, she embarked on a nationwide media tour with



appearances on "Live With Regis and Kelly," "The Ellen Degeneres Show," "Larry King Live," and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

She returned to 'Idol' for its season finale, singing a duet with Cyndi Lauper.

Iraheta, 17, grew up and still lives in Downey.

Relay

The national Relay for Life traces its roots to 1986, when the first Relay was held near Tacoma, Wash.

According to the American Cancer Society, the goal for each participant is usually to raise at least \$100. But only the \$10 regis-



More than 600 residents are expected to turn out for this weekend's Relay for Life at Downey Adult School. An appearance by 'American Idol' finalist Allison Iraheta should boost attendance even more. Top photo courtesy Downey Adult School; Iraheta photo courtesy FOX

tration fee is required to participate.

With the help of Brossmer, Downey Adult School began hosting its own Relay for Life a few years ago.

Attending the Relay for Life is free and the community is invited. Donations for the cause may be made online by going to relayforlife.org/downeyca.

New book offers revealing look at Downey's aerospace history

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A new book chronicling Downey's extensive contributions to this country's aerospace industry will be released by its publisher Monday.

"Downey's Aerospace History 1947-1999" was written by Gerald Blackburn, a former engineer with North American Aviation and Boeing who spent 25 years at the Downey plant.

Blackburn includes more than 200 vintage photographs in the 128-page book, giving readers a rare look inside the facility where NASA engineers tested early technology that would take man to the moon.

According to Blackburn, the idea for a book was conceived during a conversation among members of the Aerospace Legacy Foundation (ALF), which shares co-author credit.

"The Foundation's mission is to preserve the historical record of the aerospace industry in Southern California, primarily the old NASA site in Downey," Blackburn said. "During discussions one day somebody thought it would be a good idea to put together a book that documented some of that history for the public."

Blackburn said the site's vast history forced the group to split the book into two volumes. "Downey's Aerospace History 1947-1999" is

actually the second part to the 2-book series.

"Much like 'Star Wars,' we wrote the second one first," Blackburn said.

The prequel, tentatively titled "Vultee Field," will cover the site's early aircraft days, dating back to 1928 when local industrialist E.M. Smith purchased the land for his private company, EMSCO Aircraft. That book is currently being written by Jim Busby, a vice president of ALF, Blackburn said.

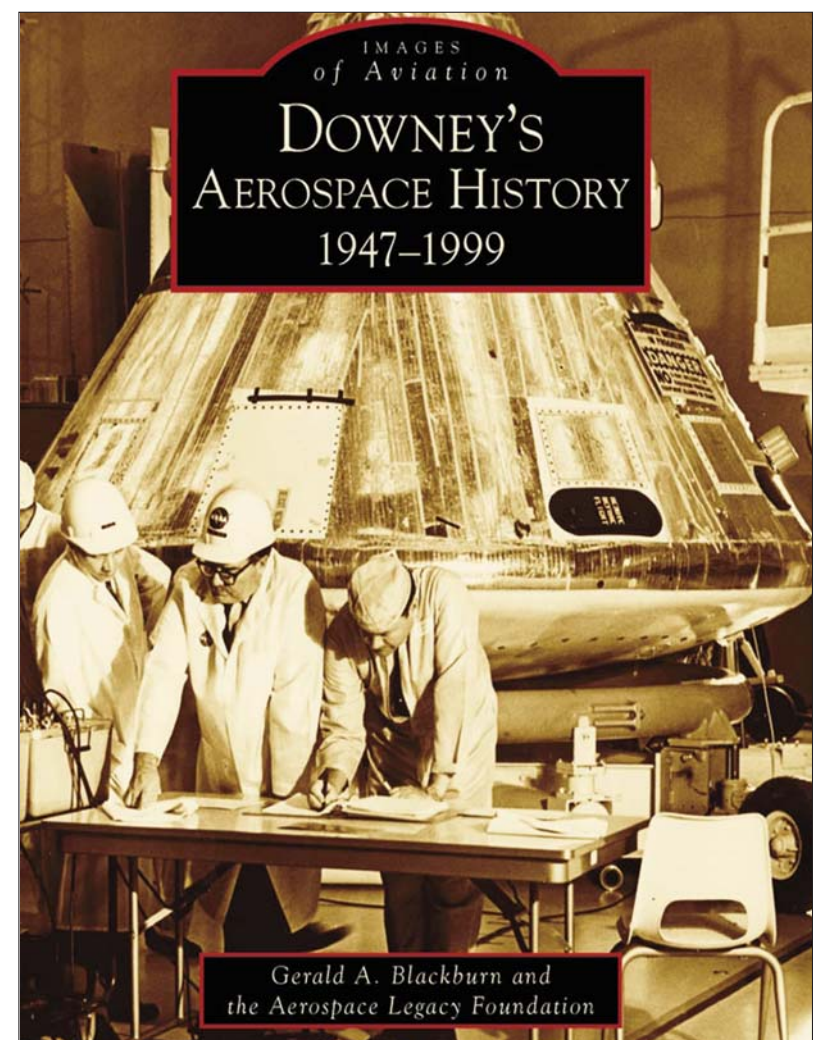
Blackburn estimated it took about one year to complete "Downey's Aerospace History." Much of that time was spent documenting the thousands of images he collected from city officials, the Downey Historical Society and private collectors.

"Many images were not documented very well in terms of what they were of, dates, those kinds of things," he said.

Arcadia Publishing is publisher of "Downey's Aerospace History." Arcadia assumed the cost of publishing and will donate 50 percent of royalties back to ALF.

"From our standpoint it wasn't so much the profit that we were after but educating the public," Blackburn said.

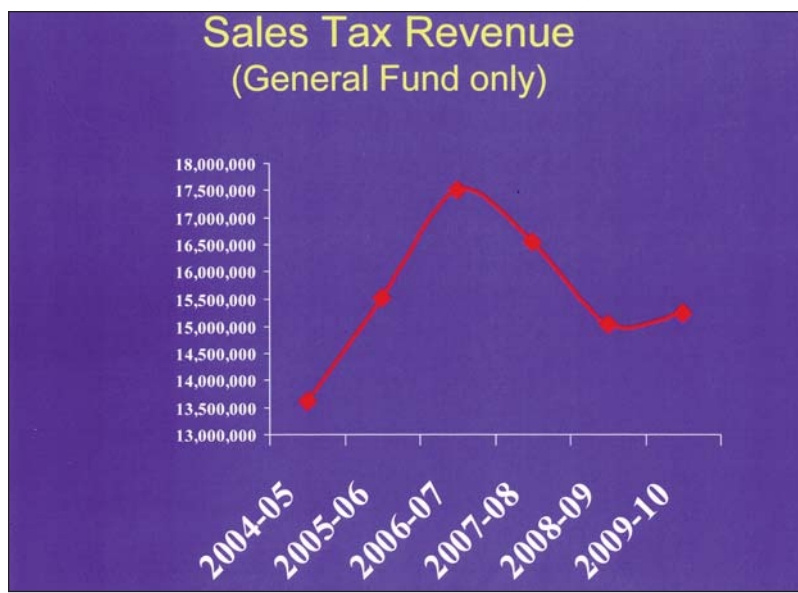
Blackburn said he hoped the book will spur former employees to step forward and share their memories of the former NASA site. He also hopes the plant's historical significance is not lost to future



generations.

"I'm hoping the public will recall some memories of what went on here and come to the realization that some important things happened in Downey that should be shared," he said.

"Downey's Aerospace History 1947-1999," \$21.00, Arcadia Publishing. Available at local retailers, online bookstores, or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or (888) 313-2665.



Revenue Concerns

• Construction Permit Fees	↓ 23%
• Plan Check Fees	↓ 21%
• Sales Tax	↓ 15%
• Business Registration	↓ 5%
• Transient Lodging Tax	↓ 4%
• Total General Fund Rev.	↓ 4%

Budget: Council will vote June 23.

Continued from page 1

capital expenditures. There is an overall 7.5 percent increase (about \$10.4 million) over last year's figure, primarily attributable, Caton wrote in his letter of transmittal to the Council, to capital projects to be funded from Downey's expected share of the federally-allocated economic stimulus package, plus additional transportation grants.

From the funds perspective, the proposed 2009-10 budget shows General Fund money of \$68.8 mil-

lion down slightly from last year's \$68.9 million. This is offset by significant increases in next fiscal year's Enterprise and Special Funds.

The proposed budget will be revisited with a public hearing at the City Council meeting on June 23. Its adoption, with perhaps just minor ramifications, is anticipated then.

Meanwhile, the next regular public meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. this Tuesday, June 9, at City Hall.

Residents warned of warranty scam

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County residents are being warned to be on alert for a new wave of telemarketing "robocalls" offering deceptive extended warranties to car owners.

Thousands of residents have reported receiving pre-recorded phone calls telling them that their original car warranties are expiring

and that they must "extend coverage before it's too late," said Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Many car owners have signed up for unnecessary or fraudulent insurance coverage as a result of the calls, Cooley said.

"If you get one of these unsolicited 'robocalls,' don't argue or

choose from an options menu — just hang up right away," Cooley said.

Residents were warned never to purchase an extended car warranty over the phone unless they initiated the call.

Residents who have received these calls can file a complaint with the Federal Trade

Commission by calling (877) FTC-HELP or online at www.ftc.gov.

The FTC, which enforces telemarketing regulations and manages the Do Not Call registry, has filed lawsuits seeking to shut down the companies, Cooley said.

Softball tournament a hit for TLC

DOWNEY — More than \$2,500 was raised at the first annual Downey TLC Softball Tournament held last Saturday at Downey Adult School, with proceeds benefiting the TLC Family Resource Center.

Teams from Rotary Club of Downey, Downey Kiwanis, and Downey and Warren high schools participated in the tournament.

About 100 people were in attendance, said Fernando Vasquez, a Kiwanis club member and organizer of the event.

Nick Adams, owner of the local Philly's Best, donated food for the tournament. Ed Vasquez with the Central Basin Municipal Water District provided water.

Insurance and umpires were provided by Stonewood Center, and use of the softball fields were provided by Roger Brossmer, councilman and principal of Downey Adult School.

The TLC Center helps needy children of the Downey Unified School District by providing reading glasses, food, counseling, and more. As a non-profit organization, they rely on donations, grants and fundraisers to continue operations.

Almost 2,000 students have been referred to TLC for this school year alone, said Luz Perez, program coordinator at TLC.

"When students are referred to TLC for support...it becomes evident to us why these students are



struggling at school, and they are screaming for help," Perez said. "This past Saturday, it was clear that their cry for help is being heard throughout the community."

Perez said the idea for a fundraiser arose when she and Dr. Robert Jagielski, director of pupil services for DUSD, spoke to Downey Kiwanis about TLC's efforts.

"The members took it upon themselves to find a way to ensure that the TLC Center continue this important work," Perez said.

Organizers said they hope the softball tournament becomes an annual tradition.



Last Saturday's softball tournament at Downey Adult School raised more than \$2,500 for the TLC Resource Center, which works with needy DUSD children and their families. The center has been hard hit by the recession, and operates solely on grants and donations. Photos courtesy Fernando Vasquez

City library is meeting topic

DOWNEY — Nancy Messineo, librarian at the Downey City Library, will be the guest speaker at Wednesday's meeting of Citizens For Downey.

The library is not just a source of books and reading material. It also offers reading programs, book discussions, computer classes, and more.

An optional breakfast buffet will be available at 7 a.m. The program begins shortly after.

No reservations are required and the community is invited.

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The Downey Regional Medical Center Auxiliary donated \$48,000 to the hospital on May 27. From left: Greg Bonn, DRMC executive vice president for fund development; Claudia Graham, 2008-09 auxiliary president; and Heather Conwell, DRMC vice president and chief nursing officer.

Auxiliary installs new hospital board

DOWNEY – The Downey Regional Medical Center Auxiliary installed its 2009-10 board of directors at a luncheon on May 27.

The new board consists of Nann Goldstein, president; George Toerge, vice president; Joanna Orsel, volunteer orientation director; Claudia Graham, ways and means director; Wilma Garcia, secretary; and Ruth Rodriguez, treasurer.

During the luncheon, the auxiliary also presented a donation of \$48,000 to the hospital. The gift represented proceeds from the hospital gift shop and fundraisers held throughout the year.

The auxiliary also awarded Volunteer Corps member scholarships to three local high school seniors: Jackie Hollada (\$1,000), Parisa Mazandarani (\$1,000) and Aisha Butt (\$500).

Desert Reign church opens this weekend

DOWNEY – Downey's newest church, Desert Reign Assembly of God, will celebrate its grand opening this weekend with a host of free events.

Festivities begin tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. with tours of the new building. Mayor Mario Guerra will lead a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon, and a battle of the bands concert gets underway at 7:30 p.m.

Free food and entertainment will be available throughout the day, including custom cars and motorcycles and demonstrations from the Downey police and fire departments.

On Sunday, a free continental

breakfast will be available at 9 a.m., followed by morning worship at 10. There will be a special dedication service at 2:30 p.m.

"We are absolutely ecstatic to be in our new home, and we would love for our Downey neighbors to come celebrate with us," said Pastor Don Metcalf.

The Desert Reign congregation has been without a regular home since selling their Cerritos church in 2003 and purchasing the former Stats property at 11610 Lakewood Blvd.

For more information, call (562) 861-6011 or visit www.desertreign.org.

Teachers present 'Grease' as fundraiser for students

■ Nearly \$3,000 raised for West Middle School drama department.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Working with the book, music, and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, 13 West Middle School teachers performed "Grease" last Friday before a packed house that shelled out \$5 apiece.

The movie version starred John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. The venue: the large West cafeteria. Holders of VIP tickets, which cost more (a lot more!), entitled them to front row seats. This was for these well-endowed souls a decided plus, as the sound system didn't work during the musical's initial stages.

The fundraiser was produced by West Drama, the school's drama program, which is enjoying a bit of a run. Even as this issue of the Patriot went to press, West Drama, under the regular direction of teacher Andrea Procter (who herself played Sandy, the female lead role played by Newton-John) had to schedule a command performance for yesterday, to accommodate popular demand. Next Wednesday and Thursday (June 10 and 11), it presents its regular student production of "The Glass Slipper."

It was Procter who, along with fellow teacher Marlene Camacho (who also had a significant singing role in the production) conceived of the possibility of the fundraiser; while in the middle of a weight lifting class, the instructor started playing music from "Grease," and one thing led to another.

According to teacher Mary Jo Enyeart, the cast members – identified in the program, in the order of their appearance, as Enyeart, (Jan), Ms. Dayhoff (Marty), Mrs. Duncan (Suzie), Ms. Camacho (Rizzo), Mr. Kaplinsky (Doody), Mr. Holmes (Roger), Mr. Davis (Kenickie), Mr. Del Rio (Sonny), Mrs. Bow (Mrs.



Teachers made their own costumes for "Grease," presented last week at West Middle School. Photo courtesy Stan Hanstad/DUSD

Lynch), Ms. Davis (Frenchy), Ms. Procter (Sandy), Mrs. Shields (Patty), and Mr. Legaspi (Danny — John Travolta's role) – gave up a lot of their free time to practice their roles for "Grease." Three weeks before the show, they devoted 20 hours after school to rehearse

in earnest, even doing their own costumes.

What the 13 intrepid teachers lacked in professional polish, they made up in energy and spunk and the spirit of fun—all for the benefit of Drama West (for scripts, sets, royalties, etc.) and

therefore its drama students. The Friday show netted \$2,800.

Also worthy of mention was the West Middle School jazz band, who performed wonderfully under the direction of Todd Miller.

Lowenthal cuts own salary

SACRAMENTO – Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) has voluntarily reduced his pay by 18 percent, following the suggestion of a citizens commission that reviews legislative salaries every year.

"California's residents, as well as many hard-working, dedicated public servants will be devastated by these cuts. I cannot, in good conscience, ask others to make sac-

rifices without making sacrifices myself," Lowenthal said in a statement.

The California Citizens Compensation Commission recently imposed an 18 percent reduction on legislative salaries. A state proposition approved by voters, however, prohibits the reduction of legislative salaries mid-term.

Lowenthal earns an annual salary of \$116,208. He is entitled to

receive his full salary until he is termed out of the Senate in 2012.

The California Citizens Compensation Commission was created in 1990 through the passage of Prop. 112. The proposition created a 7-member commission, appointed by the governor, to review constitutional officer and legislative salaries each year.

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Setting The Captives Free

Date of Event:
Sat. June 6, 2009

Time:
7:30-10:30 pm
Doors Open at 7:00 pm

Food and soft drinks available

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Chamber accepting golf sponsors

DOWNEY – Sponsorships are now being accepted for the Downey Chamber of Commerce's 13th annual golf tournament to be held Sept. 25 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and scholarships for Downey children.

include:

Gold (\$2,500): One foursome, gold sponsor plaque, tee sign, individual banner, publicity in all press releases, recognition at awards dinner, 100 raffle tickets, and four mulligans.

Silver (\$800): One foursome, silver sponsor plaque, tee sign, name on a group banner, publicity

in all press releases, 25 raffle tickets, and two mulligans.

Tournament Sponsor (\$500): One twosome, tournament sponsor plaque, tee sign, name on a group banner, publicity in all press releases, and 10 raffle tickets.

Tee Sign Sponsor (\$100): One sign displayed at a hole and recognition in the event program.

To become a sponsor, mail a check to the Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241. To pay by credit card, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

For more information, call golf chairman George Zoumberakis at (626) 918-5670.

Assistance League hosting tea

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey will host an informational tea Thursday for women interested in membership. The meeting will be held at its chapter house, 7749 Florence Ave., at 4 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, call (562) 869-0232.

CalMet collecting yard waste

DOWNEY – During the entire month of June, CalMet Services will pick up extra yard waste placed on the curb on residents' regular trash pick-up day.

The service is free and should be scheduled with CalMet one business day prior to pick-up.

CalMet will collect up to five bags, trash cans, or bundles of leaves, clippings and yard waste per pick-up. Bundles of branches should be kept under 4 feet in length and less than 50 pounds.

Residents should not use their trash barrel or recycle bin for yard waste.

To schedule a pick-up, call CalMet at (562) 259-1239, ext. 244. For Spanish, dial ext. 245.

The free yard waste collection runs through June 30. It will again be offered in November.

Painting class for children

DOWNEY – A painting class for kids ages 7-12 begins June 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

A drawing class starts June 20 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$40 per class.

To register, call (562) 904-7227.

Students can get free lunches

DOWNEY – Downey students ages 3-18 are eligible for free meals from the Downey Unified School District this summer.

The meals will be available at Golden Park from 12-12:45 p.m., and West Middle School from 12-12:30 p.m.

The free lunch program will be offered June 22 through July 30. No meals will be available on Fridays.

For more information, call the Department of Nutrition Services at (562) 469-6672.

Decade of being cancer-free

DOWNEY – Downey resident Shirley Johnson will celebrate 10 years of living cancer-free this October.

To celebrate, she will attempt to run/walk the Long Beach Half-Marathon (13.1 miles).

Johnson is recruiting local residents interested in walking all or part of the course with her. The goal is to raise money for cancer research.

Johnson was diagnosed with colon cancer in October 1999.

For more information, contact Johnson at (562) 862-2378.

City offering daycare this summer

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is offering full daycare this summer for children in K-5th grades.

Cost is \$110 per child per week, plus a one-time registration fee of \$20 and a \$6 T-shirt fee. The fees include daily snacks, all-day care (6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.), arts and crafts, games, and a mid-week excursion.

Daycare will be available June 22 through Aug. 28 at Imperial and Gallatin elementary schools. To register, call Imperial Elementary at (562) 904-7234 or Gallatin elementary at (562) 861-5052.

Puccini subject of Ezra meeting

DOWNEY – Jackie Johns, an affiliate with the Los Angeles Opera Company Speakers Bureau, will make a presentation on Puccini when he speaks June 16 at Temple Ner Tamid for the Ezra Center for Mature Adults.

The program is from 10 a.m. to noon and the public is invited.

Johns will speak about the famous Italian composer and some of his works. Recorded music will be played from some of Puccini's famous operas, including La Boheme, Tosca and Madame Butterfly.

A catered kosher lunch will be served following the program. Cost is \$6 for Ezra members, \$7 for non-members.

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

POET'S CORNER

A Mother's Day Prayer

Sorry that you have to spend
Mother's Day in bed,
but try to focus on what's ahead.
A few steps now and more to come
probably not too much fun.
But hard work now will set you free,
you just do it and you'll see.
And when all the hard work is done,
you'll be strong and back to fun!

–Joan Klodt,
Downey

(Due to an accident, I had to spend Mother's Day in the hospital. My daughter wrote me this poem.)

Sunrise --

Sunset Grand Canyon

Sunrise and sunsets in the canyons
really speak to me of our Father's majesty.
Some of the spectacular feelings are
just as the glow of the rising sun
changes the colors of the sky and the canyon walls
ever-changing as the sun emerges on the horizon
and the rocks themselves
seem to come to life.
Again at sunset, the sounds of life
in and around the canyons
change again
as the walls and promontories and valleys
change their brilliant hues
until at last
all is quiet
only stars and the night creatures
fill the late hours.
A lull surrounds us and the promise
of peace and security
gives us rest.


–Leona Swanson,
Downey

The Depression --

True Story

I was a coal miners daughter
I remember so well
when all of a sudden
the stock market fell
what happened to our home
so cozy and neat
and why were some people
camped out on the street
and why did we move to a little old shack
yes you guessed right
across the street from the track
my parents struggled they did their best
we survived the Depression
and finely moved West
then year after year
the economy did rise
and little old Downey
became paradise
now that I have grown older
as I sit here and sigh
another Depression
oh Lord, why oh why
–Rose Sciascia Neal,
Downey

Come Celebrate!



Desert Reign Church
11610 Lakewood Blvd.
Community Open House
Saturday June 6
10:30am -2:30pm
Fun for the whole family.
Ribbon Cutting- 12:00noon
By: Mayor Mario Guerra
Christian Battle of the Bands
7:30pm-10:30pm
Dedication Service June 7, 2:30pm
web at: www.desertreign.org

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Sam Valiani, D.D.S. & Staff

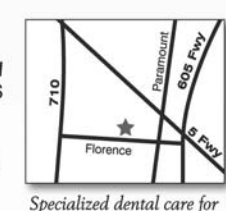
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Letters to the Editor:

It's a baby

Dear Editor:

In the abortion debate there really is only one question: Is it a human being or isn't it? If it is a human being, no reason is good enough. Let me explain.

Anita Rivero uses the argument of babies born into poverty (Letters to the Editor, 5/29/09). May we kill our children when they become too expensive? Of course not. So if the unborn is a human being, why is it OK to take its life?

Abortion is legal for virtually any reason. If it will cause the mother psychological distress, that is good enough. Is it OK to kill our children when they stress us out? Why is it OK to take the life of the unborn?

Probably the most difficult situation is a pregnancy that is the result of rape. How could you possibly ask a woman to carry that baby? Tell me, is it OK to make a child pay for the crime of the father? Is it OK to take the life of a child to make Mommy feel better?

We need to resolve the issue of, "What is it?" In answering this question we need to remember that cats give birth to cats, dogs give birth to dogs, and elephants give birth to elephants. Humans give birth to humans. But all you really need to do is look at pictures of fetal development. There is no doubt. It isn't a gold fish. It isn't a blob of tissue.

It's a baby.

— **Russ Johnson,**
Downey

Culture of death

Dear Editor:

I appreciate your forum for people to practice freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

In observing Anita Rivero battle her Christian counterparts over the past several weeks, I was compelled to contribute in response to her argument.

Ms. Rivero uses red herrings often to confuse the subject, which I have discerned from the others is abortion. The fact is we the people of the United States, under legal license from our government, have killed/terminated more than 40 million American babies/protoplasmic globs. For someone who advocates this culture of death to label pro-life Christians as "Taliban" is a bit ironic.

It is somewhat obvious that Christians have been losing this battle with their "imposed religious views" on abortion for more than 35 years to someone else's imposed irreligious views; but in the art of argumentation, she who attacks the character of her opponent loses the argument because she cannot make her case without personal assault.

The debate continues, but we should respect the people who may not share our viewpoint.

— **David Norczyk,**
Downey

Sanctity of marriage

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have 10 children; five boys and five girls. About 30 years ago, my wife's mother sent to our children 10 religious cards titled "Sex is Sacred." I would like to comment on that subject as it applies to today's tragically degraded morals.

Each human being has a body, mind, soul and spirit. God is a spirit being. God is sacred. The spirit part of each human being is sacred. God created human beings as men and women. He gave them the faculty of sexual intercourse through which they can create another human being that has a spirit from the moment of its conception.

That is the only way man can create another human being, even if it is done with sperm from a male and an egg from a female outside of the woman's body. A thousand scientists in a thousand years could never create a live human being that would have a body, mind, soul and spirit except through the act of sexual intercourse between a man and a woman.

God instituted the Sacrament of Marriage for a man and a woman entering into a union using their faculty of sexual intercourse primarily for procreation. Marriage between a man and a woman is sacred.

God gave every human being a free will. When two men or two women choose to live together, deviating from the plan that God made, there is no way on earth that a same-sex couple can create life, or another human being that has a spirit. Therefore, they cannot create something sacred. Therefore, a union between two men or two women cannot be considered sacred.

The moral decay started with the sexual revolution of the 60s. In my opinion, children should not be allowed to enter into the third grade unless they have memorized and can stand in front of the class and recite the 10 Commandments from memory. In future generations, this would eliminate many of the problems our society faces today.

— **Harvey Fiala,**
Downey

Crime blotter

Dear Editor:

Thank you for periodically publishing the local crime report in your newspaper. I enjoy reading it. But I think it needs to be in every issue, as it was with the Downey Eagle.

Please keep up the good work. I am a longtime reader.

— **Edith Niemeyer,**
Downey

Editor's note: The crime blotter is supplied by the Downey Police Department. We would be happy to publish the report on a weekly basis, but it needs to be supplied by police.

Illegal signs

Dear Editor:

Thanks to City Editor Eric Pierce for a great article regarding code enforcement officers beginning a push for compliance of these signs in the city ("City to Crack Down on Illegal Signs," 5/29/09).

A big problem in Downey is proliferation of illegally posted signs on power poles, walls and other locations. When these signs are posted, they often remain displayed for days and weeks.

In addition to being illegal, they are unsightly. People posting these signs, if caught, are subject to heavy fines. Signs posted by city or government agencies should not be removed.

Since we have a limited number of code enforcement officers, each of us should consider removing these signs. When taking morning walks, this writer cuts them off. Clear plastic tape is wrapped around most of them, so using a sharp knife they can quickly be cut off and deposited in a trash can. Some are nailed to wooden power poles and they can easily be removed.

When you pass one of these signs, don't think the other guy will remove it — you are the other guy.

— **Byron Dillon,**
Downey

Purple Heart memorial

Dear Editor:

My name is Joseph Del Rio. My current officer position is that of Senior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 210.

I first approached Mayor Mario Guerra at a military concert at Furman Park 2 1/2 years ago. He was a councilman at the time. My proposal to him was for him to ask the Downey City Council whether they would finance and erect a memorial monument honoring fallen, wounded and Purple Heart-awarded personnel (veterans).

I went to Guerra's office and we spoke. He said at the time it was a great idea, and perhaps we could erect it in front of City Hall. I replied that would be great.

In the years since, I have been to his office several times, as well as calling and providing his office (via his secretary) with numerous photographs depicting various other cities that have erected memorials honoring our fallen and wounded Purple Heart-awarded veterans. I reached his cell phone three months ago and the only reply I got from him was that the budget was in bad shape and times were bad.

I said I would keep in touch with him on this matter. Then I read in *The Downey Patriot* that he wants to spend \$50,000 on fireworks on this Fourth of July. ("City Agrees to Pay for July 4 Fireworks Show," 5/29/09) Is he serious?

That money should be spent on better things in Downey. Why not start by honoring our servicemen with a memorial? After all, they have given their lives for our freedom.

— **Joseph Del Rio,**
Downey

Island involvement

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the residents of Treasure Island, we would like to recognize our very own Devi Kokaram for her outstanding community service. She was given a special volunteerism award at the Downey Coordinating Council's banquet awards last Thursday.

Devi has been involved since the inception of the Unity in the Community (UITC) efforts was born, more than four years ago. She has served in many capacities, including taking responsibility for the annual Treasure Island garage sale in October each year, the annual Easter egg hunt, the summer picnic, the annual Christmas on the Island celebration, and also our very own newspaper, "The Treasure Island Breeze." She currently serves as UITC vice president.

She volunteers many countless hours reaching out to the many senior citizens in Downey providing mobile notary service, running errands, helping them to make and meet their appointments. She is also a liaison with the city and the community on many different issues.

In addition to these efforts, Devi is also very involved in various other volunteer opportunities and organizations, including Keep Downey Beautiful, Meals on Wheels as vice president, and Dramatic Results as vice president.

— **Treasure Island residents,**
Downey

Amtrak: You can't get there from here

Contributed by Caroline Abels

Nearly everything about my recent vacation in Florida was perfect — the beaches, wildlife, sunsets, you name it. My only disappointment? The way I got there.

I took a plane, as anyone who lives 1,500 miles away would. Not that anything went wrong; the trip was pretty stress-free. Instead, I was disappointed that I couldn't take a train — couldn't stroll to the Amtrak station in my Vermont hometown, board a coach car with plush seats, leg room and picture windows, rumble down the Atlantic coast and really see America, rather than gazing blankly at clouds from 30,000 feet.

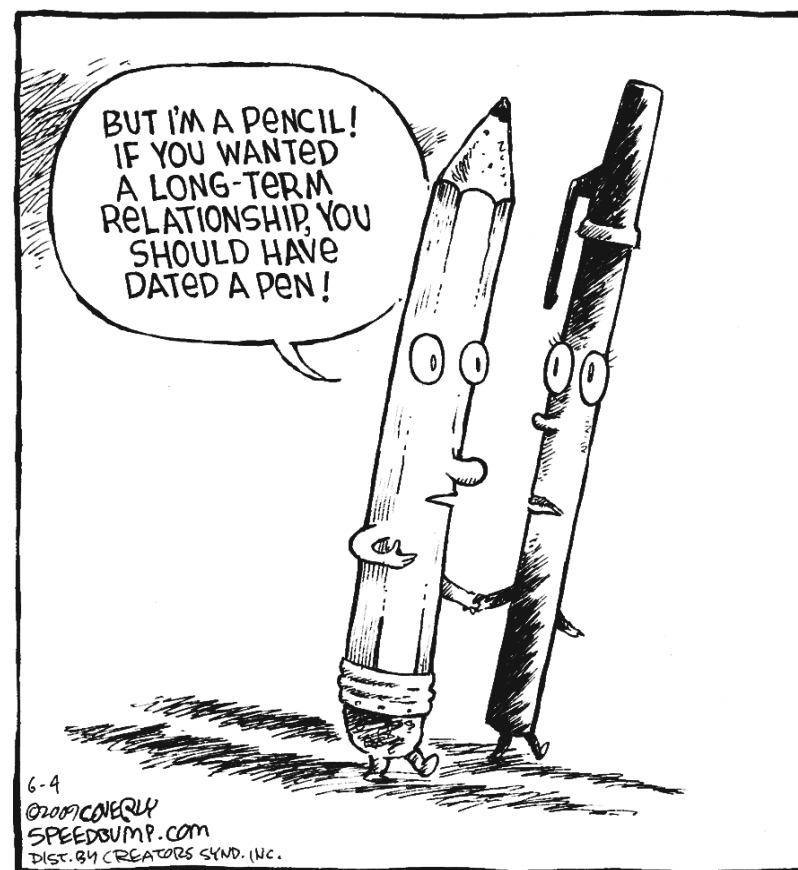
OK, technically I could have taken the train. But to reach Fort Myers, I would've had to endure an overnight layover in New York, a 25-hour train ride to Tampa, and two-hour bus ride. I wanted to see America, but not lose a third of my vacation before even arriving at my destination.

It shouldn't be this way. Americans, known for technological innovation, shouldn't have to be embarrassed that Europe and Asia have faster, more convenient and reliable passenger rail systems. Railroad travel was once ubiquitous in the U.S., but since the 1950s — when the automobile and interstate highway system began replacing it — passenger rail here has become a shell of what it once was. Amtrak's annual ridership was up 11 percent last year, to 28.7 million (a record), but compare that to the nearly 650 million passengers taking domestic flights on American Airlines in 2008.

One big problem: when it comes to passenger rail, you can't get there from here. While the U.S. claims more than 140,000 miles of Class I railroad line, and freight railroads haul more than 40 percent of all U.S. freight — everything from lumber to vegetables, coal to chemicals, grain to scrap iron — Amtrak travels along a mere 21,000 miles of those lines. As a result, many Americans aren't even served by Amtrak today; it doesn't even go to Wyoming or South Dakota, to most of Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Idaho or Maine. And on the routes that do exist, congestion and delays often happen because Amtrak shares most of its track with freight companies.

Adding insult to injury, our undersized passenger rail system has been grossly underfunded. For decades, Congress passed bare-bones Amtrak budgets, with fiscal conservative legislators citing the agency's lack of routes and stations as cause to shutdown the government-owned corporation. Amtrak critics claim they dislike propping up a transportation system that should, in their minds, pay its own way.

But if it's public funding that budget hawks are upset about, why do they



Citizenship award

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Downey YMCA, the Downey Coordinating Council, to the citizens of our community, and for all that has gone into the decision of my becoming the 2009 Downey YMCA's recipient of the honorable Community Service Award.

Many deserving men and women have been chosen in years past and others will follow. Therefore, I am very grateful and deeply humbled to be included into their distinguished membership.

The award would not be possible without the generosity of our Downey citizenship. Helping to raise needed funds for any noteworthy organization such as the Downey YMCA is difficult and time consuming at best. Yet, in all my phone calls to our Downey citizenship, I had very few persons become disrespectful or rude. Most understood the worthiness of the need and many could afford only a small amount.

However, over the years, most of these same citizens continue to give and give more. They value the work of our Downey YMCA and know the monies stay here to benefit our children, our seniors and our community.

Thank you, citizens of our beautiful Downey, California. I need to thank my mom and dad as well. They taught me early in life the value of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."

— **Pat Vallefucio,**
Downey

Water retention

Dear Editor:

It saddens me to see homes in my neighborhood excessively watering their lawns at a time when the state has declared a water emergency and the city of Los Angeles has passed mandatory restrictions.

It is probably safe to say that thousands of gallons of water are wasted each week in my immediate neighborhood alone — much of it landing on sidewalks and running down gutters. At best, this extravagant watering can only be thoughtlessness; at worst, it is self absorbed disregard for the welfare of the planet and humanity.

Perhaps the Patriot can run some sort of feature item to try to get these people to be more considerate and practical.

— **Gary E. Myers,**
Downey

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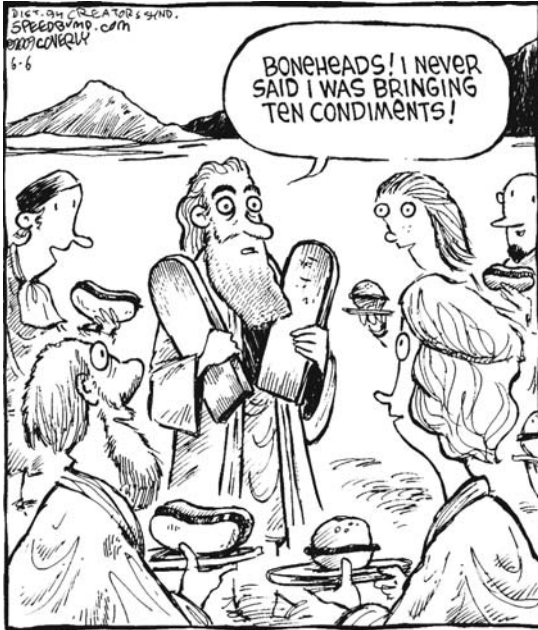
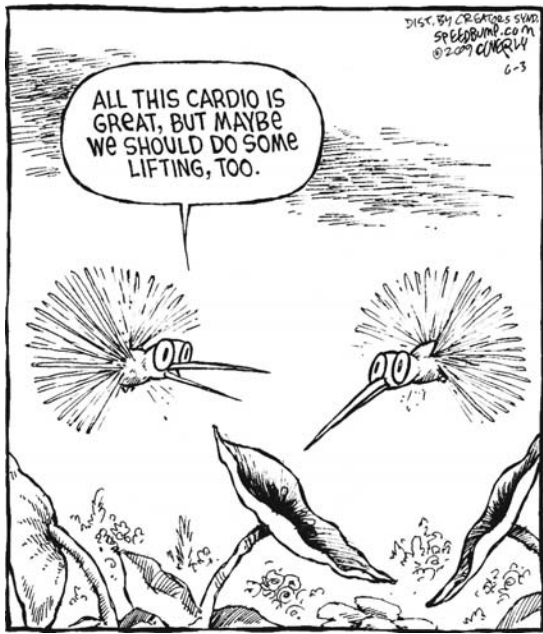
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

June 5, 1794: The Neutrality Act is passed by Congress. It prohibits U.S. citizens from enlisting in the military service of another country.

1968: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is shot and killed shortly after winning the Democratic presidential primary.

1981: Five Los Angeles homosexuals come down with the first recognized cases of AIDS.

1998: A 7-week strike shuts down several GM assembly plants in Detroit.

2004: Former President Ronald Reagan dies following a long fight with Alzheimer's disease. He was 93.

Birthdays: Financial advisor Suze Orman (58), saxophonist Kenny G (53), R&B singer Brian McKnight (40), actor Mark Wahlberg (38), and Fall Out Boy bass player Pete Wentz (30).

Downey Community Calendar

Events For June

- Sat. May 6: **Relay for Life**, Downey Adult School, 9 a.m.
- Sat. May 6: **Middle School Track Meet**, Downey High School, 9:15 a.m.
- Sat. May 6: **Grand opening**, Desert Reign Assembly of God, 10:30 a.m.
- Sat. June 6: **Greek Festival**, St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, 11 a.m.
- Sat. June 6: **Razorbacks sign-ups**, Furman Park, 11 a.m.
- Sat. May 6: **Mystery writers discussion**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 11:30 a.m.
- Sat. May 6: **Awards banquet**, Bernabe Community Center, 6 p.m.
- Sun. May 7: **Pancake breakfast**, Apollo Park, 8 a.m.
- Tues. June 9: **Rise 'N Shine meeting**, Downey Brewing Company, 7:30 a.m.
- Wed. June 10: **Citizens For Downey meeting**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7 a.m.
- Thurs. June 11: **Informational tea**, Assistance League chapter house, 4 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-Bear 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.: **Connections Networking**, at Cafe N Stuff, for information, call Sandy Esslinger, (310) 491-8989.
- 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.

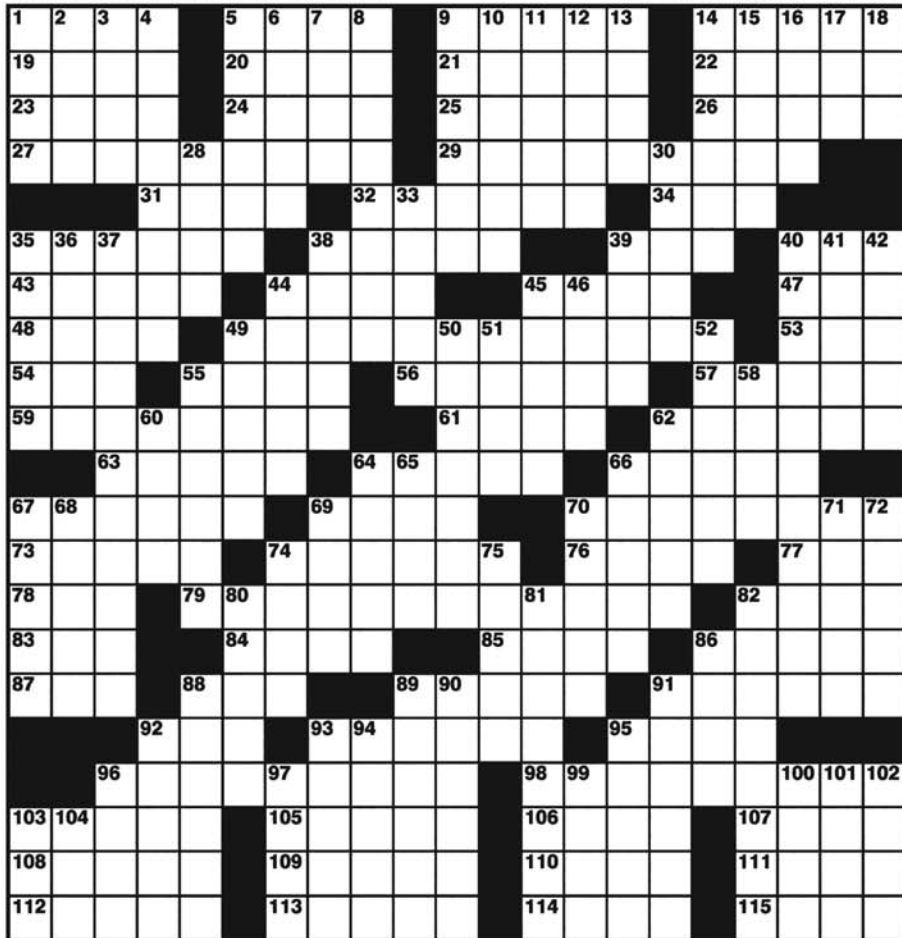
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

WORLDWIDE: Think globally
by Gail Grabowski

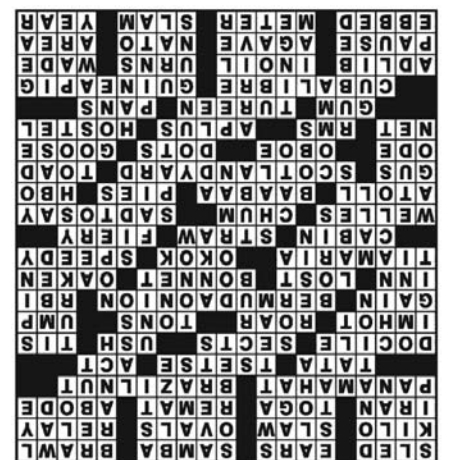
- ACROSS**
- 1 Malamute's burden
 - 5 What the walls may have
 - 9 Latin dance
 - 14 Free-for-all
 - 19 1,000 grams, for short
 - 20 Deli side order
 - 21 Cameo shapes
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 - 24 *Julius Caesar* costume
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 - 26 Dwelling
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 - 29 Hard-shelled edible
 - 31 "Toodle-oo!"
 - 32 African fly
 - 34 Do something
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 - 39 Help ticket holders, slangily
 - 40 "My country, ___ of thee"
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 - 53 Ballpark stat
 - 54 Rural lodge
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 - 56 What Brits call an auto hood
 - 57 Like some buckets
 - 59 Jamaican liqueur
 - 61 "Enough already!"
 - 62 Swift
 - 63 Room on a ship
 - 64 Soda-shop freebie
 - 66 Hot-tempered
 - 67 *Citizen Kane* star
 - 69 Buddy
 - 70 "Unfortunately . . ."
 - 73 Ring-shaped reef
 - 74 Cote cries
 - 76 Slapstick props
 - 77 Cinemax sister station
 - 78 "Gloomy" guy
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 - 82 Leaping croaker
 - 83 Keats creation
 - 84 Bassoon kin
 - 85 Round specks
 - 86 Formation flyer
 - 87 Hoopster's target
 - 88 Apt. divisions
 - 89 Top grade
 - 91 Inexpensive stopover
 - 92 Something to chew on
 - 93 Soup holder
 - 95 Cookware items
 - 96 Cola + lime + rum
 - 98 Experimental subject
 - 103 Stray from the script
 - 105 How some anchovies are packed
 - 106 Vessels with spigots
 - 107 Stroll through the shallows
 - 108 Momentary halt
 - 109 Mexican desert plant
 - 110 Peacekeeping grp.
 - 111 Focus of study
 - 112 Receded
 - 113 Curbside coin collector
 - 114 Close forcefully
 - 115 Wine-bottle datum
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 - 3 Pizazz
 - 4 Charitable gift
 - 5 Ritzy residence
 - 6 Hilo howdy
 - 7 Sitar selection
 - 8 Police force
 - 9 Ice-cream alternative
 - 10 Sidesteps
 - 11 ___ boy (timid one)
 - 12 Burn brightly
 - 13 Piedmont province
 - 14 Locust limb
 - 15 Argue against
 - 16 Frequently
 - 17 Fistful of dollars
 - 18 Caustic chemical
 - 28 Beer ingredient
 - 30 Calf catcher
 - 33 Clean well
 - 35 Finger or toe
 - 36 Saudi neighbor
 - 37 Dining-room furniture
 - 38 Rather, informally
 - 39 Condo dwelling
 - 40 Piece of cake
 - 41 Fix firmly
 - 42 Like cactus
 - 44 Varnish ingredient
 - 45 Thus far
 - 46 Race distance, for short
 - 49 Chessmaster Spassky
 - 50 Entry sentry
 - 51 "Puppy Love" singer
 - 52 Rental restriction, perhaps
 - 55 Mailing supplies
 - 58 Dynamic preceder
 - 60 Shoppers' paradise
 - 62 Supported, with "with"
 - 64 Oil-yielding rock
 - 65 Omopah band member
 - 66 Rural festivals
 - 67 Pioneers' transport
 - 68 Musical practice piece
 - 69 Roman orator
 - 70 Petty quarrels
 - 71 Demean
 - 72 Mountain music
 - 74 Bounces about
 - 75 Confuse
 - 80 Series divider
 - 81 Children
 - 82 Get rid of
 - 86 No longer around
 - 88 Massaged
 - 89 Get there
 - 90 Kitchen gadget
 - 91 Old-fashioned vehicle
 - 92 Pretense
 - 93 Trace of color
 - 94 WWII sub
 - 95 Ship of 1492
 - 96 Layered sandwich
 - 97 Actor Neeson
 - 99 Russian river
 - 100 Use a 90 Down
 - 101 Creative flash
 - 102 Equipment
 - 103 Big brute
 - 104 Smidgen

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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 PANAMA HAT (27 Across) originated in Ecuador; it got its name from being shipped internationally via the Panama Canal. The TIA MARIA liqueur (59 Across) is made with coffee beans, vanilla and sugar. The ETUDE (68 Down), French for "study," is most commonly a difficult musical piece designed to help perfect a technical skill.





The Road to change

By: Michelle Muller, Intern

The Road to Change was the On Campus Ministries (OCM) of Warren High School, fundraiser held on May 23 at the Downey First Christian Church. The various organizations the money fundraised for in this event will go towards organizations like, To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA), Save Darfur, Stop the Traffik, and Missions Trip.

There was entertainment provided by bands like Matt, which is a worship leader from Calvary Chapel Downey, and Brownie, a pop rock Christian band.

"This event was successful," said OCM member Lester Larios. "The booths were organized and active, the bands were loud and exciting and the food was great as well." Although they did not get the amount of people they had hoped to attract to this event, Larios went on to say, "We feel while the amount of people wasn't there, the 'right' people were there."

The amount raised from this event is still undetermined, because calculations are still being made.

Two months of preparation went into this fundraiser. They did things from creating fliers, to raising money in order to pay for the cost of this event. At the event, there were booths where members organized and researched in order to put on presentations about the various

world wire organizations they raised money for.

"[This event] was designed to open the eyes of the city of Downey and Warren students, about the real life issues that are presently going on," said Larios.

OCM is a Christian Club that dedicates time to putting together bible studies, service projects and community services.

"Despite huge difficulties early Saturday and last minute struggles, the event turned out great," said Larios. The turnout of this event was great, and the main concern and goal of this event was to raise money to help those in need, while raising awareness so that people can become involved to make a difference.

"Teen depression, suicide, human trafficking, urban and rural poverty, and present day genocide need to be promoted in order to get people to act," said Larios. He went on to say, "Without awareness of what is going on in this world, how can one possibly expect change."

As hard believers in Jesus Christ, "OCM looked to impact people's heart, open their eyes, and let them experience the life changing power of love and compassion for others," said Larios about how they wish to impact the lives of others, through putting together events like these.

In Fear and Faith

By: Brienne Schar, Intern

Fans across the country were waiting for In Fear and Faith, an experimental post-hard core band from Oceanside, Calif., to come to their city during their recent tour with A Skylit Drive. The tour began in April and ended on May 16 in Orangevale, Calif.

The tour has hit major cities across the country including Dallas, Tampa, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Chicago, Denver and Seattle.

"Waking up in a new state every day (is the best part of being on tour)," said vocalist Scott Barnes, a Downey native. "It's relaxing yet stressful, but it's nice since it keeps us busy."

In Fear and Faith are promoting their first full-length CD, Your World on Fire. They recorded it in August. Your World on Fire has sold more than 12,000 copies since January and has proven itself to be quite a successful album. It can be purchased at Hot Topic, Best Buy, FYE and iTunes stores.

Before Your World on Fire, In Fear and Faith self-produced their EP Voyage. They sold it themselves and there was a large fan-base for it.

Vocalists Scott Barnes and Cody Andersen, bassist Tyler McElhany, guitarists Ramin Niroomand and Noah Slifka and drummer Mehdi Niroomand make up In Fear and Faith.

The Niroomand brothers and McElhany started the band back in 2006. Barnes and Andersen joined later and the band has seen great success ever since.

"It was definitely a big surprise," said Barnes about catapulting into the lifestyle of a musician. "I was at UCI, going to school, doing the normal thing."

However, the In Fear and Faith's success came as no surprise to Barnes. "We were expecting this to happen," he said. "If we weren't than there is no point in even doing this."

In Fear and Faith is not going to take a break after their current tour is over. They went on tour with Sky Eats Airplane on May 21. During this tour they will perform in Anaheim in June, their closest venue to Downey.

More information on In Fear and Faith, such as tour dates, merchandise and music, can be found at www.myspace.com/infeareandfaith.

Book Review: Fahrenheit 451

By: Helena Park, Intern

During the course of four years in high school, students are required to read a set of books that has been thought out by the school board. These books are meant to broaden our minds with classic literature. One of the books on the reading list is Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. The book was published in 1953 and proved to be a world wide success. The novel was received with many great reviews and a huge following. At first, I chose to read this novel to get a head start because it was mandatory to read it for senior year. Now, I feel grateful that I have read such a wonderful novel at such a young age and I got to really appreciate the story.

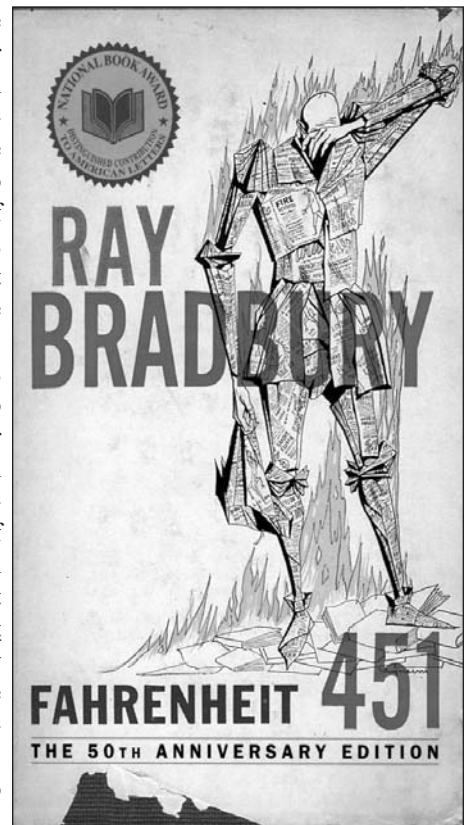
The novel tells of a man, Guy Montag, who works as a fireman in a futuristic society where censorship has been greatly implemented on the people. Firemen are required to burn books rather than putting out fires. The people in Montag's world have no individuality or a mind of their own. They prefer immediate gratification and are

never challenged mentally.

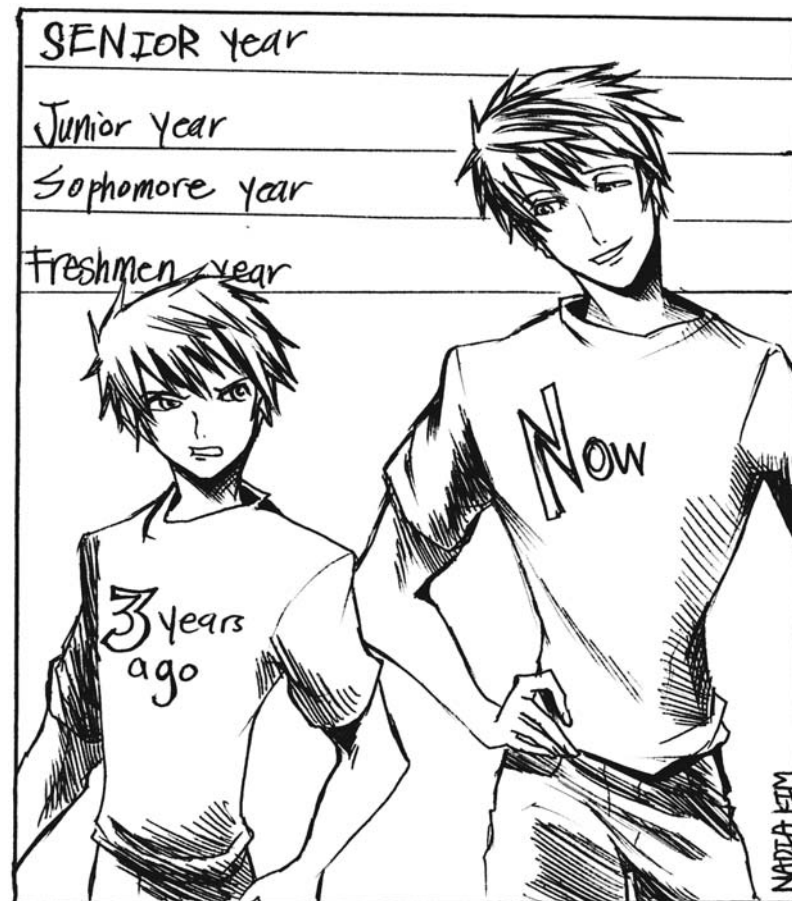
The story begins with Montag meeting Clarisse McClellan. McClellan is a seventeen year old girl who challenges Montag on his beliefs. Montag realizes that the people around him are superficial and begins to feel bad for them because they will never know how it feels like to be independent and think for themselves.

The novel tells how Montag becomes liberated from his society and starts to rebel by reading books and thinking for himself. It is Montag's quest to bring life back to the people through the use of books.

This novel was a great read and holds true to why it is considered a classic. It details how censorship can threaten our individuality and our mind to think for ourselves. I really do believe that this novel will broaden our minds and not only will we be learning that we should never conform but rather go against it and think and stand up for ourselves.



Warren High School held their Senior Awards Night on Wednesday at the Downey Theatre. More than \$428,000 in scholarships was awarded to 193 seniors. Pictured from left: seniors Kristina Hall, Dana Kendall, Ashley Page and Megan Humbert.



OVER THE PAST YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL

Don't miss **The Downey Patriot's** special section dedicated to the **class of 2009!** See details on page 14.

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Prepare: Earthquake may disable phone lines.

Continued from page 1

phones (traditionally the hard-wired home/business phones). However, cellular phones have a similar problem and calls don't get connected. 'Surprising' was the word used to describe the number of comments because this isn't the first time the phone system has not performed as we expect.

What if any of us needed to make a call and the phone lines were down? What if we wanted to check on our family members, at home, when we were at work, immediately after an earthquake? If our cell phone didn't work (or perhaps the land-line), do we have other options? The short answer is...yes.

Truth is we have lots of options for communications during and following an emergency. We just need to know about them.

Option #1: Don't call. Prepare your families for emergencies before they happen. It's the right thing to do and a great way to have some peace of mind when we can't speak with our loved ones directly.

Option #2: If you are convinced (because of an emergency situation) you need to make contact, try using a different phone system. Many times one of the phone systems will work. Sometimes one cellular provider will have open air time when another does not.

Option #3: Try text messaging. Yes, unbelievable as it may sound, 'texting' could be the best way for families and co-workers to communicate (during and after emergencies). Text messaging often uses different communications bandwidths ('pipes' for the infor-

mation is how it has been explained to me). So text message pipes may not get as clogged-up as typical cellular pipes. Text messages are also small 'packages' of information that frequently fit through the narrow (or intermittent) openings in the pipes.

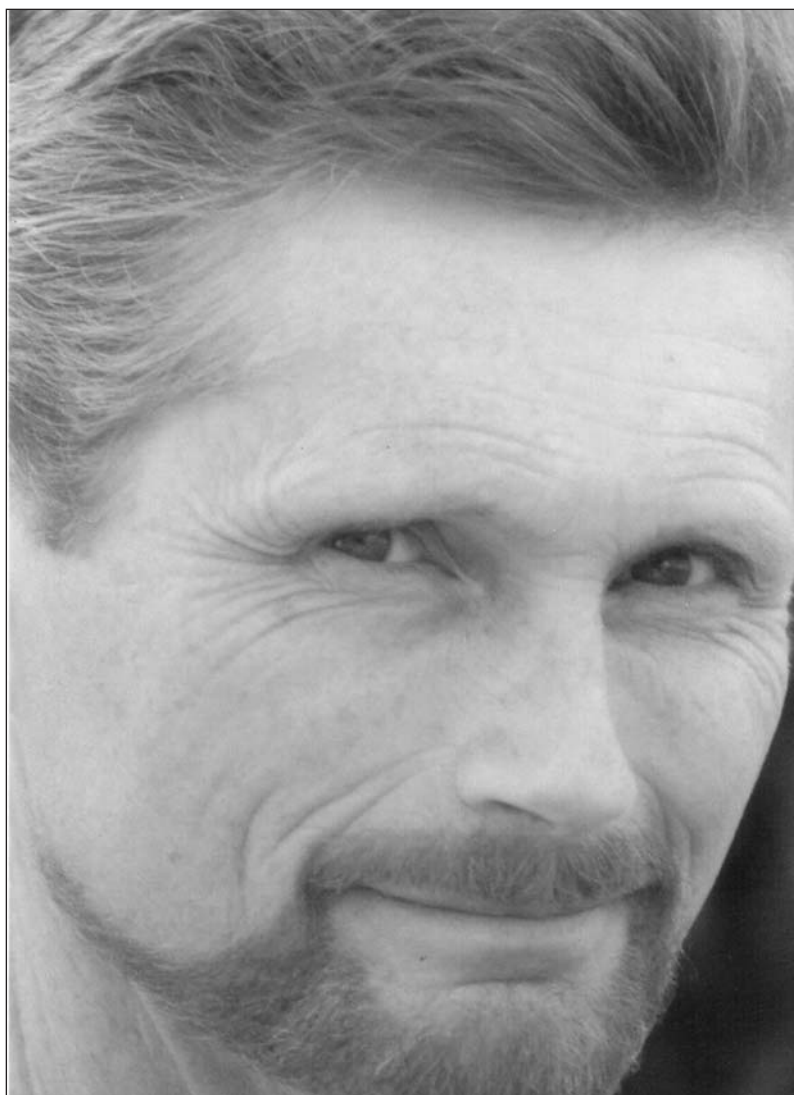
Option #4: Try using the PIN contact or press-to-talk option. Your cellular phone or Blackberry may have a private line capability that lies undiscovered. Many devices have a unit-to-unit option that works very well. Surprisingly, many of the devices we use everyday as phones has expanded capacities we don't understand or even know about.

Option #5: Try sending an e-mail or instant message. Many times the internet is 'up' when other sources of communication are over-crowded or disabled.

Option #6: Contact a predetermined out-of-state friend. Check in and leave a message for others in your communications network. Many times the phone lines will work for out of state phone calls (after you wait for a period of time for a dial tone) when the local lines are over-loaded after an emergency.

The most important part of the important portion of the message above is the 'action' part. Take a positive step today to learn more about one of the options mentioned above. Learn how to text message (you might even have fun doing it!). Read through the operational instructions for your phone system. You never know when your new skills may become very valuable.

Many thanks to the Patriot staff for granting me the space for this message.



Bill Lewis and Ann Peck McBride, veteran actors familiar to the Downey community, return to star as Julian Marsh and Maggie Jones in "42nd Street," playing for two more weekends at the Downey Theatre. Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Lewis has appeared in seven Downey Civic Light Opera productions and McBride in 17. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. Photos courtesy DCLO



Price of cat adoptions reduced

DOWNEY – Now through Aug. 29, all cat adoptions at the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) are only \$25.

The adoption price includes vaccinations, a microchip, spay/neutering, de-worming, and flea treatment.

The reduced rate is part of SEAACA's annual "Cat Days of Summer" promotion.

For more information, visit www.seaaca.org.

Foster parents honored by agency

DOWNEY – Two parents from Downey have been honored by a foster family agency for their parenting skills.

Martha Villalobos and Hector Gutierrez were honored with Guardian Angel Awards for "demonstrating the passion and care that are required to nurture the youngsters through challenging times."

Villalobos and Gutierrez have opened their home to at-risk children who have been removed by the courts from their birth families.

The awards were distributed by Optimist Foster Family and Adoption Services, one of the region's largest education and treatment centers for at-risk children and their families.

Sale at Friends Book Store

DOWNEY – The Friends Book Store inside the Downey City Library is now offering a half-off sale on all books marked with a red check.

Also, all audio tapes have been reduced to \$1.

Proceeds from the sales will be used to support the library's services and programs.

Store credited with 'perfect pretzel'

DOWNEY – Auntie Anne's at Stonewood Center has been recognized as a "Pretzel Perfect Store," the franchise system's highest honor.

Auntie Anne's is the world's leading franchisor of hand-rolled soft pretzels. Out of 793 domestic locations, only 26 Auntie Anne's pretzel stores are recognized with the award.

The Downey store is led by manager Francis Gonzalez and franchisee Linda Read.

Sidi performing in Orange County

SANTA ANA – Downey resident Sebastian Sidi will perform live at the OC Pavilion for the Performing Arts in Santa Ana on July 1 at 8 p.m.

Tickets, priced between \$25-\$35, may be purchased online at www.ocpavilion.com or by calling (714) 550-0880.

Sidi will perform much of his original work along with rock renditions from "Phantom of the Opera," "Moonlight Sonata," "5th Symphony," "Fur Elise," and others.

For more information on Sidi, visit www.sebastiansidi.com.

Vacation Bible school enrolling

DOWNEY – Downey United Methodist Church will offer a vacation Bible school June 22-26 with the theme "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything – A VeggieTales VBS."

The school is open to children age 3 through those entering fifth grade. Cost is \$5 per student and the class runs from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call the church at (562) 861-9777 or go online to www.downeyumc.com and click the "VBS" link.

Downey United Methodist Church is at 10801 Downey Ave.

Dentist to speak at networking

DOWNEY – Dr. Amit Bhakta of Radiant Smiles dentistry will be a guest speaker at Tuesday's Rise 'N Shine Networking meeting at Downey Brewing Company.

Also scheduled to speak is Myra Benjamin of Transworld Systems. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and the cost is an order from the menu.

RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Water official to speak at meeting

DOWNEY – Luis Cetina of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will speak on "California's Water Crisis" at the June 23 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking.

The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. at Downey Brewing Company. Cost is an order from the menu.

The public is invited to attend. RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Latimer honored for volunteerism

DOWNEY – Downey resident Cleo Latimer was honored with the Older American's Award last month for demonstrating "a strong volunteer spirit" in the community.

Latimer was chosen by the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging, which every year honors older Americans from cities within Los Angeles County.

Latimer was honored at the May 12 City Council meeting and at an awards program May 21 hosted by Supervisor Don Knabe.

Also honored were nominees Tracy Riley and Eric Sherreitt.

Volunteer opportunities for seniors

DOWNEY – Residents over the age of 50 are invited to a workshop June 16 to learn about volunteer opportunities available with the California Department of Fish and Game.

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

Reading program aimed at adults

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library is offering a program this summer to encourage adults to do more leisure reading.

"Master the Art of Reading," which runs through Aug. 1, is the theme for the free independent reading program for adults. Adults can register for the program starting Monday.

Participants will receive a "Book Bingo" card and will be awarded a free prize after completing five boxes in a row.

"This is a fun and easy way for adults to brush up on their literary skills," said Librarian Nancy Munoz. "You will be setting a great example for children and teens while you catch up on the latest bestsellers or classic books."

Munoz said the program is ideal for anyone who has a few minutes each day to read.

"You will enrich your life by discovering the reading habit," she said. "Even if you have a busy schedule or are on a budget, you will benefit from this program."

"Master the Art of Reading" is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library and community donations. To register, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132, or visit the library.

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New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Been Here a Thousand Years"** by Mariolina Venezia. Italy's tumultuous history is portrayed in the funny and astonishing story of five generations of the Falcone family.
- **"By Invitation Only"** by Jodi Della Femina. From her family background in the restaurant business, the author has fashioned a delicious summer page-turner about love, society and scandal.
- **"Commencement"** by J. Courtney Sullivan. Written with style and a wicked sense of humor, Sullivan's debut novel not only captures the intensity of college friendships and first loves, but also explores the complicated decisions facing young women today.
- **"Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Deception"** by Eric Van Lustbader. After Bourne is ambushed and nearly killed while in Indonesia, he fakes his death to take on a new identity and mission—to find out who is trying to assassinate him.
- **"The Secret"** by Beverly Lewis. Secrets abound in the seemingly ordinary Amish home of Grace Byler.

Non-Fiction

- **"Baptism by Fire: Eight Presidents Who Took Office in Times of Crisis"** by Mark K. Updegrave. A look at how our Chief Executive's ability to handle adversity has determined the fate of the nation and the world.
- **"Becoming Manny: Inside the Life of Baseball's Most Enigmatic Slugger"** by Jean Rhodes and Shawn Boburg. A psychologist and an investigative journalist examine Ramirez' unique approach to life and to the game of baseball.
- **"Driving Like Crazy"** by P.J. O'Rourke. The political satirist, car enthusiast (and terrifying driver) takes readers on a high-speed tour of American life with the automobile.
- **"How I Got to Be Whoever It Is I Am"** by Charles Grodin. As a boy, Grodin was impeached as class president by his fifth grade teacher for talking too much. Still one of the best storytellers around, Grodin shares his memories in this delightful biography.
- **"Pretty in Plaid"** by Jen Lancaster. The author of "Such a Pretty Fat" takes a long, funny and touching look back at her life—and wardrobe.

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

Downey Graffiti Hotline
562-923-4484
 Report graffiti or persons performing the act to this number.

Resident celebrates 104th birthday

DOWNEY – Ferne McCallister, of Downey is celebrating her 104th birthday today and is thankful to be in good health and able to live 'independently'.

Originally from Kansas, McCallister came to California in the 1940s with her husband and has spent nearly 60 years in Southern California.

"It's not easy living by myself but I am well taken care of by friends, family and CareMore," said McCallister, a long time CareMore Health Plan member. "I am the oldest resident in my condominium complex and the oldest member at my church, and am lucky to have my community helping me out when I need them."

The former school teacher and state human resources employee has many friends from her neighborhood and a niece that help her with various tasks like getting her mail, cleaning and grocery shopping.

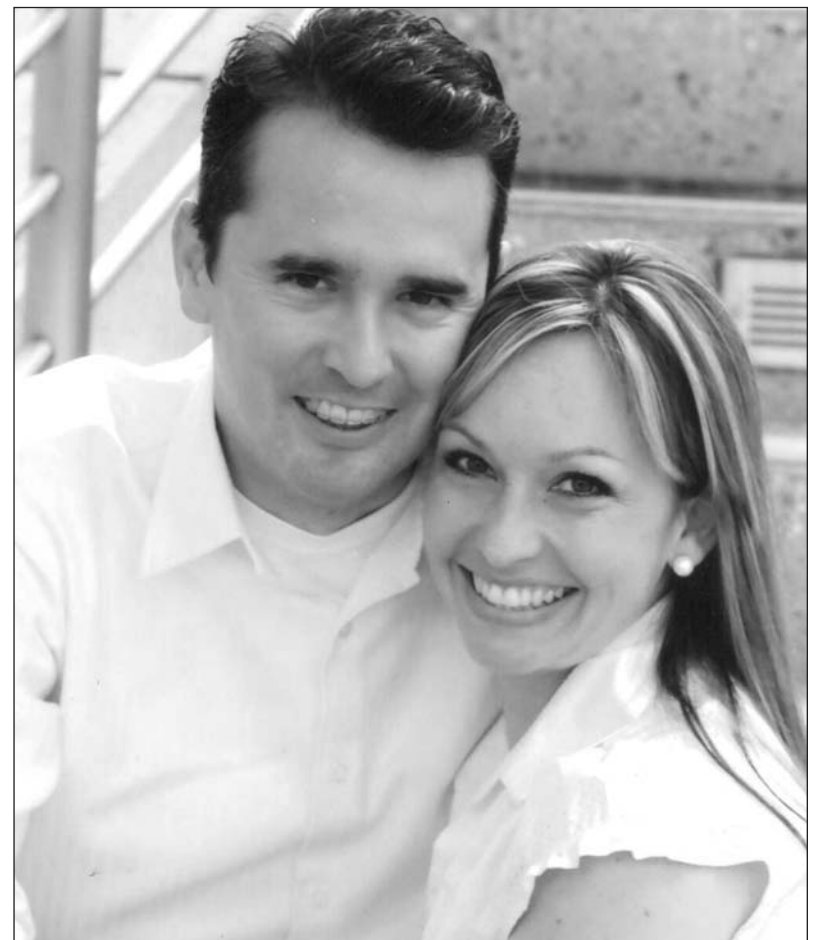
She currently walks with the aide of a walker, but there was a time when McCallister enjoyed traveling to various destinations across the United States, and even worldwide. She loves the beauty of nature, especially the Redwoods in Northern California and the mountains in Canada. She is passionate about politics and was the president of her local Republican and senior citizen club for several decades.

"I love reading the newspaper...to keep up with current events," she added. "It's hard for me to get around so I like to read newspapers, magazines and occasionally I enjoy romance and mystery novels."

"When I was 101, I knew I had to stop driving-- no one told me to stop, I just knew that it was getting more difficult for me and I had to give up something so important to me," she said, "It is such an inconvenience to not be able to drive anywhere, and am glad (CareMore) offer the service."

McCallister lived in South Gate and currently resides in Downey, where she lives 'independently'. Her husband Earl passed away in 1965.

"I lived to be 100 because I didn't have any kids," she jokes. "I love my family and I know what's important in my life."



Dr. and Mrs. Michael E. Sullivan, of Downey, have announced the engagement of their son, Esteban Sullivan, to Deborah Shearer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shearer, of Bloomington. Esteban is a 1993 graduate of Warren High School and has worked the past 12 years at Disneyland Resorts as a special events specialist and cast member event coordinator. Deborah is a graduate of Upland High School and Cal Sate Dominguez Hills. After working with Rep. Loretta Sanchez in Washington, D.C., she returned to California and is employed as a legal assistant in a Los Angeles law office. The couple plans for a November wedding.

Stimulus increases food stamp benefits

Los Angeles County residents who receive food stamps have seen their monthly benefit increase by 13.6 percent since April, due to the federal economic stimulus package.

With the increase, the benefits for a family of four have gone from \$588 to \$668 per month. In Los Angeles County, it's estimated there are 755,000 individuals receiving food stamps every month.

"More and more people in our community need help accessing food," said Philip L. Browning, director of the Department of Public Social Services. "This increase is going to help those in need get through a difficult economic time."

The food stamp benefit increase took effect on April 1 as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Los Angeles County was the first county in California to implement the program.

Browning said County food stamp recipients received an additional \$15 million in April and \$15 million in May.

"Increasing food stamp payments by \$1 has a ripple effect of \$1.84 on the economy, so the real effect is more than \$27 million per month to the local economy," he said.

The food stamp benefit increase will be in effect through Sept. 30, 2010.

Though the increase is temporary, it will be phased out in conjunction with regular annual increases, so food stamp recipients won't feel the decrease.

The federal government pays for the food stamp program, which last year was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.



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1:30 PM
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Former big leaguers to be honored

DOWNEY – Two former Major League Baseball players will be the honored guests and speakers at a sports banquet tomorrow at the Bernabe Community Center in Downey.

Tommy Davis, a former left fielder with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and Dave Frost, a retired pitcher for the California Angels, will be honored at the event.

The banquet begins at 6 p.m. For information on attending, call Dennis Dennehy, executive director of the community center, at (562) 863-1899.

Sister Cities luau in South Gate

SOUTH GATE – The 14th annual barbecue and luau scholarship fundraiser will take place Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at American Legion Park in South Gate.

Guests are invited to wear their favorite Hawaiian outfit and enjoy food, door prizes, raffles, and a horseshoe tournament.

Cost for adults is \$20. Children under 12 are \$5. All donations are tax deductible and benefit the U.S./Mexico Sister Cities Association.

For more information, call Ralph Mundia at (714) 777-3598.

Free outdoor movies this summer

CENTURY CITY – The Westfield Shopping Center in Century City is offering free outdoor movie screenings all summer long.

Films begin at 8 p.m. in the Level 2 Dining Terrace.

The film schedule includes “Love Story,” June 10; “Forrest Gump,” June 17; “Footloose,” June 24; “Back to the Future,” July 1; “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” July 8; “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” July 15; “Ghostbusters,” July 22; “Top Gun,” July 29; “My Fair Lady,” Aug. 5; “Hairspray,” (new), Aug. 12; “Grease,” Aug. 19; and a double feature of “The Wizard of Oz” and “The Wiz,” Aug. 26.

For more information, visit www.westfield.com/centurycity.

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'Dr. Dolittle' comes to life in La Habra

LA HABRA – Hugh Lofton’s timeless story of the doctor who shuns human patients in favor of animals, with whom he can speak their language, comes to life in the La Habra Depot Theatre’s production of “Dr. Dolittle.”

The children’s play runs June 5-28. Tea parties with the cast are held before Sunday matinees at 1 p.m.

Ticket prices have been lowered from \$18 to \$12 for adults and \$10 for children, students and seniors. Tea party tickets are \$10 or \$18 for show and tea party.

Dr. Dolittle’s love of animals grows and his household menagerie scares off his human clientele. After learning the secret of speaking to animals from his parrot, he takes up a veterinary practice. He uses his extraordinary abilities to help animals and better understand their world.

“The play invites young audiences to rely on their imaginations to join the cast in an enchanting world that results from the unique communication between the colorful animals and their wonderful friend, Dr. Dolittle,” said director Ernest Lee. “It plays well in the intimate setting of the Depot Theatre.”

The cast is hosting tea parties for young children and their parents before Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. The characters of the show serve cookies, lemonade and tea.

“The animal costumes for the play are spectacular,” said producer Dookie Hillman.

The theatres’ last two productions, Sondheim’s “Assassins” and



“Dr. Dolittle” opens today at the La Habra Depot Theatre. The show’s cast is shown above. Photo by Dookie Hillman

“Ticket to Ride,” earned prestigious Roar of the Crowd awards, which means the productions received the highest ratings by audiences voting online of all shows playing in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Reservations for “Dr. Dolittle” can be made by calling (562) 905-9625 or online at www.lhdepottheatre.org.

One-act plays at Cerritos College

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Department of Theatre will present their annual show of summer one-act plays, “6 in the City!”, on June 19 at 8 p.m.

The series is the perfect opportunity for novice actors to try their hand at theater, said Renee Bloch, promotion specialist for Cerritos College Performing Arts. Likewise, intermediate and advanced students receive an opportunity to write, direct and design their own show.

The six plays to be presented are: “The Date,” “Punch-In, Clock-Out,” “Grim & Vigor,” “Bedheadz,” “The Ballad of Bob & Joan,” and “Second

Station.” Some plays may contain adult language and situations.

The plays will be performed inside the school’s Burnight Center Theatre. Tickets are \$10 general admission, or two tickets for \$15 for students with ID. Tickets can be purchased at the box office one hour prior to performance.

For more information, visit www.cerritos.edu/theatre or call (562) 467-5058.

Establish yourself as an industry expert

Contributed by Clint Greenleaf

Clutter. It annoys us out of the corners of our eyes, irks us at some subconscious level, and overwhelms us in volume. Twitter, radio, television, blogs...it’s easy to get lost in the compost pile of the media. So the \$64,000 question for experts and authors is, “How do we cut through this clutter to be seen and heard?”

Start by ensuring that your message is relevant and differentiated. What specific areas of your expertise do people consistently draw on? How is your approach or philosophy different from that of your closest competitors? Once you’ve refined your unique positioning, boil the value proposition down into a succinct elevator pitch. If you can’t explain the “brand of you” in ten seconds, your message isn’t strong enough.

Now that you have your positioning solidified, start building your platform. Platform refers to your ability to reach and resonate with people. Just like a physical platform, it serves to elevate. In this sense, it’s elevating you and your message over the clutter.

Building your platform requires content, and here’s the key to strong platform messaging: Don’t lose your content! You need every bit of it to redistribute and heighten your platform. Keep a record of your newsletter tips, blog posts, radio and TV interviews, lecture recordings, etcetera. Devise your own system to tag your content by subject area to come up with a messaging matrix for easy syndication.

Once you have your content arsenal ready to go, there are a number of ways to get the most use out of it. A few suggestions:

•Write a book. Writing a book makes you instantly credible. There are publishing options available to meet every author’s goals, but do your homework to make sure you’re not publishing under a model that could hurt your reputation.

•Syndicate. Take pieces of content from your book, newsletters, blogs, etc and get them out there. Offer to post regular content for relevant newsletters and websites. Submit articles to article directories and as news releases. Get your video clips on YouTube. Post your most helpful content as responses to questions on professional social networking sites like LinkedIn. All of it helps to build your authority.

•Speak. Research speaking engagements inside and outside of your industry where your message might resonate. If you’re new to speaking, start by offering to moderate panels at local conferences. You’ll soon graduate to breakout sessions, and if you’re good, you’ll eventually land lucrative keynote addresses that generate tons of word of mouth.

•Brag. If you’ve been featured in national print, your website should mention it (“As featured in...”). Same goes for awards, TV and radio interviews and high-profile speaking engagements. Also be sure to share the good news with your client base and incorporate it into your sales collateral.

Establishing your authority as an expert may seem like a daunting task, but bear in mind that the explosion of media channels means more talking heads are needed to fill programming and content needs. Strategize on the front end to be sure you’re filling an unmet or under-met need. Then, put a team in place to help you execute the bullet points above. In a perfect world, you’ll be too busy juggling demands for your expertise to deal with those things. Finally, maintain your platform. Strive to stay ahead of the curve and remain the enduring thought leader in your space. It’s hard work, but the benefits are priceless.

Clint Greenleaf is the founder and CEO of Greenleaf Book Group (www.greenleafbookgroup.com). Greenleaf (a CPA) sits on the University of Texas Libraries Board, blogs for Inc.com, and has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Inc magazine, Fox News, MSBNC, and Entrepreneur. He speaks about publishing and entrepreneurship across the country at conferences, seminars and schools.

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LAND OF THE LOST PG-13 (10:50, 11:25, 1:20, 1:55, 4:00, 4:35), 6:40, 7:25, 9:20, 10:00

DRAG ME TO HELL PG-13 (12:00, 2:30, 5:00), 7:30, 10:00

DANCE FLICK PG-13 (12:20, 2:35, 4:55), 7:20, 9:30

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN PG (10:55, 1:35, 4:15), 7:10, 9:45

TERMINATOR SALVATION PG-13 (11:10, 2:05, 4:50), 7:40, 10:35

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BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

The city of Downey dates its incorporation to Dec. 17, 1956 and it became a charter city eight years later, in 1964, but its actual beginnings go farther back.

It was on Oct. 13, 1873 that the original tract map defining Downey's boundaries was filed for the land-owning Downey Land Association in the Los Angeles County court house (which functioned as a register of deeds). Incorporation was still 83 years down the road, but Downey, the budding city, was born.

As the centenary of its founding on Oct. 13, 1973 approached, the city made plans for an appropriate celebration. On Sept. 21, a group consisting of community leaders, members of the City Council, and city staff formed the Downey Second Century Foundation, envisioned, as the name indicates, to "make Downey's second century even greater than its first century." The foundation was to be a "living memorial," designed to function as a "permanent organization to [help] maintain Downey's quality of life and stimulate civic awareness among citizens by promoting public and semi-public celebrations involving both public and private organizations."

Its by-laws created a policy-setting 12-member board, and four officers—a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer—to run its operations. Its current board roster includes: Lois Buchanan (president), Laurie MacIsaac (vice president), Ellie Harrington (treasurer), Jackie Essington (secretary), Vickie Spearman, Robert Cormack, Maria Larkin, Jan Siebrath, Steve Roberson, Roger Nordin, and City Councilmember Roger Brossmer (with one vacancy).

The celebration of Downey's centennial on Oct. 13, 1973 (the mayor then was Thomas Morton) was the foundation's first major project. They decided on a weeklong (Oct. 6-13) celebration. Activities included neighborhood fairs at the parks and schools, Olympics-style sports contests, marches, a symphony concert, prayer breakfast, a Centennial Ball, street dancing, barbeque, and a parade. It was a fitting tribute to Downey's rich first 100 years, from its beginning as a farm and dairy center through its glorious aerospace years.

Lois Buchanan, who joined the foundation in 1976, nevertheless had been involved with it since its inception, mainly with fundraising activities. She has been serving as its president for the past nine years, as its treasurer for four years prior. She documented the centennial with a scrapbook (photos, records of events, etc.). She likes to collect, and organize, things of this sort, she says.

She seems ideal for the job. Retired since 1989 after several years of working in the optometry and ophthalmology fields, Buchanan has through the years accumulated a long list of community service memberships (Downey Coordinating Council, Downey Rose Float Association, Downey Historical Society, Assistance League of Downey, Aerospace Legacy Foundation, to mention a few) after her name and often as not

been recognized and honored for them. She has, for instance, twice received the Rockwell Outstanding Service Award for service to the community, as well as the Outstanding Service Award, also twice, from the Downey Coordinating Council for service to the youth, and named Woman of the Year for Downey by Assemblyman Hector DeLa Torre.

Her suggestion early on to start a Neighborhood Alert Program (to go along with the so-called "Friendly Enemies Program" for the schools, where she was active for years on the Maude Price PTA) has led, she notes, to today's Neighborhood Watch Program. A drug abuse booklet which she had a hand in preparing, along with four other police officers, and which was directed to DUSD students, later turned into DARE.

She has in the meantime worked on several Emergency Preparedness projects with the city and her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (she has, for example, chaired its Interfaith Multi-Cultural Songfest for 13 years running and counting, and she plays a central role in the city's two "huge community cleanup events"—one in April ("Keep America ~ Downey Beautiful" and the upcoming "Operation Bright Side" in October, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works' Carol Rowland), among her other several involvements.

Over the years the Downey Second Century Foundation has spearheaded the city's observances of its anniversaries, and Buchanan has been in the thick of things, playing active roles in the city's 20th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th and, of course, its 50th, anniversaries.

The special 50th anniversary celebration, on Dec. 5, 2006, honored 50-year residents as well as businesses, and featured a three-tier birthday cake, 1950s music/entertainment, and the usual light food and drink.

The next major city events, which promise to assume historic proportions, is the much-anticipated opening of the Discovery Sports Complex this 4th of July and the Columbia Memorial Space Center in the fall. As the Downey Second Century Foundation's mission is wedded to the city's fate, Buchanan knows the Downey Second Century Foundation will play a major role in the inaugural programs. She says the foundation is prepared to play its usual role in these events.



Lois Buchanan

Family-friendly Monday nights

DOWNEY – A series of free family-friendly events at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center begins July 6 with an Animal Tracks show at 7 p.m.

The series continues each Monday night until Aug. 3.

Pets available for immediate adoption

DOWNEY – The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAA-CA) will host an on-site pet adoption event June 16 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The event will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dogs and cats will be available for immediate adoption.

Senior Follies shows June 26-28

DOWNEY – Tickets are now on sale for the sixth annual Downey Senior Follies scheduled for June 26-28 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

A total of 25 performers will display their dancing, singing and comedic talents. Tickets are \$5 per person

Shows will be presented June 26 at 6 p.m., and June 27 and 28 at 3 p.m.

Tickets available for 'Spamalot'

DOWNEY – Downey residents age 21 and older are invited on an excursion to watch Monty Python's "Spamalot" at the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles on Aug. 8.

"Spamalot" won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical. Tickets are \$70.

Seniors over age 50 are invited on a separate excursion to Legoland in Carlsbad on Sept. 26. Cost is \$52.

Fees for both trips cover admission and transportation. For more information, call the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center at (562) 904-7227.

Teens urged to read this summer

DOWNEY – Downey teens are invited to sign-up for a summer reading program at the Downey City Library that runs until Aug. 1.

"Express Yourself" is the theme of this year's program, which encourages teens to read for pleasure or to get a head start on books for the next school year.

Students ages 13-19 may join the program, win prizes and attend special events, including a July 11 excursion to the Grammy Museum.

Teens who complete the program will receive a free book and are eligible to attend a pizza party July 31.

"This year's program encourages teens to show their creativity through music, drawing and comedy with three additional events during July," said Julia Butler, young adult librarian at the library.

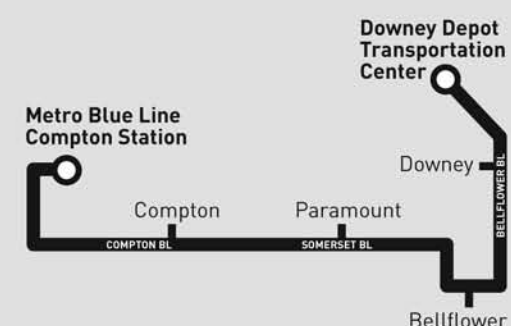
The program is supported financially by the Friends of the Downey City Library and community donations. For more information, visit the library or call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.



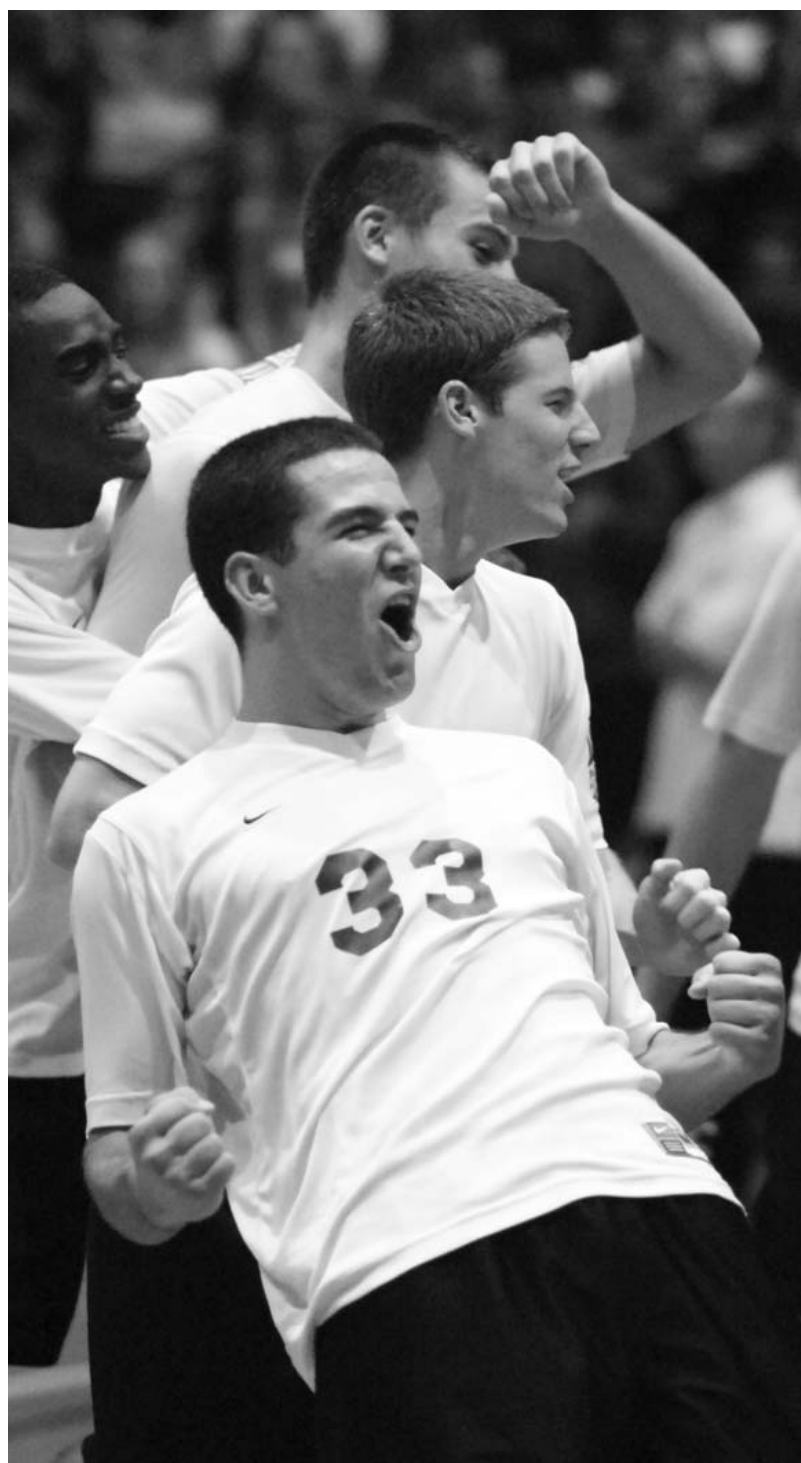
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Downey volleyball wins first CIF championship

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

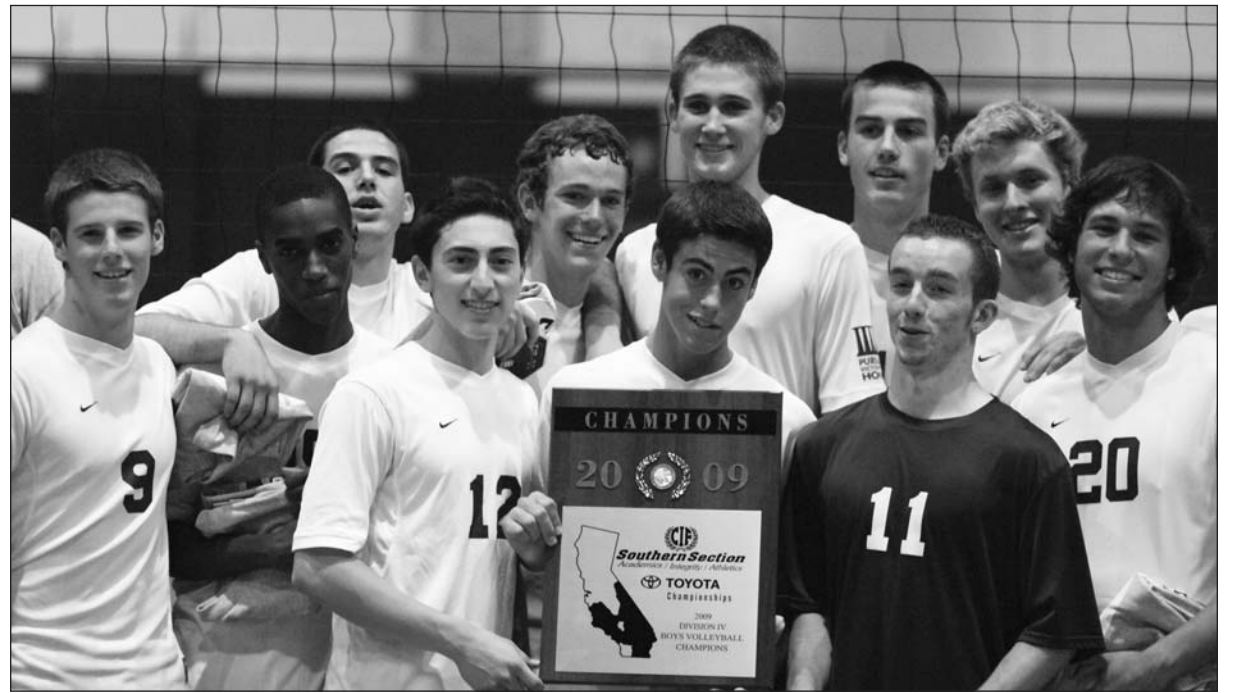
DOWNEY – No. 1 is the way they started, and No. 1 is the way they finished as Downey boys volleyball showed, winning in consecutive sets against Torrance (25-21, 25-20, 25-22) last week to capture the program's first CIF championship.

The Vikings held the lofty No. 1 seed throughout the season. Last year they managed to climb to the semifinals in the postseason but failed to advance. This season was different.

The final point came after an Alex Mendiola serve fell untouched between several Torrance defenders who experienced a miscommunication to whom was going to receive the ball.

Like any other expected scene after a championship point, the Vikings erupted with joy and mobbed each other, forming a dog pile on the court.

"There's the eruption of the fans and players and the big scrum in the middle of the court," said Vikings head coach Mark Rand. "From my perspective, if you've never worked with kids or taught them, the satisfaction is seeing the happiness and incredible joy in the kids."



Downey High School defeated Torrance last week to win their first CIF championship in school history. Photos by Paul Heidecker

Downey was led by senior Matt Taylor, who came through with his serves during critical parts of the game. Coupled with crucial errors from Torrance, the championship was all but theirs for the taking. While the score suggested a stroll to the coveted area championship, it was all but that.

"Maybe the score was a little deceiving," Rand said. "In every game we were either down or tied at 17 or 18 and we were just able to

pull it out through various games. Taylor got hot serving in the first game."

Getting hot was enough, considering Rand said, there were moments where he thought his team was starting to lose a little control. Rand cited a few mental mistakes that could have cost his team but didn't.

The championship was nice, but the way they did it was even more impressive. Being ranked the No. 1 team and having all the expectations in the world can only magnify the pressure exerted on a team. Downey played calm and cool through the season but they were not immune to the anxiety.

"I'd lie if I said I didn't feel pressure or the kids didn't feel pressure, but it was a welcome pressure," Rand said. "Last year we were in the semis and the year before that we were there too. We looked at that and decided it was time to take the next step and embrace [the pressure]."

With bringing home Downey's first volleyball CIF championship, it puts the Vikings on the map and earned the program some well deserved respect according to

Rand. "It's ultimately satisfying to see what the program has turned in to," he said. "It's been a steady evolution of progression. As far as play-off performances, we've earned a name for ourselves. People know who Downey is. People know who we are now and we're respected."

The kids are expected to receive championship rings from the school in honor of their accomplishments along with a banner that will be raised in the gymnasium.

With the win, Downey also qualified for the state CIF championships, playing their first round game Tuesday.

The Vikings traveled to play highly ranked La Costa Canyon of Carlsbad and battled the favored La Costa through five sets but lost 25-23, 23-25, 23-25, 25-18, 15-8. At one point the Vikings held a 2-1 set advantage but were unable to hold on.

"My kids fought," Rand said. "They fought hard, but looked like they ran out of gas at the end of the match."

The state championship appearance was the first ever by any Downey sports program.

Downey's dream season sputters to a close

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Even the mighty sometimes fall hard in their defining moments like the Downey Vikings found out, losing 3-0 in their third round CIF baseball play-off game against Lancaster on Tuesday.

Whether it was the long drive or season fatigue, Downey's bats fell asleep and were only able to muster up two hits against Lancaster. Overall, the Vikings only had five base runners, two others getting on base via walk and the fifth getting hit by a pitch.

Chris Munoz, who has been lights out for Downey all year long, allowed two quick first inning runs to Lancaster. A third run would be added two innings later, but by then the Vikings already found them-

selves in a hole. Munoz picked up the loss in a 6-inning effort that saw him strike out three, walk two, and allow six hits.

The only hits Downey had were by Michael Mazzara and Mark Palacios. Other than that, the Vikings looked timid at the plate, taking a lot of first-pitch strikes and getting behind in the count.

The Vikings finished their season 23-7 overall, 12-3 in league and won the San Gabriel Valley League championship for the first time in more than 10 years. They were almost unbeatable at home with a 14-1 record and played well on the road going 8-4.

They were ranked as high as No. 2 in Division IV CIF coaches polls and were favored to go much further in the playoffs.

Razorbacks holding sign-ups

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will continue registration tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Furman Park.

Sign-ups will be taken for tackle football, flag football, and cheerleading for boys and girls ages 5-14.

Registration for tackle football is \$185, flag is \$130 and cheerlead-

ing is \$100.

Other registration dates include June 20 (Apollo Park), July 4 (Furman Park) and July 11 (Apollo Park).

For more information on registration or assistant coach opportunities, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081 or Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183.

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Kids Day 2009 - Photos by Paul Heidecker



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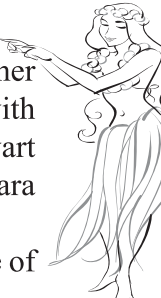
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- Aug. 5 - The Wiseguys
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- Aug. 12 - Downey Symphony
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- Aug. 19 - Orgesta Charangoa
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- Aug. 26 - Marine Corps
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 - Sports Camp (ages 8-12 yrs)
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 - Skate Camp at Independence Park (ages 8-12)
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Camp Hollywood, Wilderness, Adventure, Sports, Soccer and Skate held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and extended care is offered for an additional fee from 7:00 am to 9:30 am and 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Camp fee covers excursions, swimming, mini-trips, snacks and all cooking/craft supplies.

Harry Potter, Survivor, Top Chef Camps are held 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and Tennis Camp is held 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. These camps do not provide extended care.

Summer Camps begin Monday, June 22nd. For more information, please call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238

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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. The announcements will be listed by school and by graduate's name.

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

Include the following information:

- ✓ Completed Information Card
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8301 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240
(562) 904-3668 phone
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Photo Here

Graduates Name
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4
Line 5

ACTUAL SIZE

Line 1 (Graduate's Name)
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To confirm your announcement has been received, please call 562/904-3668. Proofs are available upon request and sent via email.

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Basketball camp at Downey High

DOWNEY – A summer basketball camp for kids begins June 22 at Downey High School.

Larry Shelton, varsity basketball coach at Downey High School for 21 years, will lead the camp with the help of his staff. Shelton is a two-time L.A. Times Coach of the Year and four-time San Gabriel Valley League Coach of the Year.

Kids will receive daily basketball instruction and compete in games and tournaments. Incoming freshmen will compete in their own summer league with a possibility of 13 games versus other schools.

The camp is open to boys entering grades 4-9. The \$125 fee includes a Downey basketball jersey and shorts.

The camp will be held in the Downey High School gym Monday through Thursday from 8 to 10 a.m. Camp opens June 22 and ends July 16 (no class July 2).

For more information, call Shelton at (562) 412-7528 or (562) 806-7013.

Greek Festival takes place June 6-7

DOWNEY – The 25th annual Downey Greek Festival will take place June 6-7 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 10830 Downey Ave.

An annual community event, the festival features live Greek music, folk dancing by award-winning dance groups, tours of the 6th Century Byzantine-style sanctuary, and authentic Greek food, including souvlakia, gyros and traditional rotisserie lamb.

The festival is open both days from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$2 but seniors and children under 12 are free.

For more information, call the church office at (562) 862-6461 or visit www.stgeorgedowney.org.

Class teaches seniors to drive safe

DOWNEY – Seats are still available for the AARP's senior citizen driving program on July 13 and 15 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The 8-hour class, titled "55 Alive Driver Safety Driver Program," is divided between two days. Cost is \$10 per person.

For more information, call (562) 904-7227.

Music class caters to toddlers

DOWNEY – "Kids Love Music," a four-week class for preschool-age children, starts June 22 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

Kids ages 1-4 will clap, sing and move to music. Class is from 4:45-5:30 p.m. and costs \$44 per child.

"Babies Love Music," a class for children up to 14 months, will be offered from 3:15-3:45 p.m. Cost is also \$44.

To register, call (562) 904-7227.



The Red Sox of Northwest Downey Little League's Major Division were named champions after finishing their season a perfect 20-0. Back row, left to right: Coach Dominick San Angelo, Miguel "Mike" Alderete, Matt Lopez, Daniel Cervantes, Team Mom Tracey Veloff, Jarred "Jaime" Garcia, Coach Ryan Lopez, Brian Luna, Evan Holmes, Javier Cervantes and Manager Javier "Howie" Lopez. Front row: Moises Rosas, Anthony San Angelo, Christian Anaya, Logan Veloff, and Thomas Valdez. Not pictured: Coach Javier Cervantes.



Downey Adult School held commencement exercises for its Allied Health Department graduates on May 28. Held in the Harriett Paine Event Center, the graduation consisted of 90 students from the Dental Assisting Program, Medical Assistant Program and the Pharmacy Technician Program. Faculty, family and friends watched as the graduates were commended for their hard work in their respected programs and a select few were merited as academic valedictorians and salutatorians for each program.

Roybal-Allard gets Justice Award

DOWNEY – The Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice honored Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) with its Justice Award at the organization's 16th annual awards dinner at Cicada Restaurant in downtown Los Angeles.

Roybal-Allard received the award for her work in Congress to strengthen and empower families, including her efforts to pass legislation to help survivors of domestic violence and reform the nation's immigration system.

Since 1973, the L.A. Center for Law and Justice has provided free legal representation, education and advocacy to low-income residents.

Graduation dates, times announced

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District has announced the dates and times for high school graduations.

Downey High School graduation is June 18 at 7 p.m. at Allen Layne Stadium on the Downey High School campus.

Warren High School graduation is the same date and time at Justice Stadium on the Warren High School campus.

Columbus High School graduates will receive their diplomas June 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the school's quad area.

Downey Adult School students will graduate July 30 at 6 p.m. in the Harriett Paine Event Center.

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