

The Downey Patriot



Calling all exercise nuts
See Page 7



Former teacher passes away
See Page 11



Cuban band to perform
See Page 7

Friday, August 14, 2009

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



Marine Lance Cpl. Miguel J. Denis, born and raised in Downey, has returned home safely after serving with the Marines Golf Company 3rd Platoon. Denis attended Price Elementary, East Middle School and graduated from Downey High School in 2006. He is also an Eagle Scout from Troop 441. After graduating high school, Denis postponed his college education to join the Marines and serve his country.

Military members to get street banners

■ Program will honor Downey service members currently overseas.

BY ERIC PIERCE,
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The city is finalizing plans to honor more than a dozen active-duty military service members from Downey with street banners bearing their names.

The banners, which will be strung along Firestone Boulevard between Brookshire Avenue and Paramount Boulevard, will list the service member's name and branch of service.

The program's intent, city officials said, is to "support, recognize, and express appreciation to individuals and their families."

Scott Pomrehn, an assistant deputy city manager, told the City Council on Tuesday that he

received 16 applications seeking participation in the program. Of the 16 applications, 13 were approved.

To qualify for the program, honorees must be a Downey resident, or a relative of a Downey resident, and a veteran of "recent wars." Former residents who lived in Downey before they turned 21 also qualify.

Councilman Roger Brossmer, who initiated work on the program, said a separate memorial is being planned to honor fallen soldiers.

The Council earmarked \$4,500 for the banners' initial design and fabrication, but asked for community donations to cover maintenance costs. A total of \$1,300 in donations has been received, Pomrehn said, including \$1,000 from Downey-based Elite Concrete Restoration.

To donate to the program, call (562) 904-1895.

3 on school board to run unopposed

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – When they first ran for the Downey Unified School District board in 2005, Martha Sodetani (Area 1) and Nancy Swenson (Area 5), each with her own vision and reasons to help propel the district forward, had to contend with other well-qualified candidates.

Sodetani and Swenson worked themselves to a frenzy and rode a wave of popular support from the educational community, and won. Barbara Samperi, who first ran in

1993 for the Area 7 trustee seat and was the veteran trustee of the three, ran unopposed in that same year.

This year, no one came out of the woodwork by the filing deadline of Aug. 7 to challenge the three incumbents, who had filed early for the Nov. 3 election.

No one was more thrilled by this nice turn of events than those in the know in the district. But first they had to hold their collective breath: had anyone challenged, the district would have had to spend a cool \$120,000 that had already

See ELECTION, page 2

Just dropping by in Downey, Idaho

■ About 800 miles northeast of here sits a sleepy little town of about 650, and its name is Downey.

BY PAULA MAYFIELD

Interstate 15 in Idaho cuts through miles and miles of farmland and rolling hills with towns few and far between. The sky can be full of looming thunderheads, heralding the imminent arrival of an approaching storm. On other days the sky is a dazzling blue.

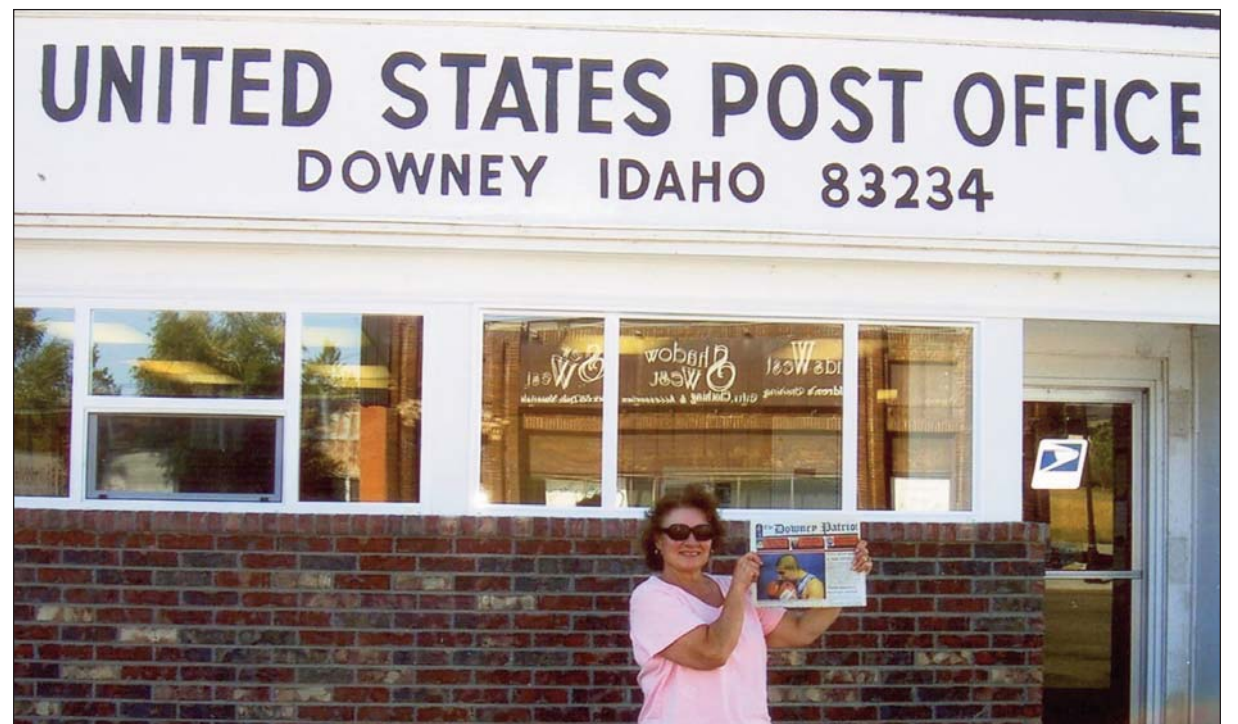
There are no malls or chain grocery stores, few McDonald's or Denny's restaurants. We haven't observed any road rage, although getting stuck behind a local farmer lumbering down a local access road atop his tractor can be frustrating at times!

A particular sign along the interstate has always intrigued me. The sign indicates that the little town of Downey, Idaho is just beyond sight, a few miles off the interstate. Since it isn't possible to catch a glimpse of the town as we speed north to my parent's home in Montana, one day my husband, Greg, and I turned off the main highway and headed east to investigate this little rural town with the same name as our hometown of Downey, Calif.

The nearest city to Downey, Idaho with a population of 50,000 or more in Pocatello, some 38 miles away. Las Vegas, 480 miles away, is the closest city with a population of 200,000 or more.

Downey, Idaho is situated in the Marsh Valley in southeastern Idaho at an elevation of 4,860 feet. Marsh Valley is about 30 miles in length and 5-20 miles in width. It is filled with small family farms and is surrounded by four mountain ranges.

The formation of Marsh Valley was a cataclysmic event – one described as one of the greatest floods in earth's history. Red Rock Pass (five miles south of Downey, Idaho) was cut through Paleozoic shale and limestone and formed a



Paula Mayfield, a 35-year resident of Downey, Calif., travelled to Downey, Idaho recently. She is shown holding a copy of the Downey (CA) Patriot in front of the Downey, Idaho post office. Courtesy photo

narrow 2-mile gap. The Pass was at the shoreline of Pleistocene Lake Bonneville, 300 feet higher.

At its largest, Lake Bonneville covered about 20,000 square miles, was 325 miles long, 135 miles wide and more than 1,000 feet deep.

Lava flows in the Pocatello vicinity diverted the Bear River through Lake Thatcher into Lake Bonneville. The sudden influx caused Bonneville to overflow through Red Rock Pass, flooding Marsh Creek Valley immediately downstream with wall-to-wall water. The rapid discharge probably lasted less than a year but eroded the pass to its present level. (The Great Salt Lake is the largest remaining remnant of Lake Bonneville.)

The Bonneville Flood was catastrophic and radio carbon dating of fossils indicates that the event occurred 16,800 years ago. In the water-worn caves in Red Rock Pass and around a natural hot springs, many Indian arrowheads have been found, indicating that this section of Marsh Valley was often frequented by Indians years before white man traveled west of the Rockies.

The settlement of Downey, Idaho began before 1866, when a cabin was built by William Jackson and Cyrus Coffin. Downey's permanence was established when the railroad built a depot there. The town reportedly secured its name from one of the railroad directors who helped put the railroad through there. Downey's streets were built wide enough to turn a six-hitch wagon and for the twice-a-year cattle drives that went through town.

In 1912, the Downey Improvement Company was organized to entice eastern Americans to come west – especially to Downey, Idaho. The following is quoted from their printed booklet: "The natural and scenic advantages of Downey are unsurpassed. Encircled by the sheltering panorama of light and shadow is beautiful beyond description. Two miles south of Downey – a thriving town with the largest grain elevator in Idaho – are located warm springs, which are used very extensively for bathing. With the advantages of irrigation, Downey should grow to a city of 5,000 people within the next three years. It is already the second largest town in the county,

and expects to be the county seat of a new county to be created by the next legislature. On a dry farm one family to 160 acres can easily be supported and on irrigated land, one family to 20 acres, which will provide homes in the valley for about 15,000 people. Downey is the heart of this tract, where all the farmers will not only trade but will bring their products to be worked over and shipped."

The present day growth for the whole valley has not reached the estimates that the enthusiastic Downey Improvement Company made. Downey's current population is about 680 and the Bannock County seat is Pocatello.

There are no busy streets in this isolated town. The day we visited, we saw three cars parked along Main Street, one in front of the Downey Post Office and two parked in front of the grocery store, the Downey Food Center. I loved the original Coca-Cola sign on the side of the brick grocery store.

The owner of the Old Downey Theater has refurbished the property which has a seating capacity of

See DOWNEY, page 4

Construction begins on Fresh & Easy

■ No opening date set, but construction should be complete by year's end.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN

DOWNEY – After years of anticipation, construction has begun on a 15,000-square-foot Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, which will occupy the former Albertson's building on Firestone Boulevard.

"The delay was on their part," said Steve Yee, economic development manager for the city of Downey. "The economy started slowing down and they had some entitlements to go through before they could begin construction."

No date has been set for when the store will open, but Yee estimates that the new Fresh & Easy store will be completed by year's

end. "From an economic standpoint, Fresh & Easy adds choice for our constituents," said Yee over the phone. "It's an organic-flavored market with British backing."

Owned by the Britain-based Tesco, the third largest retailer in the world, Fresh & Easy currently operates 124 stores in California, Arizona and Nevada and is in the midst of a large expansion.

Just last month, Fresh & Easy opened four new stores, one in Pasadena and Oxnard, and two in San Bernardino County.

"We spend a lot of time looking at potential store sites," said Brendan Wonnacott, corporate spokesman for Fresh & Easy stores. "We want to bring Fresh & Easy to every neighborhood."

According to their website, Fresh & Easy was designed to be a local, neighborhood market pro-

viding fresh, high-quality, wholesome food to everyone at budget prices. Typically smaller than most grocery stores, Fresh & Easy boasts its easy-to-shop aisles and faster, easier shopping experience.

"There's a need for what we provide," said Wonnacott, in a phone interview. "We truly are your one-stop shop in a smaller format."

Shoppers can expect to find national brand products, found in most supermarkets, as well as Fresh & Easy brand products, said Wonnacott.

Fresh & Easy also offers pre-cooked entrees of various soups, pastas and pizzas, which customers can purchase and warm up later.

"They're kind of like what you would make at home – only with ingredients you can pronounce," said Wonnacott with a laugh.

Once completed, the new Fresh

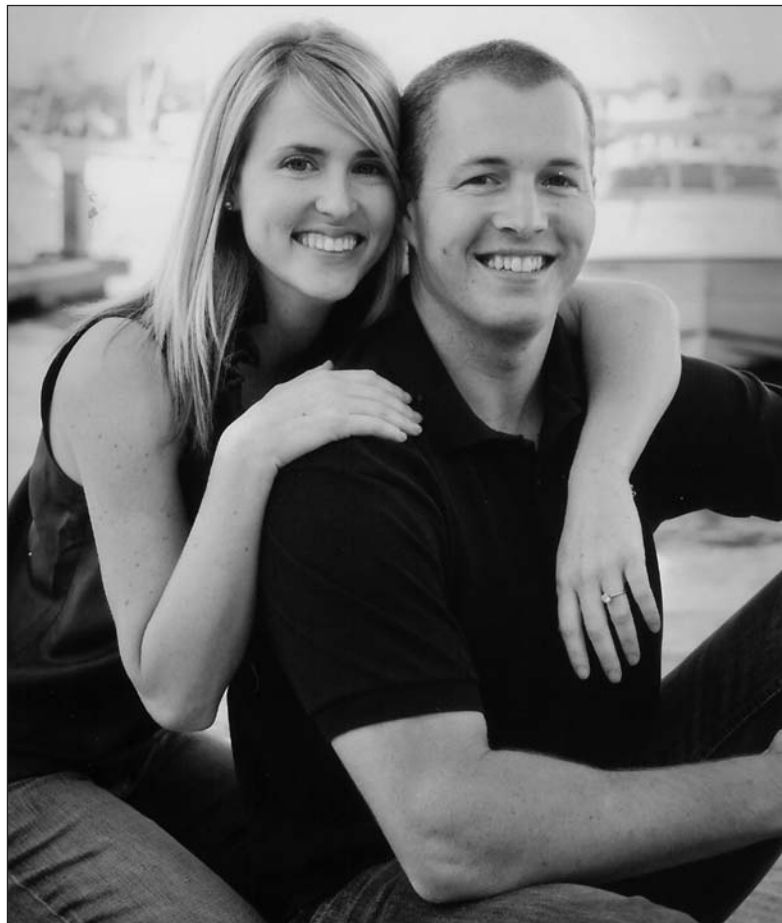
& Easy store will use only 15,000 sq. ft. of the 32,000 sq. ft. building and lease the remaining space to another vendor. In March, Fresh & Easy was granted use of the city-owned parking lot on Firestone Boulevard after an agreement was approved by the City Council.

For Downey resident Paulina Garcia, 20, the Fresh & Easy will bring some much needed change to the city.

"I'm glad they're putting something there, that building was looking like a dump," said Garcia. "Their food is pretty cheap. I think it will be good business for the city – a breath of fresh air."

David Caceres, 23, of Downey expressed similar feelings.

"I'm all for it," he said. "I think it will go well, tons of people are interested in eating healthy these days. It's a good change."



The honorable and Mrs. Brian F. Gasdia, of Downey, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kristin Gasdia, to Michael Macshane, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Macshane, of Placentia. Kristin is a 2003 graduate of Warren High School. She went on to receive her B.A. and teaching credential from USC in 2007 and has taught third grade for the past two years in Downey. Michael is a 2002 graduate of Sunny Hills High School. He currently works as a firefighter for the Orange County Fire Authority. The couple plans to bring in the New Year with a January wedding.

L.A. County raises fees for animal adoptions

DOWNEY – As of July 28, it now costs more money to adopt a dog or cat from a county animal shelter.

The L.A. County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) have raised their adoption fees for most animals from \$10 to \$50. But unlike before, the adoption fees now include the animal's initial vaccinations, microchip implantation and national registration.

Spay and neuter fees have also changed to \$50 for any dog and \$40 for any cat. Previously, fees ranged from \$30-\$100 depending on the weight and gender of the animal.

The new fees only apply to animals that have been at the shelter for less than 10 days. Animals sheltered for more than 10 days can be adopted for \$30, and spay and neutering are free.

"This new incentive will not only encourage potential adopters to adopt animals less likely to be adopted, but will also help decrease the risk of those animals being euthanized because of overcrowding," the DACC said in a statement.

The county operates six animal shelters, including one in Downey. For more information on adoption, and a complete list of fees, visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>.

Corporate planner to speak

DOWNEY – Leroy Gaines, corporate event planner for Business Network International, will be the guest speaker when the American Business Women's Association (El Dorado Chapter) meets Wednesday at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by dinner at 6:30.

Reservations can be made by calling Debbie Stuver at (562) 884-6429.

Dr. Stauffer takes kids to camp



Dr. Mary Stauffer, center, is pictured with some of the 30 kids she helped send to the Downey YMCA overnight camp in Big Bear last week. Also in the picture are YMCA board members Dr. Wayne Wilcox and Dorothy Pemberton, and camp director Eddie Revelo and YMCA executive director John Swift.

Stonewood collecting jeans

DOWNEY – Now through Aug. 23, Stonewood Center is collecting new or gently used jeans to donate to the Long Beach Rescue Mission.

All who donate will receive a gift and discounts from participating Stonewood retailers.

Donations are accepted at the Guest Services desk.

Car wash grand opening

DOWNEY – A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pro Hand Car Wash, located at 10030 Lakewood Blvd. (next to the Valero gas station), will be held Aug. 21 at noon.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce will assist with the event.

The community is welcome.

Library auction open for bidding

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library has announced their silent auction items for the month of August.

Items are on display in the library's foyer and include "The Children of Hurin" by J.R.R. Tolkien, tales from middle-earth from times long before 'Lord of the Rings'; "The Red House Mystery" by A.A. Milne, from the creator of Winnie the Pooh comes a lovely English-style mystery complete with locked rooms and a missing suspect; "100 Years of Oz" by John Fricke is a century of classic images from the 'Wizard of Oz' collection of Willard Carroll.

Bids can be placed in the Friends Book Store located inside the library until Aug. 29.

Election: Swenson, Sodetani and Samperi face easy re-election.

Continued from page 1

been allocated for the associated incidental election costs out of its general funds. Because of the nice turn of events, the amount represents, in the words of Kevin Condon, assistant superintendent for business services, "a reduction in our deficit," altogether a source of gladness amidst the financial gloom.

The incumbents were unanimous in their angst over the ramifications of the tight district budget, exacerbated by the still messy condition of the state budget; they regard it as their No. 1 concern for these past few years. Samperi vented her frustrations thus: "I'm disappointed at how the state has been so insensitive to the needs of our students, as if the people in Sacramento were aiming to penalize the schools with their cuts. California is supposed to be among those with the greatest resources, and yet...how could they mismanage them so badly?"

For Samperi, this will be her fifth 4-year term on the board. Among her accumulated perspectives: "I'm very pleased with the community's vote of confidence in us"; "The financial services people, superintendent Wendy Doty, the board, everybody saw the financial meltdown coming, so they pulled back and dug in...Wendy went to the schools and consulted with teachers on how to attain efficiencies and reduce costs all around. The community understood what we were trying to

do...In any case, the district's conservative approach has paid huge dividends. The result? Downey has been very lucky. Some districts have floundered"; "Our students' test results are coming in, and the scores have improved...Our teachers, the whole district, have worked very, very hard to benefit our kids. I hope by next year there will be an easing of some of our problems, such as a halt in our slightly declining enrollment."

Meanwhile, she says she is excited by the school construction going on: "Downey High's new theater is very nice. And the DHS cafeteria, when completed, will provide a much better atmosphere for our students; much, much better than when we were students."

Swenson, who mentioned her recent promotion at her day job to supervisor of Raytheon's S (Space) A (& Airborne) S (Systems) - IT, said: "It was a great feeling to save \$120,000 because we ran unopposed"; "The bond and camaraderie we have forged in our district among board members and district administrators, so that we share the same focus, is in sharp contrast to the situation in many other school districts. This fact emerged when we took our Masters of Governance course (to prepare them better for their board duties and responsibilities). We realized the other participants didn't enjoy the same camaraderie that we enjoy here at DUSD. I'd be nervous if we didn't"; "It's a shame the

people in Sacramento don't seem to care about the kids. All they do is play politics. They want us to produce more with less"; and "If we didn't have such a fantastic team here, starting with the custodian up to the top, we won't be nearly as successful."

Sodetani, who continues her multi-faceted volunteer work in the community, had a lot of things to say about her four years and her also running unopposed: "I think the community knows that the school board has been doing good work, that it has been steering the district in the right direction. If bad decisions had been made, there would have been an outcry"; "Our academic standards have been set very high, so that when our students apply for college, they get admitted readily. The community has seen this, and when we had to make budget cuts, a number of people stepped up to the plate to help...people such as Dr. Mary Stauffer, and a couple of people from OASIS, as well as from TLC, and so on as volunteers, as well as work by AVID and ASPIRE, all to help our kids succeed"; "I share Don La Plante's observation that the state budget has never been this bad"; "Bobbi Samperi once told me that it takes four years to get a grip on what the board is about. I've got a better sense now of where the responsibilities lie, and so I can respond more quickly. I'm eager to put what I've learned in the Masters of Governance program to good use, setting priorities, focusing on goals, interfacing with administrators and members of the community"; "I'm more tolerant now of giving a student a second chance rather than taking a punitive approach when he/she, say, is caught doing something wrong, or again, I realize now that there's nothing wrong with a student wishing to attend his school of choice rather than restricting his attendance in the area where he resides"; "In any case, we have such good students, they donate blood, they hold food drives, and so on. Our Character Counts program has something to do with this, I'm sure"; and "Just as my predecessors on the board have set high standards in place, my hope is that the same will be said of me, that we will have maintained a high level of quality in the district."



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Downey to help in effort to clean L.A. River

Local cities aim to reduce metal pollutants in Los Angeles River.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The City Council Tuesday approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the San Gabriel Council of Governments for the preparation of a coordinated implementation plan to reduce the amount of metal pollutants in the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

The plan will include a Metals Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirement for the cities along the waterway.

According to Deputy City Manager Desi Alvarez, several segments of the Los Angeles River have been identified by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board as having “exceeded water quality objectives for a variety of metals.”

To offset this, the Clean Water Act mandates that a TMDL be developed to “restore the impaired waterbodies to their full beneficial uses.” This means limiting the amount of heavy metals such as copper, lead, zinc and cadmium that can be carried by runoff into the Los Angeles River.

The Control Board has previously divided the Los Angeles River into six different jurisdictional groups, or reaches. The city of Downey is located within Reach 2, which also includes Alhambra, Arcadia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bradbury, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Duarte, El Monte, Huntington Park, Irwindale, La Canada-Flintridge, Long Beach, Lynwood, Maywood, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Paramount, Pasadena, Pico Rivera,

Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South El Monte, South Pasadena, South Gate, Temple City, Vernon, as well as Los Angeles, unincorporated Los Angeles County and Cal Trans.

To comply with the above requirements, Reach 2 cities, with the exception of Los Angeles County which has chosen to develop its own separate plan, have contracted with the San Gabriel Council of Governments to help them develop the required coordinated plan. Total estimated cost is \$260,000 which will be apportioned according to drainage area. Downey’s cost amounts to \$13,000.

A draft implementation plan is due by Jan. 11, 2010, with final report submittal by July 11, 2010.

In other action, the Council:

- Approved the contract with the Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) in the amount of \$15,600 to provide fair housing services to city residents and property owners for FY2009-10.

The city has been providing these services since 1990 through a contract with nonprofit FHF, using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, on condition that it further the objectives of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-20) and Executive Order 11063.

Among the services provided:

- 1) counseling, mediation, and dispute resolution service (for landlords, tenants and home seekers);
- 2) responding to complaints and inquiries on housing discrimination (including “providing referral services to low and moderate income housing consumers, giving priority to handicapped persons, members of minority groups, elderly persons and other persons who are or have been unable to find suitable, safe, decent, and sanitary dwelling units”);
- 3) providing education

and community outreach on fair housing issues, as well as conducting community workshops and seminars (for the benefit of landlords, apartment managers and tenants); to further these objectives, FHF distributes fair housing-related educational materials, brochures and videos; and FHF agrees to provide monthly, quarterly and annual status reports on these activities;

- Approved the agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the disbursement of 2008 State Homeland Security (HSGP) grant funds totaling \$179,881 earmarked for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which completes the replacement of DFD’s SCBA inventory that was started in 2006.

Such funds are generally channeled by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for local training, exercise and planning, in addition to equipment purchase. In this case, the reimbursed amount includes \$56,043 for terrorism/hazardous materials training; the funding will at the same time support interoperability between fire departments throughout the region;

- Approved the improvements and maintenance responsibility for the Old River School Road Improvements Project (cash contract No. S.S. 604), and approved the final construction amount of \$695,310.65—the project included construction of various pedestrian-related improvements along Old River School Road (ORSR), and involved “a variety of additional work, unforeseen site conditions, upgrades, and credits for deleted work.”

To take advantage of economies of scale, DPW combined the ORSR at Muller Street/Rio Hondo Golf Club Traffic Signal Project, the ORSR Pavement Rehabilitation/Arnette to

Dinwiddie Project, and the S.S. 604 Project. The Council also reallocated \$139,544.09 from S.S. 601 (the Paramount Blvd. at Firestone Blvd. Intersection Improvement Project) and \$8,846.05 from the same S.S. 601 to the Old River School Road at Muller Street/Rio Hondo Golf Club Traffic Signal Project (S.S. 578);

- Approved the Green Task Force’s recommendation to sponsor a “Gardening with Blue” drought-tolerant gardening workshop, absent the Central Basin Municipal Water District which had originally scheduled to conduct it yesterday (Aug. 13) at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center but was unable to do so because of financial difficulties. (According to Desi Alvarez, the MWD has an educational outreach program that focuses on making the public aware of the importance of reducing water consumption in its service region).

In assuming the onus of conducting the workshop, Downey’s Green Task Force also takes over responsibility for funding it. At last count, some 35 residents had already signed up for the workshop. The workshop covers: low water-use native plants, landscape design considerations for a drought tolerant yard, sprinkler system basics for homeowners, and irrigation scheduling;

- Adopted a resolution providing the destruction of certain obsolete records of the City Clerk’s department. These include: statements of economic interests (retention period for originals—7 years, and for copies, 4 years); miscellaneous correspondence/requests for

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Postal carrier Eugene Dalugdug has started five neighborhood watch groups in the city. He also helped in the arrest of daytime burglars by reporting suspicious activity. Dalugdug was honored with the mayor’s Diakonia Award on Tuesday. Photo by Eric Pierce

Postal carrier goes above and beyond

DOWNEY – Eugene “Gene” Dalugdug, a postal worker in Downey, was presented with the sixth Diakonia Award from Mayor Mario Guerra on Tuesday.

Dalugdug refers to the residents on his route as “customers” and watches out for residents throughout the day when homes are empty. He has helped start five neighborhood watch groups in Downey.

“He has done many small things with great love,” Guerra said in a statement. “He helped capture daytime burglars last year by

reporting suspicious activity in one our of Downey neighborhoods. He cares and it shows.”

Dalugdug has also started several bible study groups in Downey. He teaches the Purpose Driven Life series and is a member of Praise Chapel Church in Downey.

A former Marine, he has eight children and two grandchildren.

“Diakonia” means servant in Greek. To nominate a resident for the Diakonia Award, call the City Council office at (562) 904-7274.

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Be a better you.



Downey: Potential as a future sister city? Some think so.

Continued from page 1

125. Local theater groups put on plays at the theater. The owner has a license to show movies and when he does, there is no charge – they are free!

City Hall is also on Main Street; office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The city employs a full-time crew of two men.

Further down Main Street is the Downey Public Library (operating income: \$127,024). The library conducts a book fair at the elementary school every year.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as the non-denominational Church of Jesus Christ, offer religious services for Downey residents. There is, at this time, no local newspaper. Downey residents have the Idaho State Journal delivered to them to keep them abreast of local and world events.

We drove up and down the few residential streets and found a modern brick building housing Downey Elementary School, built about 10 years ago. Approximately 111 students attend during the August-May school year. The approximate size of the classes range from 11 to 19 students.

Downata Hot Springs, a few miles out of town, offers tourists swimming, water slides, and a nat-

urally-heated (109 degrees) hot tub. There is a large campground, a bed and breakfast, and Indian teepees for overnight stays and family reunions.

The hot springs offer horse shoes, volleyball, basketball and a playground. I would like to explore the hot springs the next time we head north. Pictures hold the promise of a nice way to unwind from the rush of everyday life! The County Fair arrives in August with a parade, rodeo, livestock and exhibits.

In 2006, the estimated median income for Downey, Idaho was \$28,900, and the median Downey house/condo value was \$87,800. The average summer temperature is about 70 degrees but can reach up to 90 degrees. The greatest amount of snowfall Downey experiences is about 10 inches in November, December and January.

The most common industries for males are in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction and gasoline stations. For women, the most common industries are gas stations, healthcare, food and beverage stores.

The Downey government and payroll as of March 2007 consisted of two full-time employees in the Water Department (groundwater) with a monthly full-time payroll of \$5,259 (yearly: \$31,554 each); two part-time financial

administration employees at \$1,928 per month; and five part-time government administrators at \$450 per month.

A few of the Downey, Idaho government finances in 2002 consisted of \$60,000 for water utilities, \$28,000 for police protection, \$17,000 for fire protection and \$12,000 for parks and recreation. What a difference between the two Downeys' budgets and costs!

In Downey, Idaho, about 68 percent of adults are married. Retired and elderly people are a common sight. According to research, there were no registered sex offenders living in Downey, Idaho in 2009.

Because of time constraints, we were not able to spend a lot of time exploring the town and its environs, but I managed to take a few pictures that I think you might enjoy. I gotta say, I enjoyed my short visit to beautiful, peaceful, little Downey, Idaho, but wouldn't want to live there.

As much as I like getting away to the country, the thought of living year-round in a little burg does not appeal to me at this time (unless I was hiding from the FBI!) because I always need to be busy. It is nice to dream about one day, just relaxing and not hurrying with a never-ending to-do list, but I would miss my Curves! Southern California (the laughing stock of the nation right now) has so much

to offer. If I want to get away from it all in So Cal, I'll just head to Death Valley – in the summertime!

It seems that the city of Downey, Calif. is acquiring yet another sister city in Mexico. Perhaps we should consider looking a little closer to home, to little Downey, Idaho. Only the failure of imagination and creativity could limit the exchange and relationship between the two Downeys.

I am challenging the city of Downey, Calif., its schools, churches, businesses and, most importantly, its citizens, to recognize the incalculable opportunities that are possible.

I would like to thank Marcy Price, director of the Downey, Idaho public library, for helping to fill in some gaps in my information.

Although our own John Gately Downey had a large hand in procuring a railroad here in Southern California, my research did not find any connection between our own John G. Downey and the railroad man named Downey in Idaho. Perhaps a distant relative?

For more information on Downey, Idaho, go to www.downeyidaho.com.

POET'S CORNER

Untitled

Comprende?
Stingy brim black Casanovess
I think I saw you leaving through the
transom

It was summer, city summer
old ladies and dogs
died in the heat

All the beer in the Mexican States
couldn't change me

"I'll never, ever, understand you,"
She said

Stingy brim black Casanovess
It's just that I'm

too difficult
or diabolic
depending on the heat
I've seen and spoken to the
unicorn

Dos Equis wisdom tell me
tell the other liars
"kiss the sun"

And always ask for something
someone more
than silver nightdeath

—John Q. Adams,
Downey

Fading Ear Steam

100 years ago self esteem
didn't exist

They properly wore esteem on the wrist
With watches and diamonds like this
The word didn't exist

Bet nobody thought it would be number one
on the list

They've fallen for a sermon
Somebody pick up their brains
Before their minds start yearning
Worst case scenario

Year three thousand on the stereo
They tell me walking too fast is a disease

Pretty please
Is what I might plead
Let go the creeds
Is it Mickey D's

Or stuffing his burgers with cheese
that's got you fat on your knees
Begging for the quickest way to slim fast
Excluding the work and pain at hand
Is fading ear steam so bad?

—James Hernandez,
Downey

Council: Sex offender ordinance now official.

Continued from page 3

records (originals—3 years, copies—2 years); agenda memos—5 years; and receipts—5 years;

•Adopted an ordinance amending the Downey Municipal Code by adding Ch. 9 to Article III, relating to residency restrictions for sex offenders. Modeling the amendments to the ordinances passed by the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the city attorney's office emphasized that the Downey ordinance "forbids sex offenders from living in a 'residential exclusion zone' (an area located within 2,000 feet from a child care center, public or private school, park, or public library), as well as preventing them

from living in the same residence or multi-family dwelling as other registered sex offenders, unless they are related by blood or if they established residency before the ordinance is enacted." Mayor Mario Guerra said the amendments greatly enhance the provisions of Megan's Law which to him was "not strict enough";

•Adopted an ordinance amending Sections 5(A), 6(E) and 17 (A)(iv) of the lease with the Downey Community Hospital Foundation, now Downey Regional Medical Center, to allow for hospital accreditation by a federally-authorized accrediting body and incorporating by reference the

amendment of lease (this was discussed in the last Council meeting coverage by this paper);

•Adopted a resolution designating Councilmember Luis Marquez as Downey's voting delegate for the League of California Cities annual (business) conference, Sept. 16-18, in San Jose;

•Approved the amendment to the 2009 Inter-Government Committee assignments, removing Councilmember Marquez as the primary representative (because of time constraints) for the Southeast Water Coalition and appointing Councilmember Roger Brossmer as the primary representative;

•Heard the mayor present the Diakonia Award to Gene Dalugdug, a mail carrier in Downey who has been responsible

for the establishment of several Neighborhood Watch groups along his beat and beyond;

•Recognized Mary Bakjian, founder of So CA USA Track and Field, upon her retirement; and

•Recognized the 9-member Downey High School girls' cross-country team, as well as a couple of 'mountain bikers' (who turned out to have ties to Downey High), for their heroic efforts in resuscitating track coach and heart attack victim John Kosarich along a stretch of Turnbull Canyon in Whittier; giving profuse thanks and praise for his rescuers/saviors, Kosarich exclaimed: "Life is precious!"

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 25, at City Hall.



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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For August

- Sun. Aug. 16: **Bingo luncheon**, St. Raymond's Church, 1 p.m.
- Tues. Aug. 18: **Ezra meeting**, Temple Ner Tamid, 10 a.m.
- Wed. Aug. 19: **ABWA meeting**, Rio Hondo Event Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Wed. Aug. 19: **Orquesta Charangoa concert**, Furman Park, 7 p.m.
- Thurs. Aug. 20: **Blood drive**, GDowney Regional Medical Center, noon

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., 6:00 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.

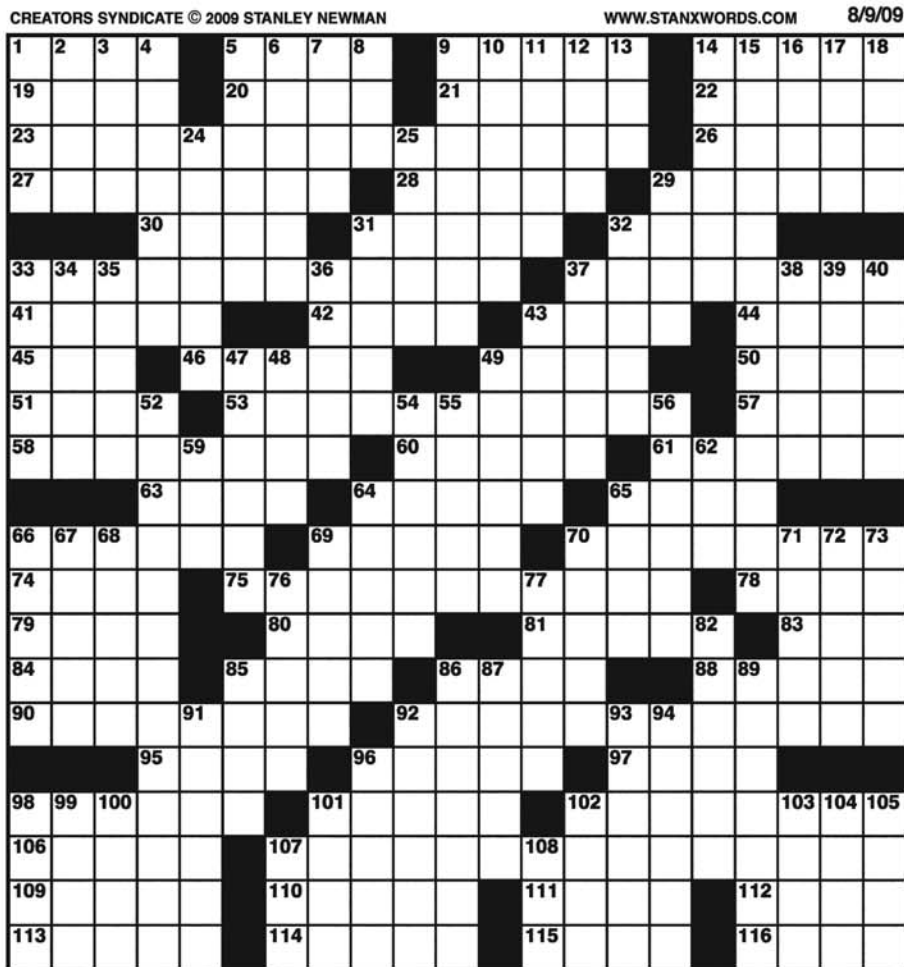
On This Day...

- Aug. 14, 1893:** France introduces motor vehicle registration.
- 1908:** The first beauty contest is held in Folkestone, England.
- 1935:** United States Social Security Act passes, creating a government pension system for the retired.
- 1936:** Rainey Bethea is hanged in Owensboro, Kentucky in the last public execution in the United States.
- 1947:** Pakistan gains Independence from the British Indian Empire.
- 2003:** Widescale power blackout in the northeast United States and Canada.
- Birthdays:** NFL player Roy Williams (29), astronaut Tracy Caldwell, (40), actress Catherine Bell (41), actress Halle Berry (42), and basketball player Magic Johnson (50).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
SEE 107 ACROSS: VIPs with something in common
by Billie Truitt

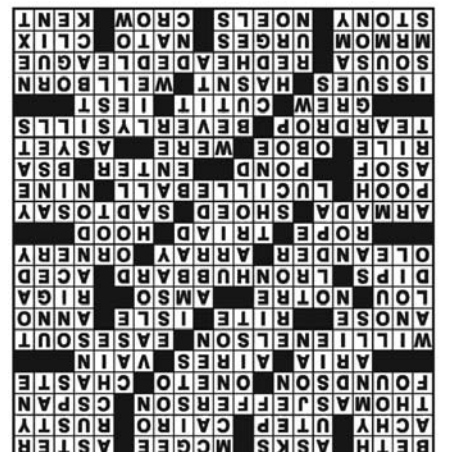
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 75 '50s TV superstar | 9 Three-time Wimbledon winner |
| 1 Sister of Meg, Jo and Amy | 78 Beethoven symphony count | 10 Swerve wildly |
| 5 Seeks info | 79 Dating from | 11 Main points |
| 9 Fibber of old radio | 80 Duck's home | 12 Switch ender |
| 14 Late bloomer | 81 Go inside | 13 It's longer than an era |
| 19 Sore | 83 "Be Prepared" org. | 14 Jughead's friend |
| 20 Lone Star State sch. | 84 Stir up | 15 <i>Thelma and Louise</i> star |
| 21 City on the Nile | 85 Clarinet look-alike | 16 Recipe abbr. |
| 22 Out of practice | 86 Used to be | 17 Coup d'__ |
| 23 Declaration of Independence author | 88 So far | 18 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandberg |
| 26 It covers the House | 90 Earring shape | 24 Brody of <i>The Pianist</i> |
| 27 Uses as a basis | 92 <i>Bubbles</i> autobiographer | 25 Palm off |
| 28 __ a customer | 95 Expanded | 29 Gumshoe's gig |
| 29 Pure | 96 Perform OK | 31 <i>Men in Black</i> character |
| 30 Mezzo's big moment | 97 Superlative suffix | 32 Bravery |
| 31 Buenos __ | 98 Units of Time | 33 Hard-to-find kid-lit character |
| 32 Futile | 101 Lacks, briefly | 34 How anchovies may be packed |
| 33 "Always on My Mind" singer | 102 From an upper-class family | 35 Jeweler's glass |
| 37 Removes tactfully | 106 The March King | 36 Blooper |
| 41 Win by __ | 107 With "The," Sherlock Holmes story, and the puzzle's title | 37 Op-ed piece |
| 42 Marriage, e.g. | 109 Stay-at-home dad | 38 In reserve |
| 43 Castaway's spot | 110 Eggs on | 39 Fictional neatnik |
| 44 Part of AD | 111 Intl. group since 1949 | 40 Apple polisher |
| 45 Comedian Costello | 112 Thrice Lill | 43 Michael Jackson tune of '87 |
| 46 __ Dame | 113 Displaying no emotion | 47 Longtime friend |
| 49 Schoolyard retort | 114 Carolers' offerings | 48 Branch location |
| 50 Baltic capital | 115 Greet the day, in a way | 49 Wear away |
| 51 Dunks | 116 Canterbury's county colors | 52 Duchess of York |
| 53 Scientology founder | | 54 Playwright Pinter |
| 57 Passed with flying colors | | 55 An archangel |
| 58 Evergreen shrub | | 56 Scribble aimlessly |
| 60 Impressive display | | 59 Silent assent |
| 61 Cantankerous | | 62 Utter nonsense |
| 63 Weapon in Clue | | 64 "To __ own self..." |
| 64 Musical chord | | 65 Sentry's shout |
| 65 Parka part | | 66 Separated |
| 66 Fighting fleet | | |
| 69 Did a smith's job | | |
| 70 "Unfortunately..." | | |
| 74 Piglet's pal | | |



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 67 WWII riveter | 85 Tram loads | 99 Put in pigeonholes |
| 68 Simoleons | 86 Moisture | 100 Japanese national sport |
| 69 Something on a cone | 87 Madonna film role | 101 Leander's love |
| 70 Not so inane | 89 Take it easy | 102 Tear's partner |
| 71 Prophets | 91 Visionary | 103 Eye rudely |
| 72 Photographer Adams | 92 Orchard basket | 104 Archaeologist's site |
| 73 Irish Nobelist in literature | 93 Deceived | 105 Deli-counter call |
| 76 Direction for a violinist | 94 Mustard or lemon | 107 Winning streak |
| 77 Soft cap | 96 Impose upon a friend, perhaps | 108 Org. once led by Howard Dean |
| 82 Scrap, in the backwoods | 98 Schools of thought | |

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.

BART (1 Down) stands for the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. At age 29, ADRIEN BRODY (24 Down) became the youngest winner of a Best Actor Oscar, for his role in "The Pianist." Former Vermont governor Howard Dean (108 Down) was Chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2005 through early 2009.





Warren High School's band, shown performing last week at the Downey farmers market, will make a second visit tomorrow. *Courtesy photo*

Warren adds flavor to farmers market

DOWNEY – Warren High School's award-winning band entertained vendors and patrons alike with a surprise performance last Saturday at the farmers market.

Led by director David Niemeyer and assistant director Aaron Zeilinger, the band marched down 2nd Street, playing their fight song, as surprised patrons cheered, clapped and chanted along.

The band played familiar songs such as "Brick House," "Jungle Boogie," and the "Hey Song."

Band members also promoted their upcoming car wash marathon (Aug. 22) and their Annual Preview Night on Aug. 28, where they will showcase their 2009 field show, Groove, at Warren High School from 6-8 p.m.

The band will return to the farmers market tomorrow and the community is invited to attend.

Cuban band up next at Furman

DOWNEY – Orgesta Charangoa, one of the top Cuban music orchestras in the Los Angeles area, will perform a free concert Wednesday night at Furman Park.

The performance begins at 7 p.m. and is part of the regular concert series produced by the city of Downey.

L.A. Weekly has called Orgesta Charangoa "the keeper of the flame for traditional Cuban charanga." The band is led by flutist and band-leader Fay Roberts.

Timbalas, guiro, contrabass, cellos, violins and flutes are used to reproduce the sounds of 40s and 50s Cuba.

Since 1997 Charangoa has performed at many Southern California venues, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion, the Palladium, the Palace and the Conga Room.

Charangoa has opened for Cuban band Los Van Van and has backed up Israel Lopez Cachao.

Television appearances include KCET's "Holiday Celebration" and KTTV's "Good Day L.A."

Charangoa has also performed at many festivals, including the Watts Towers Jazz Festival, L.A. Cuban Festival, African Marketplace and the L.A. Salsa Festival.

The Downey Rose Float Association will be selling food and drinks before and during the concert. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.



Orgesta Charangoa, a popular Cuban band, will perform a free concert Wednesday at Furman Park, beginning at 7 p.m. *Courtesy photo*

The OC Fair, by the numbers

COSTA MESA – After 23 days and nights, the Orange County Fair has turned off the deep fryers, taken down the carnival rides and given out all the blue ribbons for its 119th year, which saw more than 1 million in attendance for the fourth time in five years.

More than 9,400 people purchased the first-ever OC Fair Super Pass, a season pass which granted 23 days of admission plus other discounts, coupons and front-of-line access.

Fair visitors enjoyed some 11,000 boxes of chocolate-covered bacon and 12,000 deep-fried zucchini weenies. More than 250,000 guests took a tour through the human brain with the world premiere of "Al's Brain: A 3D Journey Through the Human Brain" starring "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Yankovic, incidentally, was born in Downey.

Other numbers from the fair: 700 multi-layered jumbo Mexican funnel cakes were eaten and only two people met the challenge to consume one alone.

4,400 feet of jumbo pretzels were consumed while 13,200 giant



Only two people ate an entire jumbo Mexican funnel cake in a single sitting. *Courtesy OC Fair*

blooming onions and 20,000 orders of Tasti Chips were devoured.

4,256 entrants submitted 13,925 entries which received 2,949 first place ribbons and more than \$105,000 in cash awards.

258 livestock entries were sold at the Junior Livestock Auction, earning local youth more than \$168,000.

38,096 people donated 32.6 tons of food, 17,166 new children's

books, 3,884 new children's toys and thousands of school supplies for a community donation drive.

Born into the Centennial Farm this year were 24 piglets and two kids (goats).

Survey results showed that, on average, fairgoers made 2.7 visits to the Fair and averaged 5.5 hours per visit.

Shop, save and support a cause

DOWNEY – The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will host its fourth annual "Shopping Extravaganza" Oct. 10 at the Citadel Factory Outlets in Commerce.

Residents who purchase a \$20 ticket from the Guild will enjoy steep discounts at the outlets on Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ticket-holders will also receive three raffle tickets, wine tasting, lunch from Ruby's Diner, and a goody bag.

Proceeds from ticket sales will help fund the Guild's scholarship fund and its work with local organizations.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, call Sally Johnson at (562) 861-8370.

Cumming to make local debut

COSTA MESA – Tickets are now on sale for the West Coast premiere of "Alan Cumming: I Bought a Blue Car Today," playing at the Orange County Performing Arts Center on Sept. 26.

Accompanied by his musical director, Lance Horne, Cumming will unleash his favorite tunes, belt out celebrates hits alongside little-known gems, and entertain with anecdotes from his colorful past.

The show is peppered with material by Frank Sinatra, Dory Previn, Kander & Ebb and Cyndi Lauper.

Cumming trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and quickly found fame in

his homeland for both his television work and stand-up comedy. The theater gave him his biggest break when he appeared in Manfred Karge's "A Conquest of the South Pole" in Edinburgh.

The play transferred to the Royal Court in London's West End and Cumming was nominated for the Most Promising Newcomer Olivier Award.

U.S. film audiences were first introduced to Cumming in "Circle of Friends" and he went on to appear in many films, including "X2: X Men United," "Spy Kids," "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion," "Goldeneye," "Eyes Wide Shut," "Titus," "Emma" and "Sweet Land," for which he received an Independent Spirit Award for producing.

With Jennifer Jason Leigh he

wrote, produced, directed and starred in the acclaimed "The Anniversary Party," which won a National Board Review award. In 1998, "Cabaret" opened on Broadway and Cumming was heralded for his performance.

He has continued to earn accolades on Broadway in "The Threepenny Opera," "Design for Living," and Off-Broadway in "Elle" and "The Seagull."

On television he has appeared in "Sex and the City," "Frasier," "Third Rock from the Sun," "The L Word," "Reefers Madness" and, most recently, in Sci-Fi Channel's "Tin Man." He is also the host of PBS' "Masterpiece Mystery."

Tickets to see Alan Cumming are \$58 and are available by calling (714) 556-2787 or online at www.ocpac.org.

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* DISTRICT 9 (10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:50, 7:50, 9:35, 10:35)

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD (10:05, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05)

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (PG-13) (11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00)

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA (PG-13) (10:00, 10:50, 12:45, 1:45, 3:40, 4:25, 6:35, 7:30, 9:30, 10:25)

JULIE & JULIA (PG-13) (10:25, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:20)

A PERFECT GETAWAY (R) Fri to Mon: (11:50, 2:20, 4:55), 7:35, 10:30; Tue: (2:20, 4:55), 7:35, 10:30; Wed & Thu: (11:50, 2:20, 4:55), 7:35, 10:30

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) Fri to Mon: (12:20, 3:50), 7:25, 10:40; Tue: (3:50), 7:25, 10:40; Wed & Thu: (12:20, 3:50), 7:25, 10:40

* G-FORCE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:50), 7:10, 9:35

THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIE TALES MOVIE (G) Tue: (10:00 AM, 12:30 PM)

Times for Friday-Thursday, August 14-20, 2009

Bargain Matinee () Advance ticket sales Special Engagement/No Passes * www.kptmovies.com

Bingo

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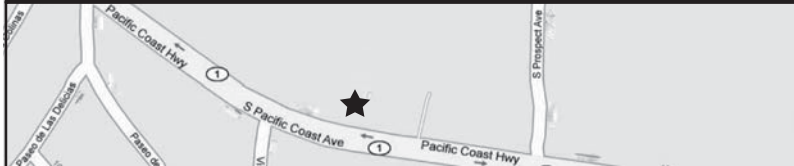


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Downey Business Review

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Ana Esparza, Real Estate Executive
Ana Esparza has been servicing the City of Downey since 1991. She is involved in many organizations and currently serves as President of the Downey Association of Realtors. Ana believes that purchasing Downey Real Estate is a great investment whether you are purchasing your first home, second home, or commercial property. Ana believes when you are buying or selling in today's real estate market, it is important to have confidence in your Real Estate Professional. Ana is committed to provide specialized service that her clients deserve. If you are considering buying or selling a home, or commercial property, or would like to have additional information about real estate in your area. Please contact Ana Esparza at (562)756-8870

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Jane Walta, 97, was Downey High teacher

DOWNEY – Longtime Downey resident Jane Davy Gray Walta passed away in her sleep during the early morning hours of Aug. 8. She was 97.



Born in Huntington Park in 1912, she was the daughter of the Rev. Harry and Jenny Gray. The family built their home at 7903 E. 4th Place in Downey, where Walta lived until recently selling the home.

Walta taught English and music at Downey High School for more than 30 years and was an active member of the JK Chapter of PEO Sorority. She was also a member of the Downey Symphony Guild, and was a longtime organist at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

A graduate of Mills College, Walta attained multiple degrees, including her masters of art in Music, a bachelors in both English and Music, and a minor in Latin.

She was married 53 years to John C. Walta, an electrical engineer, and together they had one child, Patricia Jean Walta Shirley. Both have passed away.

Jane Walta is survived by her grandchildren, John and Sandra Shirley, and David and Holly Johnson; great-grandchildren, Mallory and Trevor; and son-in-law David (Georgette) Shirley.

Services will be held today at 10 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Downey. Graveside services will follow at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Marcelle Harman was DRMC volunteer

DOWNEY – Marcelle Harman, a Downey resident for more than 25 years, passed away Aug. 5 in Modesto. She was 89.

She was born Marcelle Josephine Sarlin on May 12, 1920 in Huntington Park. She was an alumnus of Bell High School and Compton College.

Harman was a longtime parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey and was active in the Women's Guild until her move to Modesto almost eight years ago.

She also volunteered in the gift shop at Downey Regional Medical Center, with more than 16,500 hours of service to her credit.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia and Teresa; son, Roger; grandchildren, Philip, Susan, Danny, Heather and Dominique; great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Megan and Ryland; and their extended families. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, in 1986.

A viewing will be held Monday from 5-8 p.m., with a Rosary at 7 p.m., at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary. A funeral Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. A private burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

Council wants solar fees to go even lower

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A plan to encourage energy conservation by cutting the cost of solar panel permit fees in half did not go far enough for the City Council, who punted the issue back to staff for retooling on Tuesday.

A survey by the Sierra Club earlier this year found that Downey charged an average of \$1,164 for solar permits, one of the steepest rates in Southern California.

City officials responded with a plan to cut the fees by 50 percent. While the proposed fees would not have covered the city's cost in reviewing and inspecting solar panel installations, it would have promoted solar energy use in

Downey, deputy city manager Gilbert Livas wrote in a staff report.

Mayor Mario Guerra and Councilman Luis Marquez, however, proposed cutting fees even further with a flat fee of \$200.

"If we really want to encourage green, we need to take a bold step forward," said Marquez, who, like Guerra, is a member of the city's Green Task Force.

The issue is expected to be brought back at a later date for consideration from the rest of the Council.

Last year, the city issued eight permits for solar panel installations. Of the eight, the highest fee was \$4,939, paid by Staples at Downey Landing.

BJ's Brewery announces sales record

DOWNEY – BJ's Brewery & Restaurant at Stonewood Center recorded first-day sales of \$25,000 on Aug. 3, a franchise record, company officials have announced.

The news came as BJ's announced a revenue increase of 17 percent from last year, beating analysts' estimates by one cent.

BJ's opened 15 restaurants last year and will open up to 11 more this year. The company, based in Huntington Beach, currently operates 84 restaurants but previously announced a goal of 300 stores.

Supermarkets hosting free entertainment

DOWNEY – Two local supermarkets will offer free entertainment later this month in celebration of a new campaign by Dole Juices.

Ralph's supermarket at 8626 Firestone Blvd. and Food 4Less at 13525 Lakewood Blvd. will host live entertainment and contests to win prizes on Aug. 22-23.

Free samples of Dole Juices will also be available.

The event is free and the community is invited.

Police gains approval for new chairs

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department will purchase eight new chairs for their Report Room using money from the city's Asset Forfeiture Fund.

The City Council approved the request on Tuesday and appropriated \$2,101 for the purchase.

The Report Room is where police officers write their reports, book evidence and interview juveniles who have been arrested, Police Chief Roy Campos wrote in a report for the Council.

As other divisions of the department received new chairs, the Report Room received hand-me-downs.

According to Campos, "the chairs are beginning to break down, and many of the adjustment features are no longer working properly."

The chairs will be purchased from Consolidated Office Systems of Fullerton. Code Enforcement currently uses the same type of chairs and has reported no problems, Campos said.

According to Campos, the Asset Forfeiture Fund currently stands at about \$5 million.

—Eric Pierce

St. Raymond's bingo luncheon

DOWNEY – The Italian Catholic Federation of St. Raymond's Catholic Church will host a bingo luncheon Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. inside the Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall, 12349 Paramount Blvd.

Cost is \$10 and includes lunch, a door prize, and one free bingo card. A \$25 money tree and other prizes will be raffled.

For tickets or information, call Aline Amatisto at (562) 963-9430 or Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937.

Search for Jewish culture

DOWNEY – "Pepper, Silk and Ivory: Seeing the Orient Through Jewish Eyes," is the topic of the Aug. 18 meeting of the Ezra Center for Mature Adults at Temple Ner Tamid in Downey.

Jean Franklin and Ed and Polly Schechter will tell of their travel to China and Japan with Rabbi Marvin Tokayer.

The speakers will share pictures and memories of their trip, in which they searched for Jewish culture and history.

The meeting is free and begins at 10 a.m. A catered kosher lunch will be served afterwards at a cost of \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

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



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) thanked Shantal Voorwinden, of Downey, for her assistance in her Los Angeles district office during her 9-week summer internship that ends today. Voorwinden is currently attending Cerritos College where she is majoring in English and Communications. She is president of the Speech and Debate Club and was awarded the bronze medal in this year's Southern California Lincoln Douglas Debate Championships. She plans on completing her bachelor's at Cal State Long Beach and would like to one day enter public service. For information on an internship with the congresswoman, call Diana Porras at (213) 628-9230.

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4BD, 2BA remodeled home w/ 2BD, 2BA attached wing off main house, and a separate guest house w/ kitchen & bath. All on a 14,500 lot w/ new pool and spa!
Price: \$975,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Pool Home!
3 BD, 3 BA North Downey pool home with family room and master bedroom.
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Quality Construction at a Bargain Price!
5 bedroom North Downey home with approx 6200 sq ft of living space on an 8000 sq ft lot with pool & spa. Builder's higher-end workmanship will be noticed as you walk this beautiful property scheduled to be finished within 30 days.
Price: \$1,249,000
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

OPEN HOUSE
Cozy, Yet Roomy
3 BD, 2 BA North Downey home near Furman Park w/ large yard & family room.
Price: \$499,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Great Estate Amongst Others!
5 BD plus an office, 6.5 BA North Downey new home in an area surrounded by newer homes. The home has 6,400 sq ft living space, completely new with many upgrades, and situated on a 9,387 sq ft lot. Purchase this home for \$1,349,000 or call for details about as-is pricing.
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

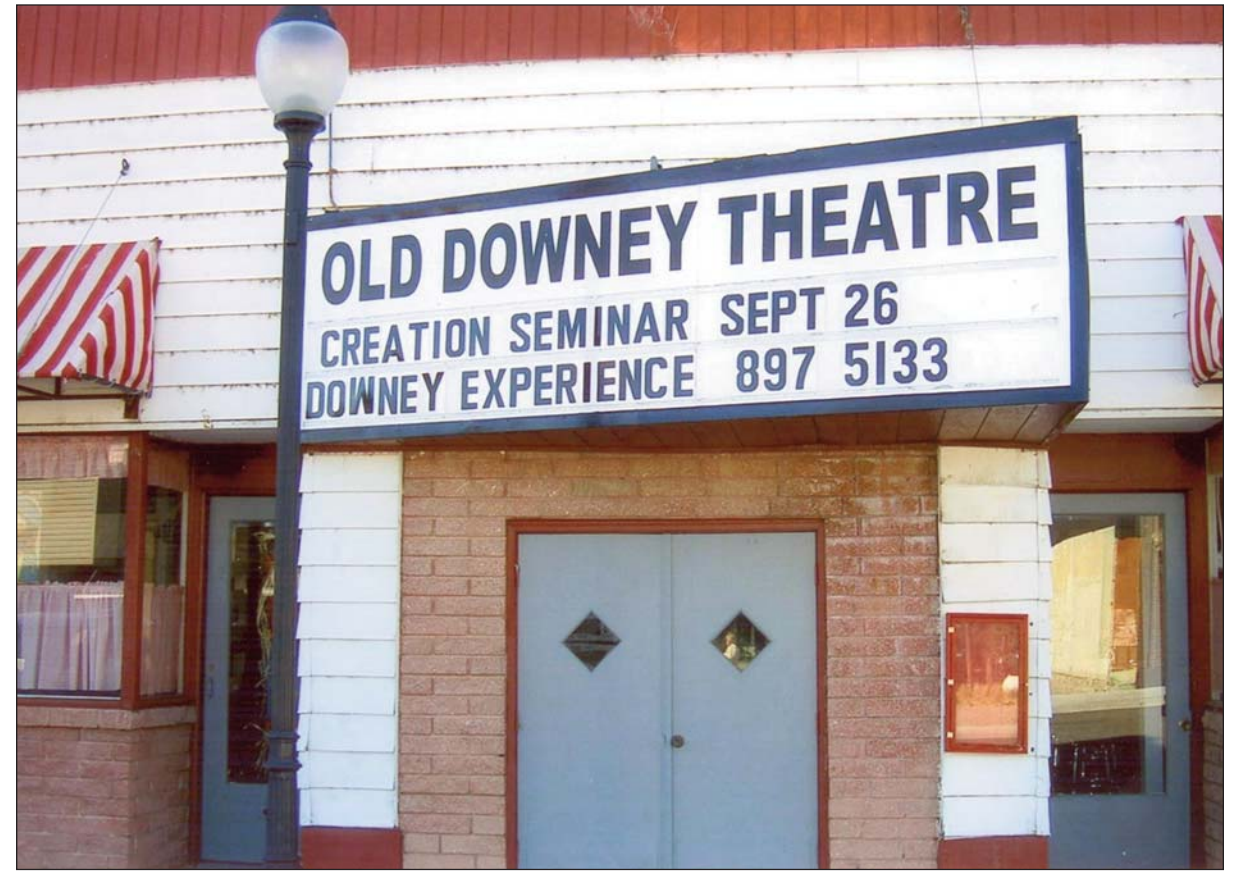
Splish, Splash...
3 BD, 2 BA North Downey pool home near Rio Hondo Country Club.
Price \$465,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

SOLD!
Close Out Pricing!
6 BR, 6 BA, 5500 sq ft living space, 7,590 sq ft lot size, built-in BBQ, located in Northeast Downey near schools!
List Price: \$999,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

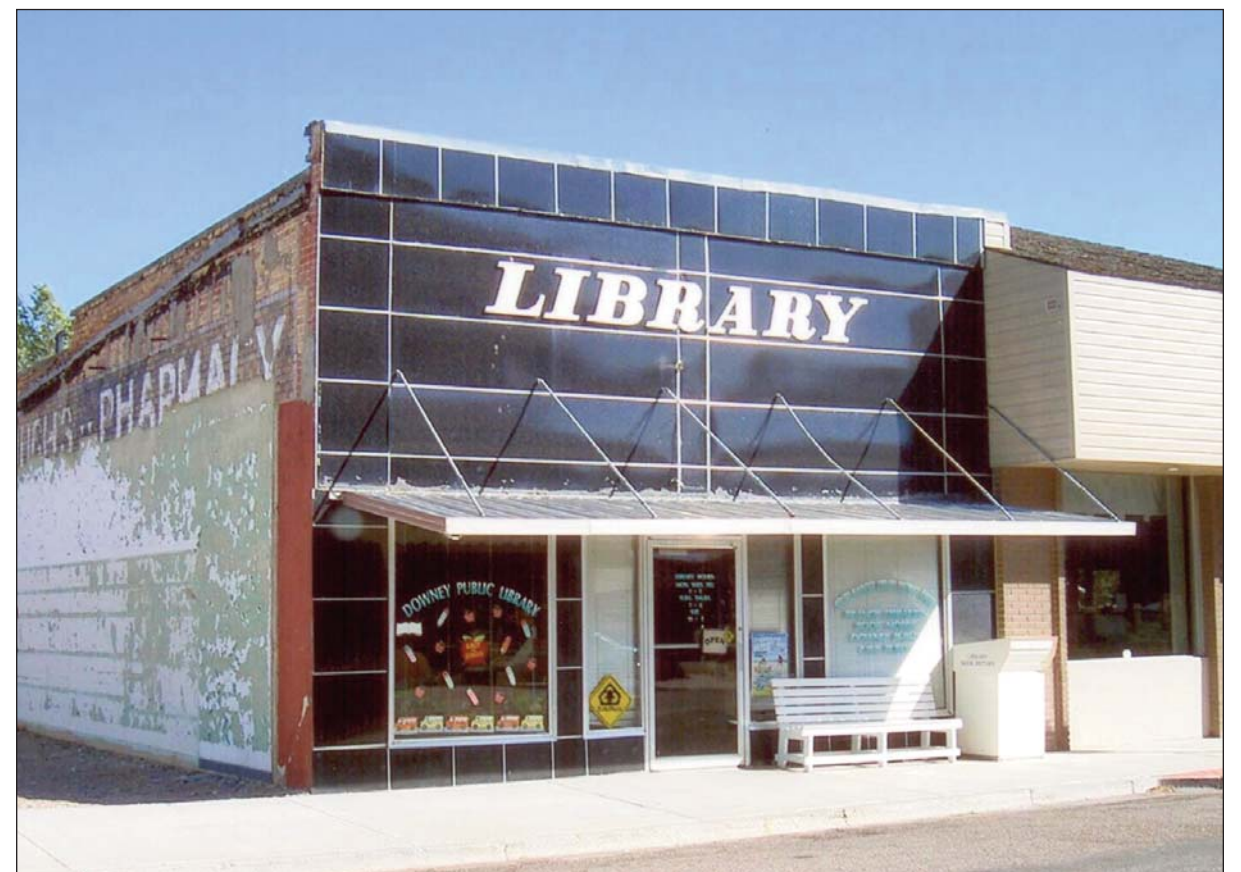
View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com

More pictures from Downey, Idaho

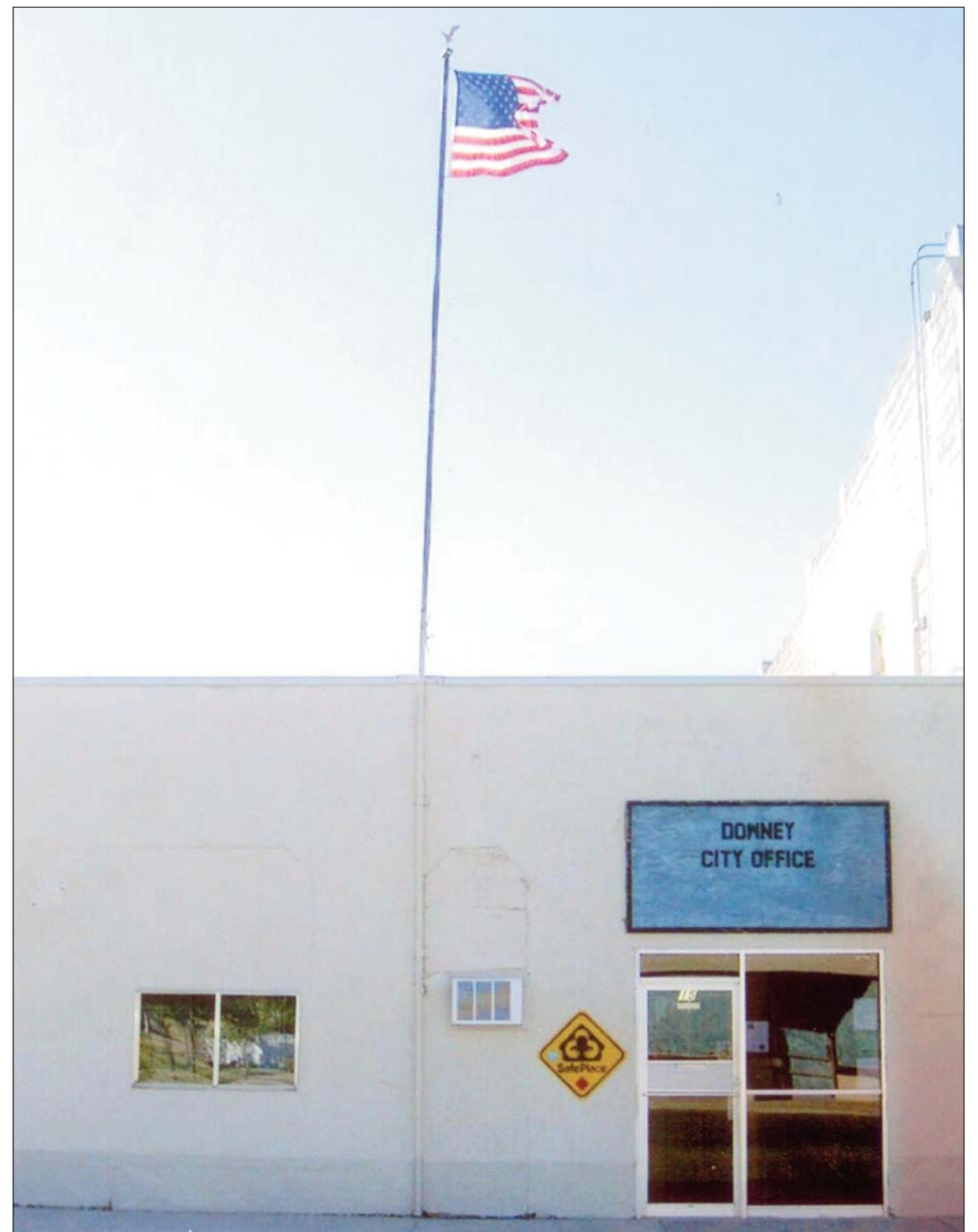
Photos and captions by Paula Mayfield



The refurbished Old Downey Theater, available to local theater groups and offering free admission when movies are shown.



The Downey Public Library manages a book fair every year at the elementary school.



Downey City Hall, located on Main Street.