

The Downey Patriot



Downey resident turns 104
See Page 4



Troops serving our country
See Page 3



Young athletes honored
See Page 9

Friday, June 19, 2009 Vol. 8 No. 9 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

Thoughts from the mayor

BY MAYOR MARIO GUERRA, MAYOR, CITY OF DOWNEY

Hi family and friends and Downey residents. Many of you have been asking when I would give another update regarding Downey happenings. There have been so many good things happening that it has been hard to have the time to write. But I am always excited to share our good fortune to live in Downey.



Mario Guerra

Let's see, in no particular order: **Downtown Downey:** We are on our way to a downtown specific plan and hopefully many new things. By a 4 to 1 council vote we picked a great firm to do our specific plan and EIR (environmental impact report). With Porto's coming on Downey Avenue and Firestone Boulevard early next year we will be seeing thousands of people coming into our downtown daily. Great coup for Downey to have them coming into our city. With their proven track record and great reputation many other cities wanted them bad, but they wisely chose Downey, ha.

We are also working on redevelopment of the old Avenue Theatre and Verizon buildings. Our city bought the properties with housing money so some form of housing must be there by law. Some have been asking about saving the Avenue Theatre for old movies and as a cultural center, but unfortunately it is not feasible from an economic standpoint nor from a business standpoint.

If somebody wants to form a charitable group or trust and buy it and restore it like they did in Fullerton, I would be all for it. Unfortunately, the Fullerton Theatre has not turned out the way they had hoped.

That does not mean that we cannot incorporate some entertainment venue for small gatherings or

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Yard sale to benefit non-profits

DOWNEY – A yard sale to benefit two local non-profit organizations will be held tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, 9501 Washburn Rd.

The sale will feature furniture, household items, computers, clothing and more. Everything will be "priced to sell."

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to Arc and the Aktion Club, a community service organization of Kiwanis Club of Downey.

For more information, call Century 21 My Real Estate at (562) 927-2626 and ask for Janet or Maria.

Family, friends pay final respects to Joshua Whittle

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one like this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:12-13

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – With a contingent of Downey police officers standing at attention, hundreds of friends and family members of Joshua Whittle filled Downey First Baptist Church on Monday to say goodbye to the fallen Marine.

Lance Cpl. Whittle was only in Afghanistan three weeks before he was killed June 6 after stepping on a landmine. He was 20.

His remains arrived at the Joint Force Training Base in Los Alamitos last Friday. Military pallbearers placed his body into a Hearse which led a long procession of military personnel, police officers, firefighters, city officials, and Patriot Guard Riders.

The procession made its way to Downey and passed by Warren High School, where students, staff

and community members waved American flags to welcome Whittle home.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Whittle grew up in Downey where he was raised by his mother, Crystal Vincent, and her longtime boyfriend, Carl Matson. Whittle's biological father died three years ago, family members said.

Whittle attended Warren High School before graduating from Downey Adult School.

At Monday's service, friends of Whittle took turns approaching the pulpit and shared memories of the man they called "M.D." for his resemblance to actor Matt Damon.

"It was a resemblance that Josh didn't deny," said Pastor Jon Castillo, who led the service.

Whittle's younger sister said she remembered him as a typical older brother: fiercely protective but lovable.

"I'm going to miss him not being here to protect me," she said.

Other friends and family called Whittle an upstanding young man who enjoyed helping people. A video montage displayed photos from Whittle's life.

Mayor Mario Guerra offered condolences on behalf of the city, and said a monument honoring veterans will be erected near City Hall.

Following the service, Downey motorcycle officers led a 57-mile procession to Riverside National Cemetery, where Whittle was given full military honors.

Vincent was presented with a Purple Heart and the American flag that had draped her son's casket.



An estimated 600 people paid their final respects to Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Whittle, who was killed by a landmine June 6 in Afghanistan.

Whittle received full military honors and was buried at Riverside National Cemetery.

Photos by R.D. Salyer



Eric Siryj has volunteered almost 200 hours at Downey Regional Medical Center and will work with severely handicapped children this summer. From left: Margaret Siryj, Eric Siryj and Fernando Vasquez.



By age 12 Jose Zuniga was already teaching his own karate class. Today, he shares his martial arts expertise with younger children and helps run the Ultimate Karate Center. From left: Jose Zuniga Sr., Bella Zuniga, Jose Zuniga and Fernando Vasquez.

Two students receive inaugural Downey Youth Service Award

DOWNEY – Two local high school students – one from Warren and the other from Downey – were recipients of the inaugural Downey Youth Service Award, a recognition honoring Downey children who give back to the community.

The award is jointly sponsored by Downey Kiwanis Club and the Downey Patriot.

Eric Siryj and Jose Zuniga received the awards at a recognition luncheon last Thursday at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Siryj just completed his junior year at Warren High School, where he maintained a 4.6 GPA and played on the volleyball team.

Siryj has volunteered almost 200 hours at the Pharmacy Department at Downey Regional

Medical Center and was recently accepted to Camp Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where he will work with severely handicapped children this summer.

Siryj's passion to help others was spurred by the death of his grandfather, who passed away from Alzheimer's disease, said Siryj's parents, Margaret and Roman.

Zuniga will be a senior at Downey High School this fall. He has a 3.8 GPA and is involved with the school's drama department.

Zuniga has been an active volunteer instructor and junior manager at the Ultimate Karate Center in Downey for more than six years. He has studied martial arts since he was a young boy, but after many

years of individual study became an assistant in the school's children's programs, helping children better themselves both physically and mentally.

Zuniga earned his black belt at age 12 and soon began teaching his own classes. At 13, Zuniga began assisting with the school's management.

"This young man went out of his way to spend endless hours with his students to make them successful," said Kelly Stratford, a Downey High School teacher and former karate instructor who nominated Zuniga. "It is rare to see such drive and compassion from one person, especially someone Jose's age."

In addition to the awards, both

students also received \$100 gift cards to Stonewood Center.

The Downey Youth Service Award is presented to students in grades K-11 who reside and attend school in Downey, and are active in community service. Recipients are chosen by a member of Downey Kiwanis Club and a staff member from the Downey Patriot.

To nominate a student, contact Kiwanis Club member Fernando Vasquez at (562) 261-7601 or fvasquez562@gmail.com. You can also write to The Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Attention Eric Pierce, Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Ciatti: Before green was even green

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

However flawed the selection process for Downey's newly-formed green task force was (one resident dismissed it as a 'green task farce'), the incontrovertible fact is that it is now a reality. Finally.

Astute readers of this paper should by now be familiar with the names of Harold Tseklenis and Downey Museum of Art executive director Kate Davies, just two of a number of concerned residents who in their own ways have over time consistently championed green awareness and practices in Downey.

If they felt snubbed by the powers that be, they kept their counsel. They've accepted another of life's bitter pills: life is unfair.

Everyone knows that the greening of Downey does not translate into mere cost savings due to energy efficiencies, although these are awfully important, especially in times like these. There is a larger benefit involved: less fossil fuel-based consumption, the better for the environment.

Now, with the formation of the task force, it is time for sustained, purposeful action that should benefit the businessman, the cost

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Mayor: Feedback on preliminary downtown plans 'very positive.'

Continued from page 1

shows or community activities, but the Avenue is not the proper building for this. We have been discussing this for some time now.

We are so blessed to have a beautiful Downey Theatre just a few hundred yards away. Our council is exploring ways to fully utilize it to its full potential. I wonder why there was no interest for the past six years regarding the Avenue and now that our city is finally trying to improve and upgrade our downtown this is an issue?

I share the nostalgic view of the Avenue Theatre but it really is not historic in any way, and it is falling down. It would need extensive renovation. We do not have the money nor expertise to see a profitable operation that will not drain large amounts of city funds. We have 115,000 people in our city that we take into consideration in every decision.

If somebody wants to they are welcome to buy the buildings and try to run it. We just cannot afford this and it doesn't make sense for our city. We have been meeting with most of the property owners, restaurants and stakeholders in our downtown and the feedback we have gotten to preliminary thoughts have been very positive.

I was surprised at a recent council meeting when it was mentioned that we were going too fast. It seems we have been talking about doing something for downtown for 30 years and nothing seems to get done. If anything, I feel we are not going fast enough.

I ran on this issue almost three years ago and we have been talk-

ing for over two years about it. The planning firm we hired will also be able to take into account the public's views and wants and that's all I have asked. We all want what is best for our city overall.

The council has been talking about this for over a year and we voted unanimously to purchase the Avenue and Verizon building using housing funds... in open council meetings. We have also had several group discussions... openly.

I am excited that we at least started the process to have a specific plan that will work for our city for years to come.

It is good to note that many businesses are actively looking to come into our downtown. There will be a new downtown barbecue opening soon and a new bar and grill will also be coming into this area. The specific plan should be completed within six months.

Green Task Force: I am so excited about this task force. It is the opportunity to change our city for years to come in a very positive way. We have several experts on the committee, from Southern California Edison, Coca-Cola, The Gas Company, CalMet, DUSD, and the Central Municipal Water Board.

The purpose is to recommend realistic short and long-term policies and programs to our city council that encourage practices to protect our environment and our citizens' health, to educate our public regarding pros and cons of each recommendation, and to make sure our city is operating as ecologically friendly as possible.

We have had two Green Task Force meetings at Coke's facilities

(and several sub-committee meetings also). They have been a great corporate sponsor in our city and they are really stepping up to the plate on so many issues. The Green Task Force has two sub-committees, Education and Conservation/Sustainability. They are meeting regularly and will make their findings and reports back to the entire Green Task Force monthly.

Speaking of Coke: They will be doing a \$100 million expansion at our Downey plant late next year. We are very excited because it shows confidence in our city in so many ways. They are currently the largest bottling facility in the world and they will be growing. We are very happy to be working with them to make our city better. By the way, Dasani water is basically Downey tap water and when you drink a Coke or Diet Coke you are drinking mostly Downey water, right from our wells below us. Enjoy, we have great water and we love Coke being in our city.

Budget: People keep asking me about our finances. Yes, we are suffering as others, but not as much. We have been blessed with a conservative perspective from our staff and councils. This has allowed us to put money away in good times to be able to draw upon in times like these.

We anticipate a \$2 million shortfall from tax and sales revenues under the current budget. But the good news is that we can draw from our large reserve fund to make sure we keep our services that our citizens demand and expect.

Somebody mentioned recently whether the city has a golden

goose. My answer to them is yes. Our golden goose has been our great staff and councils that have been fiscally conservative for many years. We have been able to save for days like these. Just in the past two years (and many before) we have been able to put a large amount of cash away to be able to keep the services we all expect and deserve knowing these days were coming. I was proud to vote and have input for those budgets and I am very pleased with the new budget we will vote on at our next council meeting on June 23.

We currently have a hiring freeze in all departments except public safety which is Police and Fire. Our new budget will have a deficit but small in relative terms to our \$148 million total budget (up from \$ 138,000,000 last year but most of the increase is in federally funded projects). Our new budget will also include more than \$45 million in capital projects that do not come from our general funds.

This new budget will also provide funding for our new Columbia Learning Center and Discovery Sports Complex. We will be taking about \$3 million from our reserves to be able to keep our staff levels and services where they are, but our frozen positions and their salaries are included as part of this number so our deficit reduces every day that we do not fill these positions.

Police: I am happy to report that we currently have 123 sworn officers. This is the highest number of sworn officers in the history of our department. We have had openings for many years that we would not fill just for the sake of officers we demand and expect in Downey. We have approximately 200-plus employees total in PD and almost 90 in our fine fire department.

We are very proud of our independence of having our own local police and fire. It has served us

well and you get what you pay for. Through the end of April crime is down in Downey again by 15% in all categories. This comes after another reduction in crime last year of 12.7% in bodily crimes. Fantastic numbers which gives us the safety and protection we all deserve and expect. Our fire department continues to be a source of pride for us also.

Economic development: Everyone always asks me, What's coming to town? What are we working on? Well, I am happy to be able to say that despite the economy we have been very fortunate to have some exciting things happening. Our staff has done a great job in searching and proactively looking for our wants and needs. This is also an area I get involved with a lot.

Coming to Downey are Kohl's in the fall, BJ's Brewhouse (July), Porto's Bakery (early next year), Bob's Big Boy (August), Fresh & Easy (late fall), and Kaiser Permanente and their 3,500 new jobs in Downey (Sept. 15).

There is also a new bar and grill along with a barbecue coming to our downtown shortly. We have many other things in the works that I cannot mention at this time. But stay tuned, pretty exciting things.

We recently attended the International Conference of Shopping Centers. This event is a way for us to show retailers and developers that we are open to discuss ventures in our fine city and to promote the benefits of Downey.

It is well attended and our message is well received. I am happy that we are doing this and happy with the reception we received in several meetings. We have already benefited from this and it will continue to pay huge dividends for us in the future.

Columbia Learning Center and Discovery Sports Complex: Columbia should be opening in

late October. What an exciting thing for our city. We will not only be able to reflect on our legacy of space exploration and the history that Downey has played in it, but also on discovering space and math and sciences for our youth from all over Southern California.

Yes, we were once called "Home of Apollo" and rightfully so. Many of you know that Apollo and the space shuttles were mostly built right here in Downey. In fact, we own the original, full-scale model of the space shuttle. When we were in Washington, D.C. just a few weeks ago, we had a meeting with NASA who not only helped make the Columbia Learning Center a reality but is also very happy to continue to work with us on it.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Apollo we can be very proud of the part that we have played on behalf of our country.

Things that you have asked me about: Yes, I love being mayor. I love being able to make someone smile just by showing up. What a thrill it is. And yes, I love meeting and interacting with our citizens and staff. Nothing makes my day more fun than being able to talk to kids at schools and other city events.

Being mayor is pretty cool, even when you get yelled at by people when things go wrong at times or when people distort the facts to try to make their points. I love talking to groups about our great city. We are and should be very proud. I have attended all 41 Neighborhood Watch groups and I have also attended over 90 events so far this year representing Downey.

Yes, my eye is getting better. Not there yet completely, but I hope soon it will come back totally. I now need to wear glasses so it is a big adjustment, but I only wear them half the time. Thanks for your concerns.

July 4th park opening and fireworks display at Discovery Sports Complex: It is going to be great. Our council by a vote of 4 to 1 approved hosting a day for our city and citizens to celebrate not only the opening of the first new park in Downey in over 35 years but also the celebration of the greatest country in the world. Our staff is doing a great job in getting this coordinated.

Don't worry, we are working very hard to secure sponsorships to offset the cost. We already have many of our local service organizations coming to help out as they usually do. I understand the concerns about the funds, but it seems that this year it is more important since so many families will not be able to afford fireworks.

I think this is going to be awesome. I also feel that the benefits are numerous, especially from a safety standpoint. This could save a fire or an injury from happening and in these tough times families can take advantage of this celebration display if they cannot afford to spend money on safe and sane fireworks. I have had many positive e-mails and calls from residents who are excited also. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I hope this is not too long but I hope it gives you an idea of some of the happenings in our great city. I love it here and I hope you do too.

As always I welcome your thoughts and comments and look forward to hearing from you.

All my best...God Bless...

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Dadlet

All Around Good Guy!
Happy Father's Day!
Thanks for always having a shoulder when I needed it!
Love, Kidlet



Arnulfo Flores

A playful father/grandpa
You taught us to laugh,
chill and enjoy life.
We love you,
Your Family



Gary Givens

Happy Father's Day!
I'm proud to be
your son!
Love,
Scott



Bill Ingwersen, Mike Burns

Happy Father's Day. Thank
you for being there and
loving me. You both are
very special & you always
will be. Love, Amanda



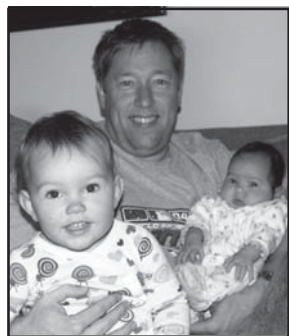
Tom Wenzel

Dad, Husband,
Grandpa, Friend,
but most of all loved
and missed, as you
lived. You left us
peacefully, but your
spirit is still strong in our
hearts. To our
Guardian Angel Happy
First Father's Day in
Heaven, Dad. With
love from your family



David Grzebyk

You are the best looking
husband and best daddy
in town! Love you!
Kandy, Jake, Jess,
Joey & Johnny



Todd Sigler

Thank you for being so
much fun and the best
daddy ever!
We love you!
Chloe and Olivia



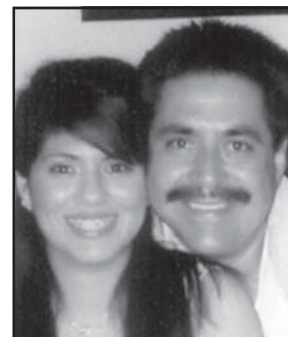
Steven M. Santa Cruz

Daddy, Daddy, Daddy
We hope this day is as
special as you make us
feel each and every day.
Love, Baby Jake.



Luis Saucedo

Happy Father's Day!
We love you!!
Luisito and Andrea



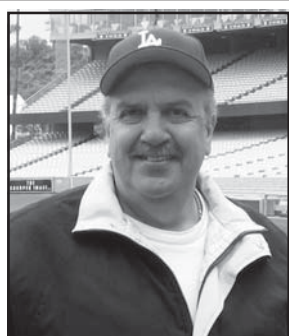
Jaime Gonzalez

Yo no se si seas el mejor
o no yo solo quiero
decirte. Cuanto te
amo, cuanto te
necesito pero
principalmente cuanto
te extraño. Gracias por
todo lo que me has
dado quiero por
siempre. Seguir siendo
tu nina...Dios te
bendiga te amo.
Mayra



Mr. Jose Preciado

Your awesome!
Keep rocking Guitarr Hero.
Lots of love caramelo.
From Mommy & Princess.



Dear Dad,

Thank you for always
being there for us.
Go Dodgers!
Love, Oscar, Eric & Michael



GRANDPA STEVE

We love the time you
spend with us "PA-PA"
Love,
Madison and Jacob



Salvador Velasco

Happy Father's Day!
You are caring, loving,
playful and hard working.
Our Hero! The Best! ♥ U

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Class of '99 reuniting

DOWNEY – Downey High School's class of 1999 will celebrate their 10-year reunion Aug. 8 at The Grand in Long Beach. Tickets are \$90 until July 10. After that date, tickets increase to \$100. For more information, visit www.greatreunions.com. Classmates are encouraged to submit a biography for a bio book by July 10.

Car show at Downey High

DOWNEY – The Downey Police and Fire Foundation is hosting a car and motorcycle show June 28 in the Downey High School parking lot and the community is invited. The show will include music, food booths, a bounce house, raffles and face-painting for kids. Admission is free. Cost to enter a car into the show is \$20. Motorcycles are \$10. For more information, e-mail Kevin Kendall at kkendall@downeyca.org.

Summer fun at Downey parks

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is offering free outdoor activities for children June 22 through Aug. 22 at local parks. Children ages 6-12 are invited to Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman, Golden and Rio San Gabriel parks Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. The program will be offered at Brookshire Park Monday through Friday from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Gangs Out of Downey is co-sponsoring the program at Brookshire Park. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Christian Club meeting July 8

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will listen to a presentation from Josephine Duran of Seed Bead Jewelry at its July 8 meeting at Los Amigos Country Club. Also at the meeting, Sandi Rogers will lecture about "Speaking the Languages of Love." The meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$13 and includes a buffet lunch. The community – including men – is invited. RSVP by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

Domen earns special designation

DOWNEY – Susan Domen, deputy city clerk for the City of Downey, has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk. To earn the designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs and possess pertinent experience. The program prepares participants "to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning," according to a news release. Domen is also president of the Downey Rose Float Association.

Dinner and an orchestra show

DOWNEY – The Brotherhood of Temple Ner Tamid is organizing a July 25 dinner at Steven's Steakhouse followed by a trip to the Hollywood Bowl. The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra will present "Art of Song" starring Michael Feinstein. The concert will be followed by a fireworks display. Tickets are \$75 per person and include transportation, dinner and the show. A bus will leave the back parking lot at Temple Ner Tamid at 5 p.m. Checks should be made payable to Temple Ner Tamid Brotherhood and mailed to TNT Brotherhood, c/o Jim Pinsky, 9355 Lubeck St., Downey CA 90240. Indicate your dinner preference of roasted sirloin of beef or a roasted half-chicken. For more information, call Jim Pinsky at (562) 869-7444.

Library auction items on preview

DOWNEY – June silent auction items are now on display inside the foyer of the Downey City Library. The items include "500 Nations – An Illustrated History of North American Indians" by Alvin M. Josephy Jr., a story of leaders, customs, political systems and ways of life; "Star Wars – Darth Bane Rule of Two" by Drew Karpshyn and "Star Wars – The Phantom Menace," a wide-screen VCR collectors' edition; "Weber's Real Grilling" by Jamie Purviance featuring more than 200 original grilling recipes; and "Origami" by Steve and Megumi Biddle, the illustrated art of paper-folding inspired by Japanese prints from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Bids can be placed in the Friend's Book Store located inside the library until June 27. All proceeds will help fund library events and materials.



Just in time for Father's Day, Sgt. Jose Munguia will return to his home in Downey this week before he departs for a second deployment to Afghanistan on Aug. 6. Munguia attended Warren High School and completed Army boot camp in Oklahoma, where he was ranked high in all areas. He is currently based in Fort Bragg, N.C. and belongs to the 82nd Airborne Division. Munguia has a wife, Dalia, and son, Jakob.



Marine Lance Cpl. Steven M. Yniguez Jr., a lifelong resident of Downey, was deployed to Afghanistan on May 7. Yniguez attended Rio San Gabriel Elementary and Unsworth Elementary, East Middle School and graduated from Downey High School in 2007. He enlisted in the Marines during his senior year and graduated from boot camp in November, 2007. Yniguez went to Camp Pendleton for three months and was then assigned to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland for four months. He came home and was stationed at the Pico Rivera base before going back to Camp Pendleton. He completed his training at Twentynine Palms.

City daycare begins Monday

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.

Artist will demonstrate work

DOWNEY – Accomplished artist Lea Myles will serve as guest demonstrator at Tuesday's joint meeting of the Downey Art League and the Traditional Artist's Guild of Paramount. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at Furman Park. Myles spent her youth on a small farm in Ohio. In 1963, after a successful music career, she moved to Southern California where her interest in painting blossomed. Myles wrote, coordinated and appeared in the TV series, "The Magic Method of Oil Painting" featuring renowned landscape artist Bill Alexander. She also founded Magic Art Schools and served as vice president and instructor for 14 years before selling the company in 1988. Myles is particularly noted for her landscapes and floral paintings, although she also enjoys seascapes and portraits. She currently paints in oils, acrylics and watercolors. The demonstration Tuesday is free and open to the public.

Library program urges creativity

DOWNEY – "Be Creative @ Your Library" is the theme of the Downey City Library's summer reading program for children up to age 12. During the program, which runs June 22 until Aug. 1, children may check out books and read them at home to earn prizes. Free balloons will be given to the first 75 children who register June 22-24 starting at 10 a.m. "This year the program encourages kids to develop reading skills while exploring the worlds of books, music, dance and art," said Children's Librarian Gina Orello. "Children who participate in a summer reading program also make more reading gains during the school year." Special events for children 5-12 will be offered at 2 p.m. on June 24, July 1, July 8 and July 15. Free show passes will be distributed 30 minutes before show time. For more information on "Be Creative @ Your Library," which is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library and community donations, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4, or visit the library.

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Michael wishes the Downey D-Backs good luck on their quest to
bring a championship trophy home from the World Series
that will begin on June 20, 2009 in Cooperstown, New York.



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Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 8530 FIRESTONE BLVD.
DOWNEY CA. 90241
RSVP DATE: JUNE 23, 2009



Bring a guest! Refreshments will be served.
Call today to reserve your seats:
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REVERSE MORTGAGE CONSULTANT / WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE
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Ciatti: Customers as far as New Zealand.

Continued from page 1

manager, and the homeowner. Because of this paper's continuing coverage of energy efficiency issues, it takes a look at one of the task force's 11 members.

Bob Ciatti, selected by Councilman David Gafin to represent District 1 in the task force, is a 21-year resident of Downey and has been known to donate sizable chunks of time and resources to the community.

He is a member of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, the Association of Professional Energy Managers, and the Association of Energy Engineers. He also sits on the advisory board of Wyotech University in Long Beach. For his work mentoring Downey Unified School District students, he won the Mentor of the Year Award in 1999.

He learned the ins and outs of the electrical business from the ground up, some 25 years ago, when he worked as a sales rep for California's largest lighting company. Even then, he tried to help his clients with energy-saving products and ideas.

Ciatti notes that the catchphrase, "going green," didn't catch on until recently.

"Well, I've been in the energy-savings business before green was green," he says.

Today he owns and runs Energy Solutions Inc., dba Efficient Lighting & Electrical, which operates in three major areas: electrical contracting, signs, and lighting. In addition, he owns Key Lighting Supply Co., which carries such familiar brands as GE, Sylvania, Philips, and Maxlite.

Today these companies manufacture more and more efficient energy-saving products. The trend is away from Thomas Edison's inefficient incandescent bulbs (which, according to a GE study,

"generates 90 percent heat, and only 10 percent light"), towards longer-lasting, more energy-efficient fluorescent halogen and LED (light emitting diodes) light bulbs. They may cost more, but the savings in the long run are said to be considerable.

Because of his supply arm, Key Lighting, Ciatti can buy his products direct from the manufacturer, thus cutting the middleman's costs, and he can thus pass on these savings to his clientele. He says he accepts orders from large-size companies (e.g., Edison, Disney, CalTrans, hospitals, universities, restaurant and retail chains, etc.) to small ones.

Having earned status as a preferred electrical contractor, his clientele has even included the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. His company has served clients located in other states ("We even have a customer in New Zealand").

That smoke and fire-belching volcano greeting customers of the Hawaiian Gardens Casino is one of Efficient Lighting & Electrical's more spectacular projects and is indicative of the range of its service capabilities. The company recently landed a huge lamp/ballast disposal and recycling contract from the City of Los Angeles.

More than pricing, his favored and well-documented selling pitch is quality of service. Ciatti says his outfit is known for honesty, reliability, thoroughness, and accessibility (24-hour emergency service, personal follow-up, etc.), backed by 17 service trucks, including four high-reach trucks.

Ciatti's daughter Carli, who will be a junior at Warren High School next school year, holds the pole vauld record at the school and her CIF performances have already caught the attention of UCLA sports officials. She also sports a 4.00 GPA. Son Justin pitched for Warren and is now enrolled at Cypress College. Wife Christina is in her 23rd year of service at a podiatrist's office.

Noting "Our company has been saving energy and money for all our customers and has been on the cutting edge of energy-saving technology for a number of years," Bob Ciatti finds himself at the right place at the right time.



Ferne McCallister, one of Southern California's oldest residents, celebrated her 104th birthday June 5 at her doctor's office in Downey. McCallister was presented with flowers and a birthday cake while staff from CareMore health plan sang to her. The party was catered and refreshments were served to guests and other patients in the building. McCallister, who lives in Downey, attended the party with her good friend Mary Reed and said, "My friends and my doctors are what keep me alive and...for that I am very thankful."

Downey's oldest resident turns 104

BY STEPHANIE COBAU,
DOWNEY PATRIOT INTERN

DOWNEY – Having seen the turn of the century twice, 104 year-old Ferne McCallister says, "I am happier than a lot of people, I have had no great misfortunes, and I am truly blessed".

McCallister, having recently celebrated her birthday, credits her health service provider, CareMore, with her long life, explaining how they have taken exceptionally good care of her and have provided her with transportation to office visits.

When one asks McCallister about her past, they are met with the history of a joyful woman who begins with her days on a Kansas farm in 1910 and ends with her present day life in Downey. While living on the farm, McCallister explains how milk was left on her door step daily for only 8 cents a quart and how men worked for about a \$1 a day.

McCallister states that she moved in 1940 to South Gate where she joined the Woman's Club and a Republican group, "on account of the weather". It was not until 1987 that she sold her house and moved to a condominium in Downey in order to better care for her health.

In this new location

What was it like in 1910?

The 1910's showed an era of new technology and innovation. The growth of the previous decades had fostered an intellectual movement that allowed writers such as Jack London and Upton Sinclair to emerge.

Meanwhile, the World Series, the jukebox, Henry Ford's Model T, and the Yellow Pages made their debut. Change within American culture was accompanied by new political development led by Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt implemented what he called the "Square Deal" which called for new regulations on monopolies in order to ensure that the average citizen was able to become economically successful.

Thus it can be noted that the 1910's showed an era of new accomplishments and hope for many Americans.

—Stephanie Cobau

McCallister enjoys dinner parties with her friends and attends church regularly. With a happy past and conviction to attending church, McCallister is proudly able to say, "God has been good to me."

POET'S CORNER

Good Morning! How Are Yooou Today?

he shouted.
He sat scraggly in a booth
hunched in an arch of defense.
Coffee drinkers stopped talking.
They turned to look.

He shouted to people
in the next booth
then to workers in the kitchen.

He rose to pay
in the deeper hush.
"Good morning! How are yooou today?"
he bellowed to the cashier.
Her answer - unsympathetic tapping fingers -
spilled his pennies on the counter.

"Good daay to you!"
He reached the swinging door.
He played with it
for a few moments -
swinging it in
swinging it out.

He shuffled down the boulevard
becoming smaller and smaller

the world
eating away
at his form.

—Margaret Hehman-Smith,
Hollydale

Untitled

There is a circle
We live within
Where reason
Begins and ends

As humans
We calculate
But never do we
Fully comprehend

When death
Touches those we know
Our hearts break
A cloud casts a shadow

Outside the circle
Exists an understanding
Unknown to man
And only to God

Comfort does come
From trust
That is nurtured
With the passing of time

And in this process
From the darkest gloom
Like rich soil
Pleasant memories will rise

Like a beautiful garden
Colorful memories
Will outgrow and take over
The weeks of sorrow
—Christina Anderson,
Downey

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Count On Us Through All Stages Of Life

The ugly stick

By Eric Pierce

Who knew Downey had so many possums? I sure didn't.

I've been with the Downey Patriot for seven years, but only until three weeks ago was I an actual resident of Downey.

Now that I live here, I see things in a new light. I see things I never before noticed, like the profusion of wildlife rattling in the trees.

From my second-story kitchen window I see squirrels and possums as they scamper on telephone cables. It would be a lovely sight if not for the fact that possums are hands-down the ugliest living creatures God ever created. They give me chills. The last time I saw a face as ugly as a possum's, it had a hook in it. (And squirrels aren't exactly cute when you look directly into their bug-eyes, but their reputations are spared by a fuzzy little tail.)

None of this I knew before I moved to Downey. I have made several other personal observations – good and bad – since moving here:

- Arthur's Restaurant does, indeed, have a great breakfast, but it sure would help if it was permissible to make a U-turn north on Lakewood Boulevard at Telegraph Road.

- Speaking of traffic signals, a new one just went up outside the Rio Hondo Event Center on Old River School Road. I can think of about five intersections that should have received one first based on pedestrian safety (Downey Avenue and Arnett Street tops my list).

- There's a whole lot of ducks at East Middle School in the morning.

- Nothing is sweeter than the music of the Downey High School band as they practice into the evening.

- The city of Downey's website should have a section devoted specifically for new residents to welcome them to the city and help them get acquainted with local services.

- The empty shoe store at Paramount and Florence would be a great spot for a Trader Joe's. Or Downey Ford?

- The Columbia Memorial Space Center is beautiful, but its grand opening is long overdue.

We have only ourselves to blame

By Henry Veneracion

Los Angeles Times sports columnist T. J. Simers has an acerbic, totally irreverent style and skewers just about everybody on just about any issue imaginable. You can tell he's having fun doing this (he pokes fun at even his boss, like Jay Leno does), and part of his winning formula is his liberal use of irony and sarcasm. This irritates readers, often inviting condemnation. His ripostes, though, are equally caustic, if not on the mark, and this makes for an amusing, if not rollicking, read.

Sometimes he goofs, though, like everybody else. In his May 30 column, for example, he was talking about Phil Jackson and Kobe when, answering a reader and apparently to make a point about grammar (which leads to good writing, etc., and much else besides), Simers added this paragraph:

When it comes to Phil and I, several folks e-mailed to suggest it should be Phil and me, (reader) Trudy Sibley putting it this way, "It's almost a given that most professional athletes are grammatically challenged, but annoying that sportswriters have to follow suit: about Phil and I – object of preposition: me." I don't know about that; I just thought Phil and I sounded more better.

Here, T.J.'s humor is intact, but his grasp of grammar, if he really meant to defend his use of 'Phil and I' after the preposition 'about', is suspect. I side with Trudy on this.

Thank God we don't have to endure Bush's malapropisms any more, but the issue Trudy raised has assumed alarming proportions.

If we agree that there is good grammar, and there is bad grammar, and that the dictates of the former should be upheld, while the latter should be shunned, then we have grounds for a rational discussion. Otherwise, you belong to that vast populace out there who have loosened their hold on any kind of standards—whether moral, legal, educational, and practically everything else (as in manners, respect, civility, yes, grammar, etc.).

Just to be sure, I looked it up (the one about 'Phil and I' in the above context) in my old book of grammar and syntax. There it was: The following prepositions govern (or use) the accusative (case): *to, with, between, about*. My Webster's definition of 'accusative': "the case occurring in the direct object of a verb and after certain prepositions."

Thus, when a movie star or TV anchorperson or even a legislator (who ought to know better and set correct standards—yes, beginning with lowly grammar) says, "for you and I," or "about you and I," or "between you and I," I, like Trudy, cringe.

T.J. Simers may minimize Trudy's complaint about 'Phil and I', but he, like so many other misguided, standardless, lemming-like zombies who follow the path of least resistance and plunge over the cliff, is in this case the uncomprehending fool.

Letters to the Editor:

Joshua Whittle

Dear Editor

I just read your article about the tragic death of Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Whittle. ("Downey Marine Killed in Action," 6/12/09) This baby was born in 1989, and we have killed him already! I feel only sadness and disgust.

For what purpose did this Marine die in that foreign land? The Afghan people don't want us there – if we are trying to defeat them it won't happen. The Russians tried for 10 years and left in disgrace and defeat, not to mention the British years before. I doubt if the Taliban are interested in reaching U.S. shores anytime soon or ever.

The death of Joshua is just one more waste of a young life for nothing. Think about the 5,000 in Iraq...why? Is it not about time we take care of our own country, goodness knows we have our own problems.

We have now wasted trillions and intend to spend more and more in Afghanistan before this is over – if it ever will be.

— **Harence Peterson,**

Downey

Veterans monument

Dear Editor:

I moved to Downey close to my mom and sisters after my divorce in 1995. I have been a resident since then. I also married my wife, Darlene, who has been a resident of Downey all of her life (52 years).

I read the Downey Patriot weekly. About three weeks ago, the Patriot stated that the City Council will be burning \$50,000 on a fireworks display on July 4, Independence Day.

The following week a veteran from Downey had his Letter to the Editor published. It stated how he had been asking Mayor Mario Guerra for the past two years if the city would finance and erect a memorial monument honoring our fallen, wounded and Purple Heart-awarded veterans.

As I was reading in last week's Patriot about the death of Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Whittle, it really hit home. We also have our son, Marine Lance Cpl. Steven M. Yniguez Jr., in Afghanistan. He was deployed May 7, 2009, about the same time as Whittle.

I do feel it's time for the mayor and the city to recognize our fallen, wounded and Purple Heart-awarded veterans.

How can you compare \$6,000 [the estimated cost of a monument] to \$50,000?

I also want to send our thoughts and prayers to Joshua, his mother, his family and all fallen veterans. I want to thank all veterans who have and are now serving our country for our freedom and independence.

— **Steven M. Yniguez Sr.,**

Downey

Cultural identity

Dear Editor:

Judging by The Downey Patriot's coverage of the City Council's June 9 meeting, when it comes to the subjects of the arts in Downey and the fate of the Avenue Theater, we're feeling a lot of heat but seeing considerable less light. We need more clarity and open-minded discussion and less dismissive dispute, where everyone goes home angry and nothing is accomplished.

If, as the Patriot reported, city officials say that restoration of the theater to the purpose for which it was designed – showing movies – is unrealistic, how do they know? Who would have thought that a Manhattan landfill, home to marauding seagulls, rats, scavengers and vermin, would one day serve as the foundation for the multi-use residential Tribeca, a neighborhood which not only enjoys hip cachet, but is home to a film festival, hosted by Robert DeNiro, that's one of the most prestigious in the country. Clearly the Avenue Theater is in ruin. But if it cost millions to rebuild, at least that will redeem the reported \$1.23 million the city has already sunk into it, money that will be lost if the idea of a restored theater is abandoned.

And for city officials to complain that no one seemed to mind the unstable state of the theater until the city took it over is to overlook the bad management that ran it into the ground in its last days, when its seats were sprung and it fell into filth and disrepair. When the city "saved it," as one official said, Downey citizens saw with delight the potential for new life. After all, isn't the purpose of government, including city government, to serve the needs of the people?

Another reason this issue hasn't come up until recently is that Downey has changed, perhaps faster than its civic leadership realizes. A new demographic is taking shape. Young people are hungry for more than what television and the Web can supply. Under new ownership, The Patriot now serves, via its letter section, as a town hall debating center. And clearly a lot of voices we hear, and letters we read, are calling for something Downey distinctly lacks: cultural identity.

But the arts people don't get off so easy in this dispute either. Nobody sounded a peep when a sour battle of egos closed down the Downey Museum of Art, echoing the famous line from the Vietnam era, "We destroyed the village in order to save it." What we (and I include myself in the arts advocacy mix) need to understand is that right now that city is not equipped to handle an arts component in its organizational mix. It doesn't have the money, the structural resource to coordinate and support artists and arts groups, or even the mentality to understand what they mean to a community and how they function. The City of South Pasadena, with a comparatively more educated and affluent class than Downey, and a much longer history, is in the same fix we are, but a movement is under way among its citizens to form an independent arts council. Many professionals, including executives in the non-profit arts sector, as well as artists, writers, filmmakers, dancers, and musicians, have volunteered to bring it about in discussions that are intelligent, well-intended and free of acrimony.

The George Redfox group and the Jared Head group and anyone else out there who wants what they want, whether it's Shakespeare, jazz, or indie films, have to coalesce into an organization bloc that articulates and clarifies its aims, and mobilizes support from what is clearly a more and more open citizenry. And we're going to have to do it ourselves.

Which means that Jared Head needs to back off from his heavy rhetorical fire. I don't know Mayor Guerra and have only had one conversation with him. Maybe he was intemperate June 9, but he's an emotional man. Generally, he seems a goodhearted sort who wants to do the right thing by Downey – he makes it a point to get around town more than most of our past mayors. It doesn't make any sense to yell at him, or any of the members of city council, whatever you may think of them in private. To insult and harangue someone publicly is to create a staunch enemy; to do it to people who hold your fate in their hands is the height of lunacy. You can come up with the greatest idea since the invention of the Internet, but when they see you approach the mike, you're a dead man walking.

I'm all for passion, and this cause is a good one. But Mr. Head's temperamental outrage can only sabotage the effort and desire of a lot of good people to make something better of Downey.

— **Lawrence Christon,**

Downey



Gas odors

Dear Editor:

Gerry Greene from the city's Engineering Department advised this week that The Gas Co. would be working on an underground supply line over the next few weeks in the area of Foster Road and Ardis Avenue. The work includes the injection of a gas called mercaptin into the new gas line.

You may know that mercaptin is the 'smell' part of the natural gas in some pipelines and in our gas appliances. Gas Co. officials report mercaptin is a non-toxic gas. Since natural gas is odorless, without mercaptin we would not be able to smell a gas leak.

As a result of the use of mercaptin on the Foster Road project, the police and fire dispatch centers may get 'gas leak' calls for service. Passersby may get a whiff of the mercaptin and believe there is a problem and consequently report it.

A natural gas line under the No. 2 westbound lane of Firestone Boulevard near Pangborn Street will be replaced in the near future. The contractor will be working between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to reduce the expected delays on Firestone. This work will likely cause some additional traffic congestion in the area and perhaps result in a few 'gas odor' investigations as well. The businesses will remain open during the street work.

— **Mark Sauter,**

Deputy City Manager, Emergency Preparedness

A star spangled mess

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter of complaint concerning the terrible renditions of the "Star Spangled Banner" that is continually foisted on the public and players at the beginning of sporting events.

At a Lakers game recently they had some young guy from "American Idol" who butchered the song. He sang flat, off-key and was shabbily attired.

The "Star Spangled Banner" is our national anthem and though a little difficult to sing it should be sung by a talented, quality singer with a trained voice or a chorus without the caterwauling.

If not possible, how about a good orchestra or band and ask the audience to sing as a group? Audience participation is stimulating and if a few of us can't sing perfectly, who cares, others can. We can be patriots.

There are so many better options and choices to improve the presentation of the "Star Spangled Banner" at events.

— **Fern Clute,**

Downey

Return of Military Keynesianism

Dear Editor:

I'm happy to see that you've had some good discussion these past few weeks in the paper; it's nice to see people involved.

However, it's unfortunate to witness the abuse and misapplication of political economic terminology that Ms. Van Leuven indulged in through inaccurate reference to socialism ("Rotten Inheritance," 6/12/09). I've found that few American rightists are familiar with the legitimate definition of socialism (the public ownership and management of the means of production), which leaves us with tiresome and repetitive moaning about the state capitalism of the USSR, or worse, governmental programs which have the effect of bringing about macroeconomic stabilization within capitalism, thus constituting a conflict with socialism.

However, as a libertarian socialist myself, I'm fully content to witness the triumph of Ms. Van Leuven's favored rightist Anglo-Saxon capitalism. Unlike liberal democratic and social democratic capitalism, it lacks the ability to maintain long-term stability or sustain the physical efficiency of the working class. Thus, the rightist ironically becomes the ally of the socialist, since it is the rightist's preferred ideology that will result in greater destabilization of capitalism.

So let's all gladly tip a jug of Patron to a return of Ronnie and Military Keynesianism or the Iron Lady and her various economic crises.

— **Julian Gutierrez,**

Downey

Employment conference specifically for vets

LONG BEACH – Veterans and their spouses are invited to a career building and training conference June 30 at Cal State Long Beach, where they can receive guidance in their search for employment.

Several workshops will be offered, including "Networking to Your Dream Job," "Power Up Your Image" and "How to Clean Up Your Criminal Record."

The conference is from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes a barbecue lunch. For more information, call Marjean Clements at (800) 481-6555, ext. 1252. The conference is offered by the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board.

The Downey Patriot

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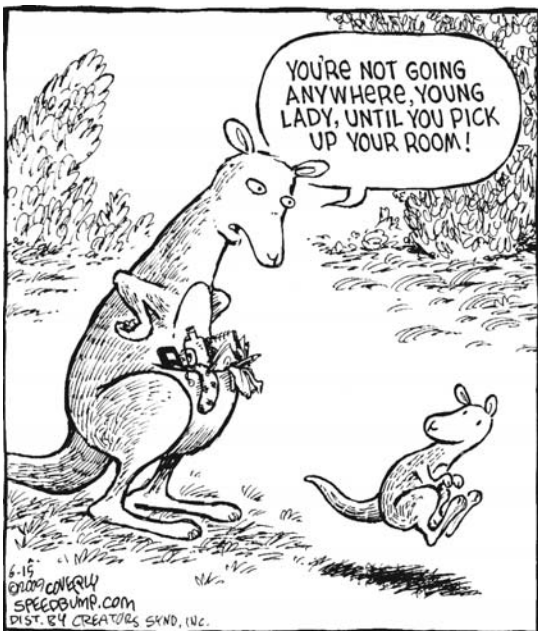
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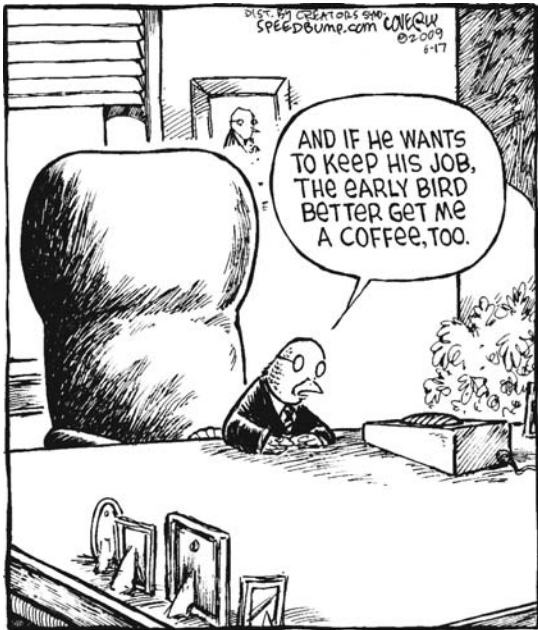
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For June

- Sat. June 20: **Yard sale**, Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, 7 a.m.
- Mon. June 22: **Vacation Bible School**, Downey United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon. June 22: **Curious George visit**, Downey City Library, 10 a.m.
- Mon. June 22: **Activities for children**, Downey parks, noon
- Tues. June 23: **Rise 'N Shine meeting**, Downey Brewing Co., 7:30 a.m.
- Tues. June 23: **Art demonstration**, Furman park, 7:30 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
- 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park.
- 7 p.m.: **Out Post 132 Royal Rangers**, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley Senior Center, for info. call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- 4th Weds., 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting**, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **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.

On This Day...

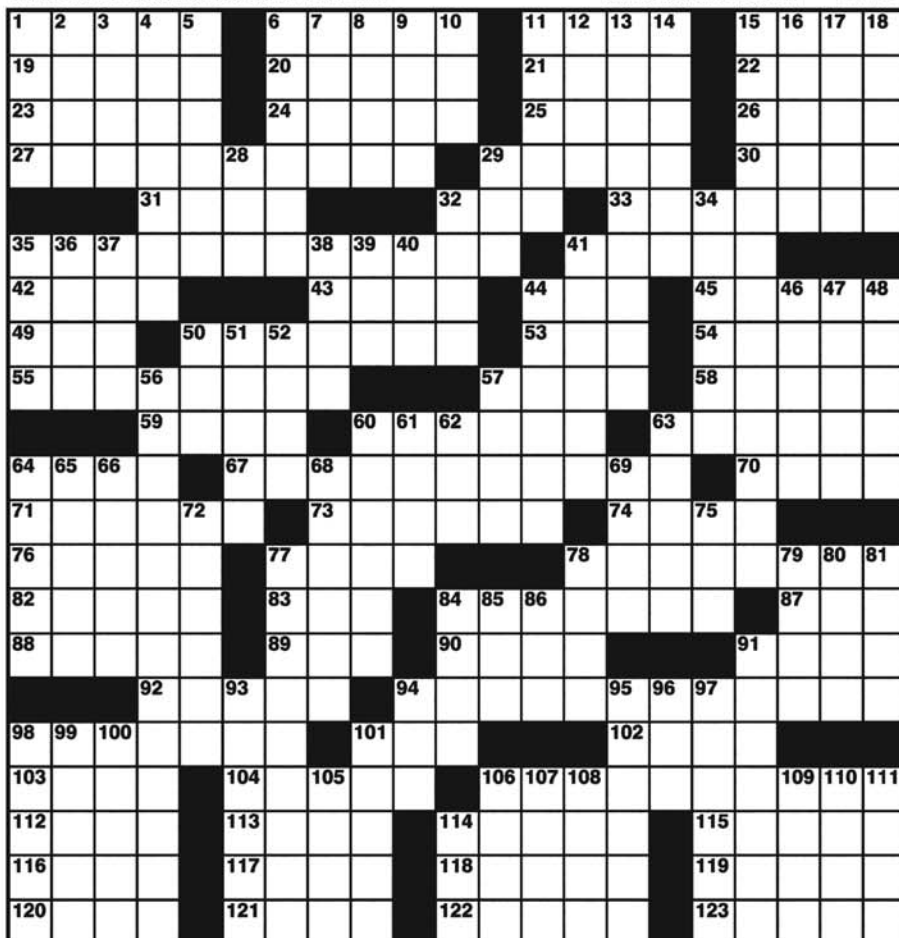
- June 19, 1862:** Slavery is outlawed in United States territories.
- 1910:** The first Father's Day celebration takes place in Spokane, Wash.
- 1961:** The Supreme Court strikes down a Maryland law that required officeholders to profess a belief in God.
- 1964:** Following an 83-day filibuster, the U.S. Senate passes the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 1977:** John Neumann, who founded the first Catholic diocese in the U.S., is proclaimed a saint.
- 1986:** University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias dies of a cocaine-induced seizure.
- Birthdays:** "The Cosby Show" actress Phylicia Rashad (61), actress Kathleen Turner (55), singer Paula Abdul (47) and NBA star Dirk Nowitzki (31).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
ARGON: Sounds elementary, but it's not
 by Shirley Soloway

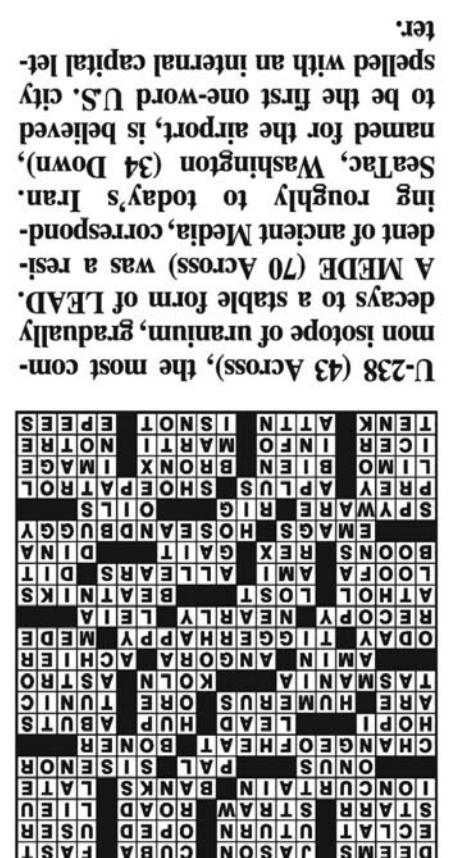
- ACROSS**
- 1 Judges
 - 6 Argonauts' leader
 - 11 "The Pearl of the Antilles"
 - 15 Like a Bullet Train
 - 19 Flair
 - 20 Complete reversal
 - 21 Columnist's column
 - 22 Tech's client
 - 23 Beetle surname
 - 24 Little Pig building material
 - 25 Line on a map
 - 26 Place
 - 27 Physicist's window treatment?
 - 29 Air-show maneuvers
 - 30 Past due
 - 31 Burden
 - 32 One to hang out with
 - 33 Argentine affirmative
 - 35 Result of a boiler replacement?
 - 41 Goof
 - 42 Pueblo people
 - 43 What U-238 ultimately becomes
 - 44 Drill sergeant's syllable
 - 45 Touches
 - 49 Live and breathe
 - 50 Arm bone
 - 53 Mine contents
 - 54 *Ben-Hur* costume
 - 55 Australian island
 - 57 Rhine city, to natives
 - 58 Houston ballplayer
 - 59 Ugandan dictator
 - 60 Fine wool
 - 63 More sore
 - 64 Jazz singer Anita
 - 67 Like Winnie-the-Pooh fans?
 - 70 Ancient Persian
 - 71 Do a scribe's work
 - 73 Almost
 - 74 Carrie Fisher's breakout role
 - 76 Playwright Fugard
 - 77 Misplaced
 - 78 Kerouac wannabes
 - 82 Bathtub sponge
 - 83 32 Across, in Toulon
 - 84 Riveted
 - 87 Morse Code click
 - 88 Benefits
 - 89 Name that means 80 Down
 - 90 Manner of walking
 - 91 Actress Merrill
 - 92 Paperless periodicals
 - 94 Two things needed by old-time firefighters?
 - 98 Computer security threat
 - 101 Fix
 - 102 Ateller inventory
 - 103 Quarry
 - 104 Top grade
 - 106 Footwear fashion police?
 - 112 Classy wheels
 - 113 "Trés ___"
 - 114 The Yankees' home
 - 115 Conception
 - 116 Cake decorator
 - 117 Lowdown
 - 118 National hero of 11 Across
 - 119 ___ Dame
 - 120 About 1/4 of a marathon
 - 121 Memo abbr.
 - 122 "This ___ a drill!"
 - 123 Fencing swords
- DOWN**
- 1 Lucie's dad
 - 2 Endo- opposite
 - 3 Flair
 - 4 Early physics Nobelist
 - 5 High-___ (edgy)
 - 6 Precisely
 - 7 "___ boy!"
 - 8 Tom Cruise's daughter
 - 9 Setting of *The Plague*
 - 10 SSE's opposite
 - 11 Atoll material
 - 12 Atop
 - 13 Birds' positions at feeding time?
 - 14 Introduces, as an ingredient
 - 15 Australian pioneer after a buffet meal?
 - 16 Like fusion food, often
 - 17 Look after
 - 18 More reliable
 - 28 Regret
 - 29 Face the pitcher
 - 32 Homes for 78 Across
 - 34 West Coast airport
 - 35 Converse
 - 36 Israeli folk dance
 - 37 Galoots
 - 38 Dog bane
 - 39 *On ___ Majesty's Secret Service*
 - 40 Evian water
 - 41 Potato-sack material
 - 44 Encouraging word
 - 46 Loosen
 - 47 Wiped out
 - 48 Conductor's pages
 - 50 Easter entrée
 - 51 Cohesion
 - 52 '70s-style skirt
 - 56 Big Apple's favorite bread spread?
 - 57 Last West German chancellor
 - 60 Like many first-graders
 - 61 Without ice
 - 62 Weimarner's warning
 - 63 Annually
 - 64 Waterpik rival
 - 65 Artoo ___
 - 66 Sneeze sound
 - 68 Folklore creatures
 - 69 Nolo contendere, for one
 - 72 TV-screen choice
 - 75 Some tag players
 - 77 Oversized beer serving?
 - 78 Trial version
 - 79 78 Across acknowledgment
 - 80 Hereditary ruler
 - 81 Continue to be
 - 84 Eager
 - 85 ___ Cruces, NM
 - 86 Recline
 - 91 Floor cleaner
 - 93 Where Lawrence fought
 - 94 Towel term
 - 95 Sartre play
 - 96 Quick swim
 - 97 Loser to Cleveland in 1884
 - 98 Trouble for a bowler
 - 99 Opera star Leontyne
 - 100 Arabian nation
 - 101 Chatter endlessly
 - 105 Remaining
 - 106 Mex. ladies
 - 107 Satchmo's instrument
 - 108 Not fooled by
 - 109 Hotel-door info
 - 110 Shrek, for one
 - 111 Dregs
 - 114 ASCAP rival

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- 65 Artoo ___
- 66 Sneeze sound
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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.



STUDENT LIFE



“2109” Poetry Contest

By: Jennifer Cho, Intern

69 sophomores in Downey High's Honors English 10 program participated in a poetry contest last week. The poems are modern adaptations of Rabindranath Tagore's (1861-1941) poem "1996," in which he addresses an audience in 1996. Tagore, an Indian writer and a leading activist for independence from British imperialism, published his poem in 1896.

Each of the students in the program was encouraged to write a poem reflecting current issues facing society in 2009 for a future audience in 2109. English teachers Ms. Teresa Hill and Ms. Debra Kasner narrowed the submitted poems to a group of semifinalists. From this group, Hill's and Kasner's Honors English 10 students in first, third, and fifth periods voted which poem they liked best. Students decided on the final-



"Ms. Hill and I asked other English teachers and students in other classes to vote, and we finally found our winner."

The winner of the "2109" poetry contest is Sharon Kim, a student in Kasner's fifth period class.

"2109"

by Sharon Kim

The sound of rusted machines, Chugging, chugging, and billows of sooty steam.

Endless robotic clones toil away, To benefit us, yet hurt us with their foul poison.

The human race will decay. We have proven alchemy,

An abandoned philosophy. It can be done! But with opposite the desired effect.

The elixir of life we humans already possessed, Now polluted from careless neglect.

One, two, three, four, Each creature will in turn become folklore.

We will truly be masters of the world, so divine.

To you, a hundred years apart, Greetings from 2009.

How is life like on a rock in the blank, endless sky,

That is gasping and wheezing while hurtling oh-so high?

Does the oxygen in your chest, Satisfy the need, meet the demand? If not, you must be quite distressed. The increasing number than inhabit our beloved planet,

Consume all of the nutrients, an ominous threat.

A hundred years from now, are there enough necessities to survive?

My dear friend, If not, we from 2009 quite frankly apologize.

Downey High Valedictorian and Salutatorian

By: Jennifer Cho, Intern

As the end of the year is fast approaching and graduation is coming soon for seniors, Downey High students are curious as to know who are the valedictorian and salutatorian for this year's graduating class. The valedictorian and salutatorian for Downey High's Class of 2009 are Ricardo Mayo and Heidi Lambert, respectively.

Ricardo Mayo is the valedictorian of this year's senior class. His accomplishments include serving as a Police Explorer for the City of Bell since his eighth grade year and founding the Mock Trial Club at Downey High. This year, he represented Downey at the California Golden Boys' State, a program for students with an interest in government and who possess qualities of leadership. He enjoys playing lacrosse and has been on the school lacrosse team for the past four years. Mayo will be attending Princeton University in the fall.

Princeton, an Ivy League school located in the New Jersey-based city bearing the same name, appeals to many students because of its beautiful campus.

"I have to say the campus blew me away. I felt like I had walked

into a movie. Touring the campus and seeing all it had to offer made me realize more than anything that Princeton was the place for me," said Mayo.

Mayo says he is also looking forward to meeting new people and making strong friendships at Princeton. He has visited the campus prior to his acceptance, and the warmth and cordiality he received from his future peers made him all the more eager to start his term.

"Everyone was so humble and down-to-earth. Honestly, I had been anticipating a bunch of snobby, rich geniuses [at Princeton]. Instead, I found friends and companions that I knew I would be privileged to live with for the next four years."

Mayo plans to double major in English Literature and Latin American Studies. He hopes these two fields of study will help him achieve his dream of becoming a writer.

Heidi Lambert is the salutatorian of her senior class. A talented flute player, Lambert has been performing in the school Marching Band for the past four years. She is also a member of JSA (Junior State of America), an after school club in

which members hold debates and discussions on today's political issues. She plans on attending Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

Cal State Long Beach, widely known for its excellent teaching credential program, suits Lambert's interest, which is aiding students with special needs.

"I'm interested in becoming a special education teacher because my older brother has Down syndrome. I'm interested in helping others who have disabilities," said Lambert.

Like many seniors, Lambert looks forward to the freedom she will have in college.

"The liberties to choose my own classes and to take classes that interest me sound pretty interesting."

Lambert would like to receive a teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach and become a teacher at an elementary school in southern California.

As their years at Downey High are nearing an end, Mayo and Lambert reflected on what they would miss most about high school.

"I think I'll miss my friends, my teachers, my counselor, my coaches—basically all the cool people I met at Downey High School. I will always hold dear all the memories and friends I made in high school," said Mayo.

"I think I'll miss my friends and how I can see them often," said Lambert.

Senior year is one of the most challenging years in high school, and it was no exception for these high-achieving students as well.

For Mayo, senior year was demanding, but he advises the incoming senior class that while academics is important, students should not forget to enjoy their last year of high school.

"Try not to get so caught up in academics and the college process that you forget to enjoy your senior year. It's the last year in high school, so enjoy it," he says.

Likewise for Lambert, senior year marks the end of high school, but that doesn't mean one should treat it any differently from other grade levels.



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Downey High School
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Calvin Contreras
Theatre & Music major

Gordon Faulkenberry survived by family

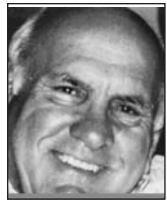
DOWNEY – Gordon Faulkenberry passed away May 14 following a “short but valiant fight.” He was born Aug. 28, 1930 in Huntsville, Ala. to Elbert and Mary.



He is survived by a sister, Rever Biggerstaff in Mexico, Mo.; children, Linda Kepreos, Carol McCann, Kathy Johnson, Ernie Faulkenberry and Joyce Martin; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services today for Ugo Carnevale

DOWNEY – Ugo Antonio Carnevale, a longtime Downey resident, passed away June 13 from a heart attack. He had been suffering from Parkinson’s disease and residing at Southland Care Facility for the past year.



Carnevale was born in Los Angeles on Nov. 18, 1927. He grew up in an Italian community with five siblings and many cousins before moving to Downey in 1949.

He attended Los Angeles City College where he played football and then went to work for the Department of Water and Power and later worked for the Los Angeles Department of Public Works. He started as a Construction Inspector and advanced to Chief Supervisor. In 1983 he retired from Los Angeles Public Works and went to work for the city of Long Beach for five more years.

Carnevale met his wife of 52 years, Vicki, while rescuing her on Bunny Hill as a ski patrolman. They were married at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on Feb. 9, 1957.

Carnevale was the coach and club leader for each of his three children’s athletic teams and then directed his attention to his creative talents, including wood carving, bowl turning, and instrument and cabinet making.

He is survived by his wife Vicki; son Michael (Mary); daughter, Gina (Tony); son, Tony (Susan); and six grandchildren, Kat, Maria, Alex, Dante, Gabe, Griffin and Ugo.

Funeral services will be conducted today at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Downey at 11 a.m. Downey Zrelak Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions to the Parkinson Alliance or Diabetes Association.

Downey sports season was memorable

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

Wednesday was a special day in Los Angeles. While the city didn’t pick up the tab for the Lakers’ championship parade, the resolve and spirit of a champion rang loud and clear amongst the team, organization and its private sector contributors who believed in the celebration of the winning tradition.

So there they were, in the Southern California sunshine that has been absent for most of the summer. On this day, it peaked out to commemorate what Phil Jackson preached in the news conference right after the Lakers wrapped up the Finals; the journey.

It was all about the journey for these champions. From day one to the end of the parade, it was all about the ring.

Much of the same can be said about Warren and Downey’s sports season. It was about the ring. It was about the resolve of a team, the drama, and the peaks and valleys

that a program will go through. It was about the journey.

With some of these journeys, a championship was found at the end. Downey and Warren collectively brought home San Gabriel Valley League championships in baseball, football, women’s water polo, softball, men and women’s soccer, and men and women’s volleyball.

The most impressive championship of them all was Downey’s men’s volleyball team as they not only brought home a SGVL championship, but also brought home the program’s first CIF Southern Section championship then qualifying for and possibly losing a game they should have won in the school’s first ever State CIF championship match.

Head coach Mark Rand preached how lucky he was to have this group of kids and how hard they worked all season. Rand’s attention to detail helped make a team with two of the best players in the league in Matt Black and Matt Taylor reach loftier heights in their

potential.

This quickly translated into a No. 1 CIF ranking at the beginning of the season, a waltz through the SGVL, a win in the CIF Southern Section championship game, then the school’s first State Championship playoff’s appearance in history.

But other championship runs had more drama as seen in the Downey Warren softball match up toward the end of the season in May. With both teams vying for the league crown, Warren’s Franny Vaalu went from all star to MVP in the most crucial moments.

Vaalu locked up in a pitching battle already against Downey had to take things into her own hands offensively. Not only did she pitch a complete game to pick up the gritty 5-3 victory, but she accounted for four of the runs with two homeruns, one of them being of the 3-run variety.

The game winning homerun from Vaalu came in the bottom of the sixth inning with the Bears trailing 3-2. The performance prompted Downey manager Micah Karzen to say one name over and over again after the game.

“Franny Vaalu,” he said. “Do I need to say anything more? She pitched pretty good and hit two bombs. There’s nothing else to talk about. Franny Vaalu was the difference in the game.”

The victory essentially wrapped up the league for the Bears with only one game left to go against Lynwood, which they took care of quickly to capture the championship.

And when everything is clicking for a championship team, there’s nothing that’s going to stop them. Peaking during a season is so very important toward a championship run and Downey baseball’s peak came in the form of Chris Munoz who was without question the SGVL’s MVP.

Munoz led his team with a .451

batting average, bashed nine home runs, and drove in 33 RBIs. When did he peak? It didn’t come offensively. It came on the mound.

Nothing could go wrong for Munoz on the night that he threw a no hitter against rival Warren. In what was probably his most dominating performance of the season, he struck out eight and silenced Warren’s bats.

In all honesty, it didn’t really look as if anything would go wrong the whole season for the Downey Vikings who essentially cruised to their first SGVL championship in over 10 years.

But every journey has its low valleys as shown by Warren’s basketball team. The SGVL used to be competitive for all teams to participate in. But over the past 10 years, the league went from competitive to a home for the fostering of one of the most elite basketball programs in the country, Dominguez.

Dominguez had Tyson Chandler and Tayshon Prince coming out of their program while the rest of the league had no one close. Time progressed and other teams started to catch up, but Warren never did.

In the 2007-2008 season, new head coach Brent Willis was brutally introduced to the SGVL and its elite level of teams, winning only one league game which was against Downey.

In 2008-2009 that number went from one to none as his team lost every single league game by at least 15 points.

Willis tried to explain what was going on saying that he needed time to nurture and grow the program. He was most famous for his inflammatory but energy packed quotes after the game saying things such as he’s gunning for certain teams and that they should watch out.

See SPORTS, page 9

Larry H. Denes was district sales manager

DOWNEY – Larry H. Denes, an 18-year Downey resident, passed away June 9.

He was born in Fort Morgan, Colo. and moved to California, settling in Downey. He was employed at Kelleher Corporation for 21 years where he worked as a district manager of sales.

Denes enjoyed camping, fishing, playing his guitar, reading and spending time with family.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughters, Catherine and Alexis; son, Wesley; mother, Barbara, of Fort Morgan; brother, Steve (Loretta), of Fort Morgan; sister, Twila, of Fort Morgan; brother, Ron, of Denver; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his father, Alex, of Fort Morgan; and parents-in-law, Guy F. and Francis Morris, of Downey.

Funeral services were held Monday at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary. Arrangements were by Miller-Mies Mortuary.



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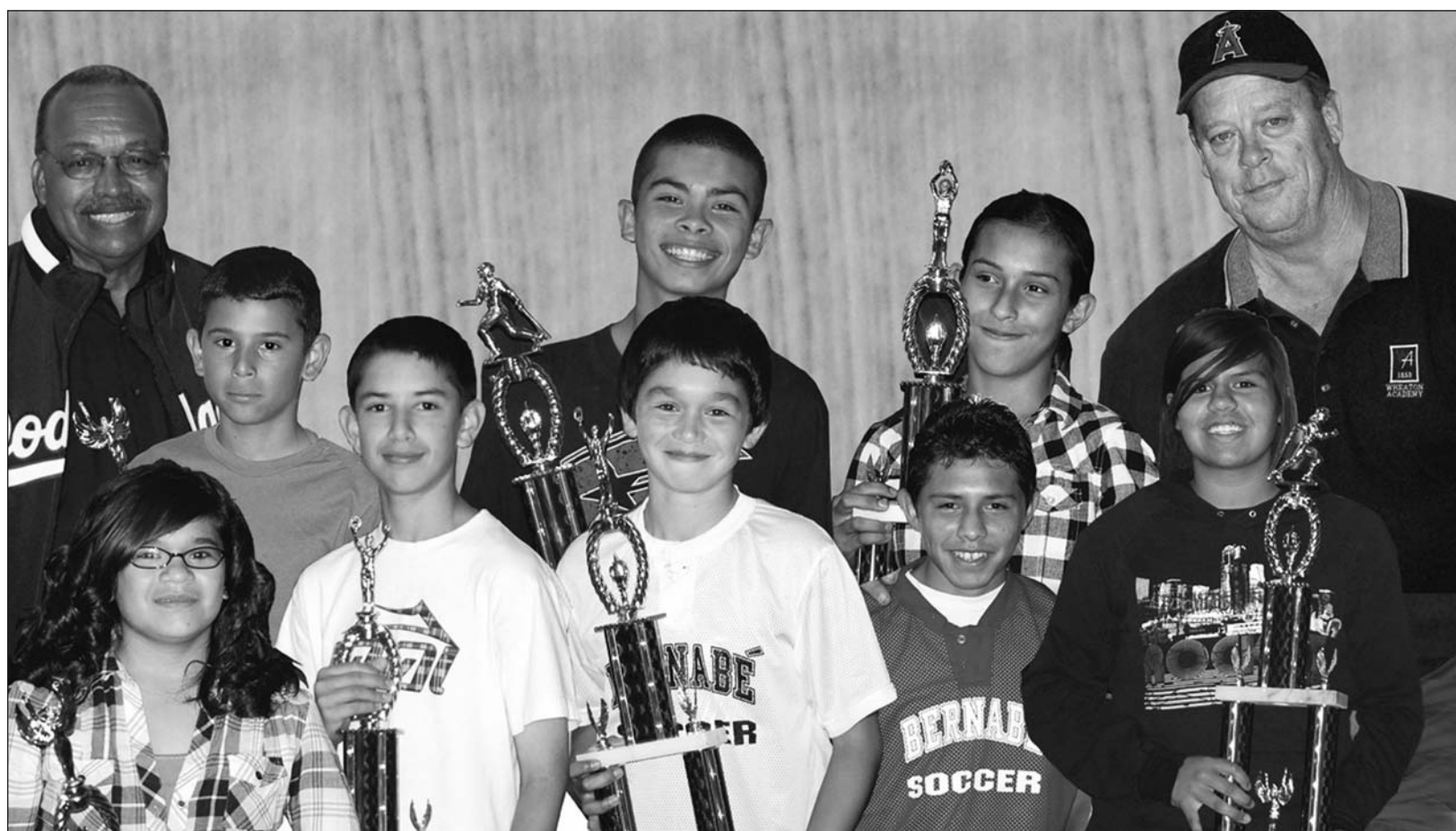
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The Bernabe Community Center recently honored its outstanding players, coaches and volunteers from the past year. From left: Tommy Davis, former outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers; Alyssa Concha, Most Improved Player Softball; Dominik Jimenez, Best Sportsman Softball; Jose Vega, Coach's Award for Hardest Working Player; Matthew Laguna, Softball MVP; Ivan Martinez, Most Improved Player Basketball Player and Most Improved Player of the Year; Giovanni Tovar, Most Improved Soccer Player; Mirissa De Leon, Basketball MVP and Player of the Year; Amy Mendoza, Softball MVP; and David Frost, for pitcher for the California Angels.

Former pros honor local athletes

DOWNEY – Tommy Davis, former outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers, and David Frost, former pitcher for the California Angels, were guest speakers at the Bernabe Sports Awards Banquet held June 6 at the Bernabe Community Center in Downey.

More than 150 people attended the event that honored outstanding

players, coaches and volunteers from the past year's softball, soccer and basketball teams.

David and Frost helped present the trophies and stayed afterwards to sign autographs.

Among the many honorees were Christian Padilla, Best Sportsman (basketball) and Sportsman of the Year; Carlos

Escobar, Coach of the Year; and Joanne Hale and Julia Vasquez, Volunteers of the Year.

The White Sox were honored as softball champions.

The Bernabe Community Center was founded 10 years ago through the combined efforts of Pastor Brad Reed of Redeemer Covenant Church, Dennis

Dennehy, director of the center, and many residents. They also developed the Bernabe After School Sports Program, which hosts games at nearby Lakeside Middle School in Norwalk.

For more information on the Bernabe Community Center, contact at Dennehy at (562) 863-1899 or visit www.bernabec.org.

Sports: Teams had a year to remember.

Continued from page 8

During his first season he was shown his new home floor then in his second season he was shown the door.

For some, the journey is just starting to take shape. Warren's baseball program under the second year of manager Paul Alvarez started off very poorly with them losing their first six games. They were truly the Bad News Bears. During the rest of the first half of the season, they watched their loss total, number of errors, and ERAs increase. The second half was much different.

Embracing the Bad News Bears tag, they began to heat up. They started doing exactly what the Bad News Bears did. They started to win at a frighteningly high frequency. A team that was pronounced all but dead came back with a vengeance and put a big scare in the league with an upset victory over Gahr. The Bears went from zero to playoff picture possibilities.

Although they faded in the last couple games, the late charge spoke volumes about a program that was in turmoil. It's heading in the right direction and it wouldn't be a surprise if they're back up top the standings in the years to come.

Downey basketball head coach Larry Shelton has been in the league for years so it was no surprise for him when he found his team in a dogfight for any attention.

So his team isn't going to beat a future NBA team which essentially is what Dominguez has turned in to. But he wants them to compete. With that said, his basketball team this season made the school's first national trip in a sports tournament.

Over Winter Vacation,

Shelton's team found itself up against national competition in Orlando, Fla. at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex. The Vikings competed and did very well.

With that experience, Downey, after the first round of games in the SGVL, found themselves in a very familiar position. Last year they had to go on a tear and win tough games to get into the playoffs. This year, they had to do the same.

Last year they won those games with grit and guile. This year they coupled their grit and guile with experience and confidence. So again, there was Shelton celebrating with his team after they found out they had indeed made the playoffs.

The journey is over for those teams, but there is one last team that peaked but still needs to get better. Weight room sessions and basic football drills have already started for Chris Benadom and his defending league champion Bears.

In just his first year of taking the reigns from one of the most successful head coaches in Warren history, Jeff Welch, Benadom led his team to a league championship. He had some help though with what is quickly becoming the golden trinity that is running back Jesse Callier, quarterback Sam Bettencourt, and receiver Bailey Cowins.

Callier and Cowins, two players who are absolute athletic freaks of nature tag teamed to become the most feared special teams combo in the league. Callier one year removed from 1,000 yards rushing in his sophomore year asked himself and reporters why not 2,000 yards this year.

Cowins, typically soft spoken off the field let his presence on the field do the yelling for him being

Bettencourt's primary target. If the ball was in the air, Cowins was most likely within the vicinity.

Bettencourt was new to the program but quickly made his name known as the person who will take the snaps for a team that is extremely talented.

With the trio set and Benadom's known ability to get his players to trust and buy into his philosophies, a league championship and almost an undefeated league run was produced.

Beside the blip loss against Downey where anything is possible, they beat Dominguez who is always big and athletic, took out Lynwood that is almost a carbon copy of Dominguez, and took down one of the most prolific pass-

ing offenses in Gahr.

A good appearance in the CIF playoffs capped the season for the Bears then everything came to a halt. Yes the season is over, but the journey continues.

Cowins and Callier come back for their senior year and Bettencourt comes back for his junior year. Expectations have jumped and now the real journey is on. Long sessions in the weight room and scorching practices await these Bears in the summer.

For most of these teams and players, the journey was amazing and something they will never forget and for a few players the journey has just begun. But for the 2008-2009 high school sports season, the end is here.

Painting class for children

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

A drawing class will be offered tomorrow at 10 a.m. Cost is \$40 per class. To register, call (562) 904-7227.

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Water meeting is on tap

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.

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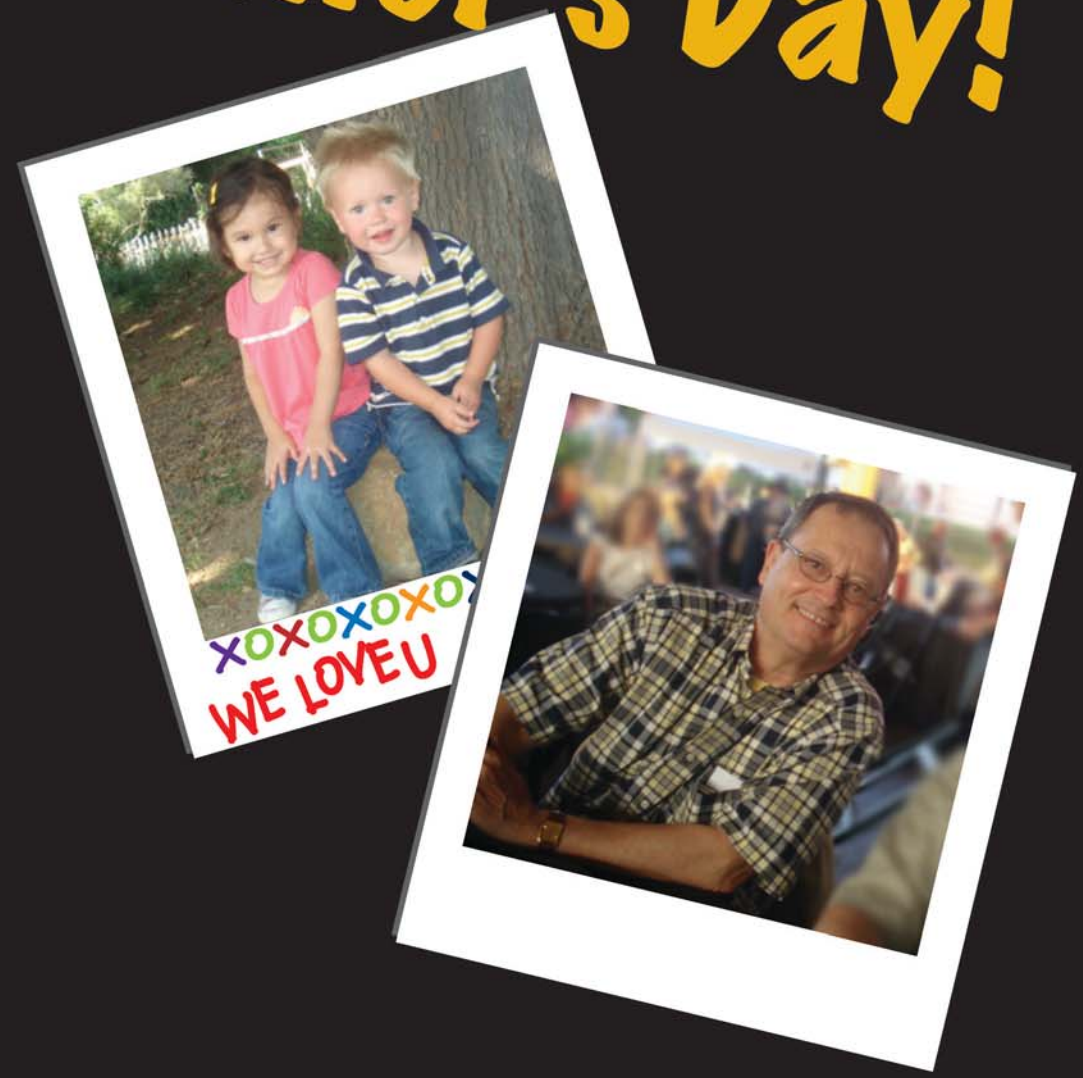
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