

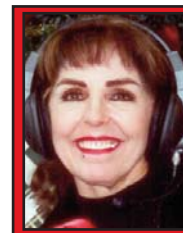
# The Downey Patriot



**Better to give than to receive**  
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**H1N1 vaccines tomorrow**  
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**Moode, Knabe in the booth**  
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Friday, December 4, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 33

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

## Final message from Mayor Guerra

By Mario Guerra, Mayor, City of Downey

**H**i Downey family and friends, I hope this finds you well as always.

This Tuesday night, Dec. 8, will be my last as the 43rd mayor of this wonderful city. I will be resigning as mayor to uphold our city charter so a vacancy can occur and our city council can vote in a new mayor. It has been an honor and privilege serving this great city. I have served with pride.

It has been a fantastic year for our community even through tough times for so many. I wanted to share with you some of the things we have achieved together and some of the economic development items we have accomplished.

I am so proud that we have created more than 4,500 new jobs in Downey this year, not counting the future potential with Tesla Motors. It has been an unprecedented year and we have a great momentum and need to keep it going.

Coming into this year I had set some priorities and goals for our city. Some of my goals as mayor included:

**Green Task Force** - We are on our way with an active, dedicated and responsible group of appointed citizens and experts serving for the long term benefit of our city. Final recommendations will be coming shortly. It has already proposed and the council has accepted several of their proposals. Many of the items planned will have positive implications for many years, from education to sustainability.

**Fiscal Responsibility** - We passed a conservative budget that did not cut any services to our citizens. It actually increased the amount of spending for public safety such as Police and Fire and, with our crime numbers continuing to go down, it shows we put our money in the right places. Crime overall is down again this year (last year it was down 12% from prior year) by more than 10% and burglaries specifically are down 24%. Motor vehicles thefts were down 25% through the end of October. Thanks to our fine Police Department and our Fire Department for protecting us and keeping us safe.

See MAYOR, page 2

## Next mayor to be decided Tuesday

**DOWNEY** - The City Council will decide Tuesday who will become Downey's next mayor.

Current mayor Mario Guerra said he will resign the position Tuesday to allow another council member to take over.

The catered event usually serves as a recognition of the outgoing mayor.

When selected, the new mayor will be immediately sworn into office.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. inside City Council chambers.

## Esteves sworn in as Chief

*Ninth police chief in Downey's history*

■ No sweeping changes planned, Esteves says.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** - After some kind words and a warm hug from Roy Campos, Rick Esteves took the stage, ready to become police chief.

Before an audience of more than 100 people, former Capt. Rick Esteves was sworn in as Downey's ninth chief of police during a brief transition ceremony on Tuesday morning held in the City Council chambers.

In front of a diverse crowd of family members, city residents, police officers, and city officials, Campos thanked the city for its support during his four-year term as police chief.

"Their never-ending support is what makes us strong as a police agency," said Campos, who will now enter retirement after over 30 years in law enforcement.

Judge Brian Gasdia led Esteves in the Oath of office, lauding the 48-year-old officer as an outstanding person of character.

"This is a great man and a great day," said Gasdia. "I told him, 'It's a person like you that makes a person like me want to live in this city.'"

Shortly after the oath, Esteves' wife and two daughters joined him at the forefront of the council chambers, helping him pin on his



PHOTO COURTESY DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Rick Esteves, formerly captain of the Downey Police Department's Field Operations division, was sworn in Tuesday as the new chief of police, replacing the retiring Roy Campos. Judge Brian Gasdia of Norwalk Superior Court swore Esteves into office.**

new badge.

"I have a joyous feeling in my heart," said Esteves. "I don't take this lightly."

This week, Esteves was busy transitioning into his new role and office.

"I'm getting settled in," he said. "This has been something coming - Chief Campos has been getting me up to speed."

Despite his new position,

Esteves promises no wide-sweeping changes in the department, but maintains that the police department will continue to improve.

"I'm visiting each unit letting them know that I'm carrying Chief Campos' message," said Esteves. "My number one goal is to continue providing the best police services possible to protect our communities."

Esteves made one of his first

decisions several weeks ago, selecting Detective Carl Charles to assume his former position as captain of Field Operations.

Before the transition ceremony came to an end, Esteves thanked his family and assured his officers that his position change wouldn't change him.

"I'm the same 'ole Rick," said Esteves during the ceremony. "My door's always open."

## After Tesla deal, city now waits

■ Incentive package to entice Tesla Motors called a 'no-brainer.'

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** - Since the City Council approved the \$8.9 million deal to pave the way for Tesla Motors last week, city officials wait as the automaker deliberates, settling on a time to announce its next move.

In a special session last week, the Council unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding with Industrial Realty Group granting the Downey Studios owner several economic development incentives to facilitate a 57-acre Tesla Motors plant on the site.

"The City of Downey has been working with IRG for six months to bring in this new tenant," said City Manager Gerald Caton. "This memorandum sets forth an economic development package to help make this happen."

Under the agreement, the city will waive nearly \$6.9 million in future rent payments on the 20 acres of land owned by the city, but currently used by IRG. The city will also relieve IRG of its obligation to provide space for a 40,000-square-foot learning center on its property.

IRG will continue to store the

city's full-sized Space Shuttle mock-up until October 1, 2010, when the city expects to complete a new \$250,000 shelter structure for the mock-up.

In order to accommodate Tesla inside the existing buildings on the former NASA property, the roofs must be repaired and improved, a \$1.8 million task the city will pay for with federal grant money.

Tesla spokesman Ricardo Reyes considers the deal a step in the right direction, but will not specify a date for when Tesla will formally announce its decision.

"What we saw last week was good progress," said Reyes. "But we won't have anything to announce until we have something to announce."

Before last week's vote, Tom Messmer, IRG's vice president of construction and project management, commented on the memorandum, praising the city for its hard work.

"It has been a wonderful experience working with Downey," said Messmer. "We hope to work with Tesla for many years to come."

Once Tesla Motors moves to Downey, the City Council expects the deal to bring more than \$20 million in revenue to the city.

"Those are conservative estimates - it could be closer to \$25 million," said Councilmember Luis Marquez shortly before the vote. "The direct and indirect benefits that we will receive over time will be



PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR USER KQEDQUEST VIA PBS NEWSHOUR

**Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk.**

incredible."

Councilmember David Gafin called the decision, to bring Tesla and its 1,200 jobs here, a no-brainer.

"Just take a look at the numbers," said Gafin. "At a time when our nation and state are struggling, Downey is taking the forefront to create these jobs."

After the decision, Mayor Mario Guerra thanked city staff and promised the site would become the greenest manufacturing plant in the country.

"Proverbs says, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish,' said Guerra. "This city has had a vision for many years - this is the result of a lot of hard work."

Tesla Motors will utilize nearly \$365 million in low-interest loans from the U.S. Department of Energy to manufacture and assemble the

Model S, an electric sedan that travels up to 300 miles per charge.

Caton hails the prospect of a Tesla Motors manufacturing plant as a return to Downey's innovative history.

"For people who live around here - this has a very significant impact," said Caton. "For 70 years, until 1999, Downey has had innovative manufacturing - this is a great opportunity for the city to continue that legacy."

The Apollo Space Program and U.S. Space Shuttle Program used the 160-acre site for the manufacturing and assembly of spacecraft for nearly 50 years.

"Stay tuned," said Guerra at the close of the special session. "The work has just begun - There are many great things still to happen."

## Holiday Lane Parade is Sunday

**DOWNEY** - The Downey Holiday Lane Parade, sponsored and produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will be presented Sunday at 1:30 p.m. along Downey Avenue.

Several longtime participants will be on hand for the event, including the Downey and Warren high school bands, Downey Boy and Girl Scouts and the Downey Elk's Lodge, all of whom have been in the parade for all 58 years.

Others who have faithfully been a part of this annual community parade are the Compton Sounders, Divine Talents, Downey Fire and Police Departments, and the Wells Fargo Stagecoach.

Floats this year include Country Inn of Downey, Downey Elks Lodge #2020, Divine Talent Kids Music, Downey Rose Float Association and, of course, Santa Claus.

In addition to Downey and Warren high schools, other bands scheduled to participate are the Bell High School Band, Madrid Middle School Band, Norwalk High School Band, Villa Park High School Band, Workman High School Band, Valley High School Band, Burke Middle School Band, Lynwood Middle School Band and the North Park Middle School Band.

The parade route is Downey Avenue from Lexington to Third Street, and then east to Civic Center Drive, where it will disband.

The following streets will be closed to traffic starting at approximately 11:30 a.m. for parade formation: 10th and 11th streets between Brookshire and Birchdale; Lexington Avenue between Downey and Brookshire avenues; and Brookshire between Florence Avenue and Cherokee Drive.

These streets should be cleared by approximately 3:30 p.m.

5th Street between Brookshire and Downey Avenue will be closed from approximately 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The parade route will remain open to traffic until approximately 12 p.m., when the streets will be cleared for spectators.



**Ava Barela was the winner of a Downey Chamber of Commerce raffle to ride with Santa Claus on Sunday in the Holiday Lane Parade.**

## Mayor: Despite recession, city made great strides in 2009.

Continued from page 1

**Council Priority and Planning Sessions** - I called for the creation of a goal-setting process for our council to get together openly and discuss our future and what direction we wanted to give our staff. It was very important to make sure that our staff knew what our priorities were. We held several open public meetings and were able to accomplish this. Very successful and assuring for everyone, including our residents of course, to know our direction and priorities.

**Public Information / Emergency Preparedness** - We are on our way with the creation of a web site subcommittee to redesign, provide ease of utilization and enhance our web site. It should be launched shortly with many tools to help our citizens reach and access information and us.

We also purchased a new reverse 911 system to be able to notify as many as possible in our city in case of an emergency. We have come a long way in this area. I also wanted to be able to communicate directly to our citizens and I personally wrote several mayoral messages that our *Downey Patriot* printed unedited to let you know of some of the current issues and my thought process on our direction. I will continue to do update emails next year as your council member. If you would like to get them send me an e-mail to my city hall address and I will include you in any future updates. I firmly believe that the more you know about our city the better we feel about our direction and progress.

**Economic Development / Downtown Redevelopment** - Not only were we a finalist for "Most Business Friendly City" but we

started the process for a new development plan for our downtown and other areas in our city. Unbelievable the things that were achieved by great leadership on our staff and direction from our council. We cannot lose this momentum as our future really does depend on it in many ways and there are many great things coming. Forward thinking and planning has paid dividends and will continue to.

**Mayors Diakonia Award (Servant)** - I was honored to be able to recognize 10 outstanding individuals who have given so much of themselves for our community. Doing small things with great love turns into big things with a big heart. We are a community that gives and these were people that deserved to be recognized. I can smile knowing there are so many more special people in our city that also deserve this honor.

We also passed some new ordinances and did some small but important things to enhance our quality of life. And of course some pretty important things. These are just a few of them. In no particular order:

- New Tough Sexual Offender Law
- Dine in Downey
- Redevelopment money to hire local business for Downey projects
- Branding Subcommittee established
- Homeless Program plan for \$596,539
- Fireworks Show for July 4th
- New Sister City - Fresno, Zacatecas
- Columbia Way renaming
- News rack cleanup ordinance
- Pilot Program with Schools to use environmentally safe reusable bags
- Veterans Banner program
- Revised City Building Codes
- 52 new Neighborhood Watch

groups

- Mayor's 3rd Annual Townhall meeting
- KABC-7 Townhall Meeting
- Web site subcommittee established

- Several large public works projects started and finished
- Downtown Downey Redevelopment Plan started
- Opening of Discovery Sports Complex

- Opening of Columbia Memorial Space Learning Center
- Opening of Bob's Big Boy
- Opening of BJ's
- Opening of new Kaiser Hospital

- Opening of Kohl's
- Opening of Walgreens
- Opening of Citibank
- Opening of Physicians' Surgical Center

- Groundbreaking of Porto's Bakery
- Groundbreaking of Fresh and Easy
- Firestone Boulevard developments

Amazing things have been done...Awesome for our city.

I also visited Washington D.C. twice this year on behalf of our city. The results and benefits for Downey are many. I can also say that working with our representatives and relationships built by some of my colleagues and I, along with our staff, we were successful in bringing home to Downey more than \$16 million for our city for many different projects. More to follow.

And of course Tesla...A lot of hard work by so many to make this happen. We have been working hard on this for many, many months. Our city is so blessed to have smart and talented people in leadership positions and we are reaping the benefits of this. This was and is a very complicated deal

and while we still have much work to do, it has been a labor that will produce benefits for us for many generations. Formal announcement will be upcoming shortly. It is the right deal at the right place, at the right location and continues our legacy of being a city that has changed the course of American history in so many ways. From Apollo to Tesla, the legacy does continue...

This all happened because we really do have a great community and staff that works closely together and we are here to serve. And we did this being a Character Counts city. From our great school district to our parks and youth leagues, we are living it every day and it shows.

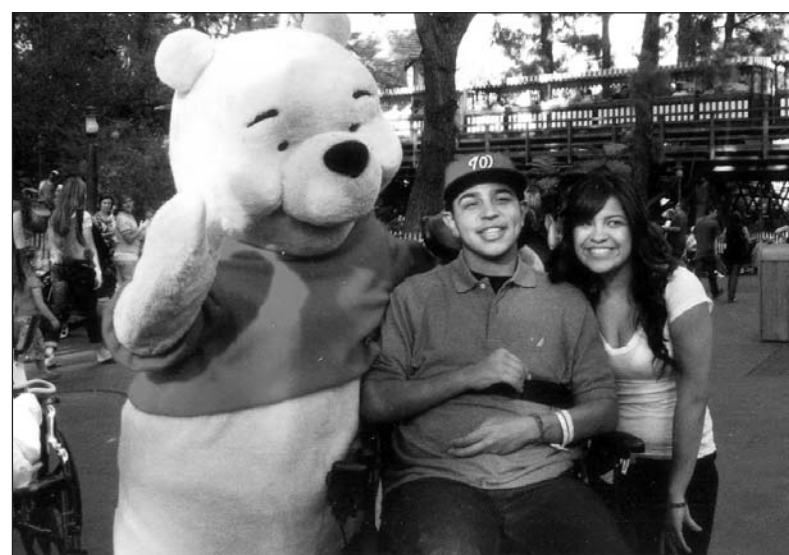
We are living proof that great things can be achieved with ethics and character as a guiding light. We have 92 churches in our city and 15 service organizations that say it loud and clear, we are a special place and by giving we receive so much more in return.

I was quoted the other day when I said that I was physically tired, emotionally drained and I couldn't feel better or be happier. Very true. It really has been a fantastic year and I am so proud of what we have accomplished together. A friend recently reminded me of a verse in Proverbs, "Without vision the people perish." I am proud to say that Downey knows that vision is not what is but what can be.

Thank you for allowing me to represent and serve this great city as your mayor. Our future together really is unlimited.

I also want you to know that I am still your council member and welcome your thoughts, suggestions and comments as always. My e-mail address is mguerra@downeyca.org and my personal cell number is still (562) 706-4114.

All my best...God Bless.



Downey Elks Lodge 2020 continued their charitable work by escorting six young patients from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center on a trip to Disneyland on Nov. 3. Doctors, nurses and family members joined in on the trip. "The fun that was had and the smiles on their faces will be remembered by all," the Elks said in a statement.

## Moode, Knabe to call parade again

**DOWNEY** - Marsha Moode, executive producer of the Downey Civic Light Opera, and county supervisor Don Knabe will again host the Downey Holiday Lane Parade this Sunday.

It will be the 23rd time Moode has sat behind the broadcaster's booth to call the parade.

Moode has been named "A Woman Making History in the

Southland" by the League of Women Voters, "A Woman of Distinction" by Soroptimist International of Downey and "Volunteer of the Year" by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

She has hosted two 90-minute programs for Time Warner Cable, "The Campaign Series" and "Good Company," and has been a member of the Holiday Lane

Committee for 23 years.

Knabe was first elected to the county Board of Supervisors in 1996 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2008. He represents the 4th District (including Downey) with more than 2 million residents.

Knabe served on the President's Homeland Security Advisory Board, on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Transportation Association (MTA), and has twice served as mayor of Cerritos.

This year will mark his 19th year co-hosting the Holiday Lane Parade.

The parade begins Sunday at 1:30 p.m. along Downey Avenue and finishes at the Civic Center.

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*Santa Claus in the Downey Chamber of Commerce Holiday Lane Parade the first Sunday in December*

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in cooperation with the  
**CITY OF DOWNEY**  
and sponsorship of

**Downey Regional Medical Center**

presents the 58th annual

**HOLIDAY LANE PARADE**

Sunday, Dec. 6  
1:30 p.m.

*Parade starts at Downey and Lexington Ave., goes south on Downey Ave. to Third St., turns left and disbands at Civic Center*

**Thank You 2009 Holiday Lane Parade Sponsors!**  
The Downey Chamber of Commerce thanks the following sponsors who so generously give and allow us to bring the parade to the community!

**\$5,000 Major Parade Sponsor**  
Downey Regional Medical Center

**\$3,000 Santa Claus Sponsor**  
Financial Partners Credit Union

**\$2,000 Parade Marshal Sponsor**  
Risher Mortuary & Cremation Services

**\$1,500 Luncheon Sponsor**  
Andrews Rancho Del Norte

**\$500 Band Sponsors**  
Big Blue House Real Estate, Inc.    Hoag Property Management, Inc.    Little John's Bodyworks  
Gloria's Cocina Mexicana    Knights of Columbus-Knute Rockne Council    Norm's Restaurant

**\$300 Band/Drill Team Sponsors**  
All American Home Center    Downey Federal Credit Union    Pacific Western Bank  
Don Dixon & Associates Insurance, Inc.    JB Contractors/Serrano Construction    Penske Toyota  
Downey Association of Realtors    Kiwanis Club of Downey Los Amigos    Soroptimist Int'l. of Downey  
Nova Storage

**\$300 Booth Sponsors**  
Calvary Chapel    Downey Rose Float Association    First Presbyterian Church of Downey  
Downey Elks Lodge #2020    Downey Viking Band Boosters    Warren Bears Band Boosters  
Downey AYSO

**\$100 Trophy Sponsors**  
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**Services Donated**  
Avenue Press    Saywell Florist    Downey Nissan  
Circle C Printing    Paramount Auto Center

**WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE PARADE!**

## Bus trip to Palm Springs show

**DOWNEY** – The Brotherhood of Temple Ner Tamid will travel to watch the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies on Feb. 13, a Broadway-type celebration of the music, dance and comedy of the 30s, 40s and 50s.

The trip is jointly sponsored by the Brotherhood, the Ezra Center for Mature Adults and the Temple Ner Tamid congregation.

A bus will leave the temple parking lot at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are \$89 per person and include transportation, show, buffet lunch at the Palm Springs Spa Casino, taxes and tip. Seats are limited.

To make a reservation, call the temple office at (562) 861-9276.

## Ezra to screen a movie

**DOWNEY** – The Ezra Center for Mature Adults will meet Dec. 15 at Temple Ner Tamid for a movie presentation.

The movie title has not been revealed, but organizers said it will be “an exciting and heart-warming” film.

The Ezra Center recently purchased a top-of-the-line movie projector to show movies.

The program begins at 10 a.m. and is followed by a kosher lunch. Cost of the lunch is \$6 for Ezra members; \$7 for non-members.

The Ezra Center for Mature Adults meets the third Tuesday of every month at Temple Ner Tamid. The community is always welcome. For information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

## Immunizations for kids

**DOWNEY** – Free immunizations for children ages 4 to 18 will be offered at Alameda Elementary on Wednesday from 3-7 p.m.

St. Francis Medical Center, in cooperation with the Downey Unified School District, will administer immunizations for chicken pox, hepatitis A and B, DTP, MMR, polio, meningococcal, HPV and tuberculosis.

No appointment is necessary. A parent or guardian must be present and children must have their official immunization card with past immunization history.

For more information, call the school at (562) 469-6589. Alameda Elementary is at 8613 Alameda St., west of Lakewood Boulevard.

## DHS band busy raising money

**DOWNEY** – The Downey High School Marching Band and Color Guard is staying busy this holiday season.

The band will host a food booth at the Holiday Lane Parade on Sunday and will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, coffee, hot chocolate, candy and more. The booth will be located in the Civic Center at the end of the parade route.

On Dec. 16, the band and color guard will present their Winter Concert at the Downey Theatre. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the box office. Donations for a raffle are currently being accepted. To help, call Lenora Perri, booster president, at (310) 283-9825, or Cory Oliariu, band director, at Downey High School.

Beginning Dec. 12, the band will have a gift-wrapping booth at Stonewood Center. The exact location hasn't been disclosed yet, but the booth will be open Dec. 12-13 during mall hours, Dec. 14-18 from 4-9 p.m., and Dec. 19-24 during mall hours.



A second grade class at Gallatin Elementary collected loose change and recyclables to raise \$312 for the TLC Family Resource Center. After reading “Fly Away Home,” the story of a homeless boy who lives in an airport, the 20 students were inspired to help the less fortunate. Luz Perez of TLC visited the classroom to accept the donation.

## Santa Claus calling kids

**DOWNEY** – Children ages 4-8 can receive a telephone call from Santa Claus through a free program by the City of Downey Community Services Department.

Parents or guardians need to fill out an information card at City Hall that includes the child's hobbies, interests, holiday wish list and more. Information cards will be available in the Community Services Department at City from Dec. 8-15.

Santa Claus will make his calls Dec. 16-17 between 6 to 7 p.m. Santa will have a brief chat with each child and “check the workshop to see what he can do.”

For more information, call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

## Library accepting food for fines

**DOWNEY** – During the month of December, patrons of the Downey City Library can clear their overdue fines while helping needy families.

The library will accept new canned and packaged staple goods as payment for fines on overdue library materials. The Downey Council PTA HELPS will distribute the goods to local families.

“Even if you don't owe library fines, we encourage everyone to bring in food items to help local families during the holidays,” said City Librarian Nancy Messineo.

The library will accept donations in place of fines until Dec. 31 at the Circulation Desk. The donated value of each item will be 50 cents.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 128.

## Student excels at Calvary

**DOWNEY** – Corrie Harb, a senior at Calvary Chapel Christian School in Downey, has been named a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program, school administrator Pastor Yuri Escandon has announced.

Escandon will present Harb with a letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for the academic promise. Commended Students, including Harb, placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

“Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation,” a National Merit spokesperson said.

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## City toy drive ends next week

**DOWNEY** – The city's 24th annual holiday toy drive ends Dec. 11.

Collection bins are located at City Hall, the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, all Downey fire stations, all Downey public schools, the library, and at many local businesses displaying a city toy collection box.

Toys must be new and unwrapped. No used toys will be accepted.

Toys will be distributed through the Downey PTA HELPS' holiday basket program, the fire department's Operation Santa, and to other local children's organizations.

For more information, call the city's Recycling Office at (562) 904-7103.



Members of the Downey Police Department delivered hot Thanksgiving dinners to more than 15 needy families in Downey over the Thanksgiving holiday last week. The Downey Police Officers' Association purchased the meals from Cafe n' Stuff in Downey. A yearly tradition, the Downey Unified School District provided police with information on needy families. Newly-appointed Police Chief Rick Esteves and Mike Pope, president of the DPOA, helped deliver the dinners with fellow officers. The police department is now searching for needy families that may need toys and gifts for Christmas. If you know of a family in need of assistance, call Cpl. Mike Pope of the Downey Police Department at (562) 861-0771, ext. 353.

## Man arrested on animal cruelty charges

**SANTA FE SPRINGS** – Animal control officers from Downey rescued a "seriously emaciated" dog last Saturday from a home in Santa Fe Springs.

Officers from SEAACA (Southeast Area Animal Control Authority) were investigating a case of animal neglect on the 9800 block of Houghton Avenue when they found the 7-year-old female boxer.

The dog appeared to have a football-sized tumor on her underbelly, officials said.

"The officer said she looked like

skin and bones and smelled like rotting flesh," said Captain Aaron Reyes, director of operations for SEAACA. "Her temperature was 108 – five degrees higher than a normal/healthy dog's temperature."

No one was at the home, so the dog was impounded and taken to an emergency veterinary clinic.

"It appears she was also dealing with a serious infection in her leg, and there were maggots present on her (rear) end," Reyes said. "She was a very sick little girl, but tried to hold her head high for the officer who res-



cued her."

Anthony Pena, 32, was arrested on felony animal cruelty charges after an interview at SEAACA's headquarters in Downey. He was transported and booked into custody at the Norwalk Sheriff's station. He

was arraigned Wednesday.

"This case rates high on the egregious scale for animal cruelty and neglect I've seen over the years," Reyes said. "I can't even imagine the agony [the dog] felt day in and day out these past few months."

## POET'S CORNER

### In My Garage

The workbench smooth and rough in spots  
And sturdy as can be  
Nuts and bolts are organized  
To the highest degree

Pages of documents are worn  
Edges bordered randomly with grease  
Important records at one time  
To a puzzle; the missing piece

Two by fours and hanging wires  
Boxes full of handy tools  
Buckets, car parts and a leaning tire  
A crooked sign with posted rules

Rafters high above my head  
Stored boxes old and new  
At one time labeled carefully  
Over the years the amount grew

And through the jars one can see  
Odd shaped screws and washers too  
A hack saw hangs against the wall  
There's cans of spray and tubes of glue

The "fix-it" place for one to go  
A handy place to be  
But best of all it's a "get-away"  
Where I can be just me!  
—Christina Anderson,  
Downey

### A Clove for Forfeiture

Indeed array of fixing on clove can do  
Directions read to mix and brew  
But I know a better way much profound and true  
A paramount to success out this gloom  
Cry and cry is this sickness fed  
I sheer but beg house of the dead  
Two pills do quote drink with water  
Plenty of it one can't barter  
Rats! I think I'm smarter  
I bought pills but have no water.  
—James Hernandez,  
Downey

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## A Vote for Change

By Eric Pierce

Some things in life are simply inexplicable. Who built the statues on Easter Island? What caused the dinosaurs to perish? How were the Egyptian pyramids constructed?

What was Anne Bayer thinking when she voted against Character Counts?

The voting record of the first district councilwoman (my council representative) has not been a topic of discussion in this newspaper before, if only because her continued refusal to vote in the best interest of the city is surmounted by the even keel of the four remaining council members.

But as the City Council prepares to elect a new mayor Tuesday, and with the City of Downey in the midst of an unprecedented surge of redevelopment that will potentially generate thousands of quality jobs (Tesla Motors, we remind you, is notorious for walking away from supposedly finished deals), never has there been a more apt time to put the voting record of Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer under a microscope for scrutiny.

Bayer voted against the allocation of federal funding to the TLC Family Resource Center, a program of the Downey Unified School District that provides reading glasses, food, counseling and more to needy Downey children (May 12, 2009). She inaccurately stated that the program is partially funded by Planned Parenthood. Funding was still approved on a **4-1 vote**.

Bayer voted against the city's \$148 million budget, which managed to avoid employee layoffs and furloughs during a national economic meltdown with minimal to no disruption of city services. (June 23, 2009) The budget passed **4-1**.

Bayer voted against a 4 percent pay raise for five city secretarial positions (Dec. 16, 2008) only to propose, just three months later, a retroactive raise for 36 top management officials (March 10). The secretaries received their raises on a **4-1 vote**.

Bayer voted against a cost-of-living increase for the city's finance director (July 28, 2009), who was taking on new duties with the impending retirement of an assistant city manager. Another **4-1 vote**.

Bayer voted against a resolution that would facilitate development in downtown Downey. (June 9, 2009) She said the process was "moving too fast." It was a **4-1 vote**.

Bayer voted against proclaiming Dec. 17 as "A Day Without a Bag Day," a seemingly mundane staff request which would authorize the Green Task Force to distribute 1,000 reusable grocery bags to Downey elementary schools. (Oct. 27, 2009) Grocery bags would mostly be donated by local grocery stores, according to task force members. The motion passed **4-1**.

She voted against offering economic incentives to Porto's Bakery. (Dec. 9, 2008) Her refusal to support the city's decision to spend \$750,000 to bring Porto's Bakery downtown can be understood and respected, but it reveals her motive operandi when it comes to attracting quality businesses to Downey: say nothing, do nothing.

Luckily for Downey, the deal was still approved **4-1**. (Her dissenting vote, however, did not stop her from attending the Porto's Bakery groundbreaking ceremony.)

Speaking of attendance, Bayer did not attend this year's Veteran's Day ceremony, where the city unveiled 20 street banners honoring our local servicemen and women, and she did not attend the pivotal and historical special meeting last week where the City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with Tesla Motors.

Meanwhile, an explanation for Bayer's absence or voting record cannot be had because she chooses not to return e-mails or phone calls left at her council office.

Bayer can hold her head high knowing she positively impacts the lives of hundreds of troubled young women through her work at the LivingHelp Center. But in regards to city government, her voting record shows she is woefully misinformed and utterly out of touch with the needs and wants of her constituency.

On Tuesday night, my hope is that Ms. Bayer will respectfully eliminate herself from consideration for the position of Mayor.

If that does not happen, I only hope the rest of the Council has the fortitude to do what is right and vote for whomever they honestly think will be the best person for the job.

## Christmas parade outcry

Alliance Defense Fund attorneys sent a letter Monday to the mayor and officials of the city of Merced urging them to change the name of the town's newly dubbed holiday parade back to the Christmas parade.

City officials replaced "Christmas" with "holiday" in the name of the town's public parade, but ADF attorneys have assured them that, if the change was motivated by fear of lawsuits, keeping the former name is a decision that is constitutionally protected.

"It's ridiculous that the people of Merced have to think twice about whether it's OK to have a 'Christmas' parade. An overwhelming majority of Americans celebrate Christmas and are opposed to any kind of censorship of Christmas," said ADF Senior Counsel Nate Kellum. "City officials shouldn't self-censor the perfectly constitutional name of their town's Christmas parade because of unfounded beliefs spread by groups hostile to our nation's traditions."

The city of Merced has held the annual Christmas parade since 1995, but this year, on Dec. 5, the new "Downtown Holiday Parade" is scheduled to take its place. ADF attorneys contacted city officials through a letter encouraging them to uphold their town's traditions and retain the name of the Christmas parade in full confidence that such a decision would be constitutionally protected.

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Right choice for sister city?

Dear Editor:

I read in our very useful newspaper *The Downey Patriot* that we have a new sister city, Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico, which is about 2,500 miles away. I could not quench these thoughts.

Why aren't Downey's neighboring cities sister cities? We contribute to each other's safety and mutual prosperity.

An important example is the change of Clark Avenue to Columbia Way that was decided unilaterally by Downey. I imagine if our city officials met with their colleagues in Bellflower, Lakewood and Long Beach, they might have passed a motion for them to also change the name.

This would have made it easier and faster to get the maps, navigations, 911 and other important systems to implement the name change to Columbia Way. This also would have decreased the inconvenience imposed on the businesses and residences located on Clark Avenue.

I would like to visit the historical city of Fresnillo, Zacatecas but what do we in Downey have in common with them that would positively and mutually benefit each other? I hope we did not influence the coming election in Zacatecas state, which is neither in their democratic interest nor in our interest.

— **Dr. Shahira A-Malek, Downey**

### Bayer is wrong for mayor

Dear Editor:

Despite the challenging economic times and Sacramento's willingness to raid school district funds, our city and school district continue to prioritize our children's future. With Councilwoman Anne Bayer expected to be mayor next year, I'm concerned my child's education will suffer because of her animosity towards the school district.

It's bad enough she opposes Character Counts and the great things True Lasting Connection does for our community, but her inability to collaborate with our school district alarms me. How can the city and school district continue to shape the leaders of tomorrow when Bayer is unwilling or unable to return phone calls or e-mails, and continuously shows animosity toward children and school programs?

What makes Downey great is the team effort our city and school district have demonstrated over the years.

Just like in 1999 when residents overwhelmingly rejected her Downey School Board candidacy, we have choices. Her disturbing positions toward children and our school district make her the wrong choice for mayor.

— **Jeanine Franks, Downey**

Dear Editor:

While surrounding cities have high unemployment rates, Downey has implemented a successful economic development plan without compromising our future's youth. This phenomenon is not by accident. We have elected leaders that have the fortitude, vision and a proactive approach to make things happen, leaders that cast their votes in the best interest of the city and not on some egotistical bias and dissent.

We are at a pivotal point in Downey's history, and now is not the time for Councilwoman Anne Bayer's poor judgment to play a role in Downey's mayoral transition.

While tradition has a place in the history of our city, tradition should not be the deciding factor, especially during these economic times in choosing our next mayor. We must choose the person that will continue our momentum and be able to work with the council in carrying forth this agenda. I do not believe councilmember Bayer is that person.

Bayer, unfortunately, carries an egotistical bias that has clouded her judgment when casting votes. Bayer has routinely cast votes without having Downey's best interest in mind, as evidenced by numerous 4-1 votes where she is the only dissenting vote. Her votes to me evidence a "them" vs. her mentality.

Although the presence of Porto's Bakery is an important step in revitalizing our downtown area, Bayer was the only councilmember to vote against it.

Likewise, Bayer was against updating the city's website, even though the update would serve as a marketing tool to promote our great city to potential financial investors.

Her clouded ability to vote in favor of what is in the best interests of our city rather than to simply vote "against" the other Council members is further evidenced by her sole dissenting vote against our Character Counts program, school policing, and school recycle education program. Even more appalling is her vote against the DUSD sponsored program, True Lasting Connection, which provides basic school supplies to under-privileged children in our City. In fact, she said on the record "those kids do not pay taxes." Which kids in our city pay taxes? Who are "those kids" that she is referring to?

Bayer's track record is clear, she's against economic development in our community, against youth programs in our school district, against strengthening our public safety, and against technological advancement.

— **M. Mairena, Downey**

### Appreciates the help

Dear Editor:

Calvary Chapel Christian School, partnering alongside Calvary Chapel of Downey, recently assembled 120 Thanksgiving dinner bags. Each recipient family received a turkey along with all the fixings to share with their family and friends for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Calvary Chapel would like to thank the many parents, students and members of the church body who donated food for the gifted dinners.

— **Sharon Armstrong, Calvary Chapel Christian School**

### Thanksgiving dinner a success

Dear Editor:

Senior Pastor Garnett Simpson Grier of Breath of God Christian Fellowship Church and the Aggressive Community and Training Services Foundation hosted their 19th annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 21 and delivered food baskets to the Downey Unified high schools and middle school on Nov. 23.

We would like to thank all of the Downey residents, including Miss Downey and her Court, for volunteering in support of this project.

Pastor Grier would like to acknowledge the following businesses that supported the projects: Embassy Suites, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, BJ's Brewery, Pieloon, Mimi's Café, Hometown Buffet, Norm's, Olive Garden, Pina Pizza, Vons, Stater Bros., Ralph's and many others.

Your donations and support allowed them to feed more than 400 people during the Thanksgiving holiday.

— **Breath of God Christian Church, Downey**



### Advancing ignorance

Dear Editor:

Congratulations, Mr. Cristea. Your horrific, Frankenstein-like views of science, replete with Hollywood images of dogs birthing elephants and whales growing on cornstalks, have advanced ignorance another 2,000 years. ("Philosophies of Evolution," 11/27/09)

Let me first say, Mr. Cristea, that as a Jew, a man of faith, I believe in the Torah, especially in the book that you call Leviticus in which we have been given the supreme mitzvah (commandment) to love our fellow man because there is a Creator who loves us, His creation.

Let us look, rationally, at this creation. As an educator, and as an educated man, who has discovered, observed, studied, experienced, analyzed and learned about this creation for a lifetime, it has become clear to me that we humans, as a part of Creation, are endowed with the unique intellectual capacity to study and to deduce what there is to know about Creation. We call this process science. It is equally clear to me that we are also endowed with an ability to believe in a faith that assists us in comprehending many parts of Creation that our limited ability in science cannot explain, such as the existence of the human soul, and other inexplicable phenomena we call miracles, for lack of a better term.

Somewhere, along the line of Creation, Mr. Cristea, you and others of your narrow minded, fundamentalist ilk, have succeeded in separating reason from faith and the Creator from science. The greatest scientific mind of the last century, Albert Einstein, believed that all science led to an understanding of the presence of the Divine in the universe. In the 10th Century in Spain the Jewish scientist, philosopher, physician and scholar, Rambam (you may know him as Maimonides) when asked how the Earth could have been created in six days, responded, "How long is a day in the eyes of the Creator?" Clearly both these scientists and men of faith, were at home with the idea of a Creator working in a rational, scientific way to bring about the miracle of Creation and human life.

When we separate reason from faith, science from religion, we create the ignorance of religious extremism and the emptiness of science without ethics. Four hundred years after Rambam's writings, the ignorance of the Spanish Inquisition caused the eradication of the Jewish and Muslim peoples from the Iberian Peninsula so that pure and Catholic kingdoms could be created in Spain and Portugal. Within our own lifetime, the denial of religion produced the horrors of Mengele's laboratory experiments at Auschwitz. You see, Mr. Cristea, when we separate religion from reason, science from faith, we journey into the existentialist desert of despair that is Sinai.

— **Michael Parmer, Downey**

### Communion tiff

Dear Editor:

Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-Rhode Island) should be commended for not agreeing with the new abortion rules in the health bill.

A Catholic by religion, he was denied communion in the church. The church has no authority to interfere in matters of church and state.

Perhaps Kennedy should run for his late father's Senate seat in Massachusetts. We need more people like him.

— **Florence Peterson, Downey**

### Venti latte, hold the attitude

Dear Editor:

I am new to Downey and a confessed Starbucks addict. I live within walking distance of the Firestone and Lakewood location and within close driving distance to the drive-thru location on Lakewood and Telegraph.

I would first like to address the Telegraph location because I often bypass it because it's out of the way during my morning commute. This location is by far the hardest business to get into going northbound on Lakewood; I like to call it a death trap. Anytime that I do manage to get in the drive thru, which has been a total of four times since I have moved here, EVERY single time the employees have messed up my order. This, as you can imagine, is very frustrating since as we all know it's not exactly cheap to love this coffee.

Knowing that, my other option is Firestone and Lakewood. The parking there is a challenge with the bank taking up 75% of the parking. After that dilemma, upon entering the store I have not once received a hello, a good morning, a how are you, and I would like to point out that I myself am a very bubbly person and I always greet people out of common decency and not obligation.

On numerous occasions at this location my drink has been bypassed for a "regular." If I am there first is it not common sense that my drink should reach the pick-up podium first? On my most recent visit my venti consisted of 1/2 foam and 1/2 coffee and my sleeve was tossed at me. Had I wanted a half-coffee I would have ordered a tall; it is ridiculous that I pay \$5 and the barista won't even bother filling my cup to the rim!

So with rude service and poor barista training my only other nearby option is the location at the Downey Landing and that, as we all know, is not an easy feat when we are rushing in the morning.

So I now find myself ordering my venti lattes in Long Beach. So much for Dining in Downey.

— **Micaela Fresquez, Downey**

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or by e-mail to [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com). Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

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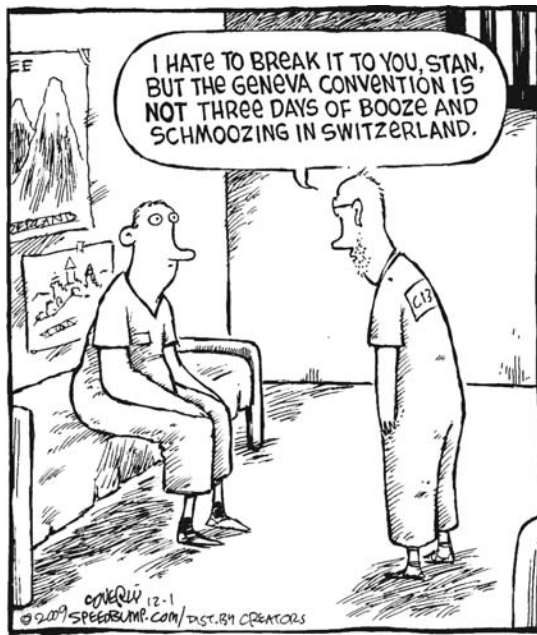
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For December

- Sun. Dec. 6: **Christmas boutique**, St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 9 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 6: **Downey Holiday Lane Parade**, Downtown Downey, 1:30 p.m.
- Mon. Dec. 7: **Advent/Christmas concert**, Downey Moravian Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Tues. Dec. 8: **Mayoral transition**, City Hall, 6 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 9: **Free immunizations for children ages 4 to 18**, Alameda Elementary, 3 p.m.
- Thurs. Dec. 10: **Open house and ribbon cutting ceremony**, Physicians' Surgery Center, 3 p.m.

### City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Library Advisory Board**, at Downey City Library.
- 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.: **Water Board**, at City Hall.
- 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1.

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

- 8:00 a.m.: **Job Club**, at The First Presbyterian Church, for info. call 861-6752.
- 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 p.m.: **Downey Sister City Assoc.**, at Maude Price School, for information call 884-9657.
- 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 Barbara J Riley Center, call 943-5513.
- 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.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
- 4th Thurs., 10 a.m.: **Assistance League**, at Casa De Parley Johnson. for information call 869-0232.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.

#### 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.
- 2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

## On This Day...

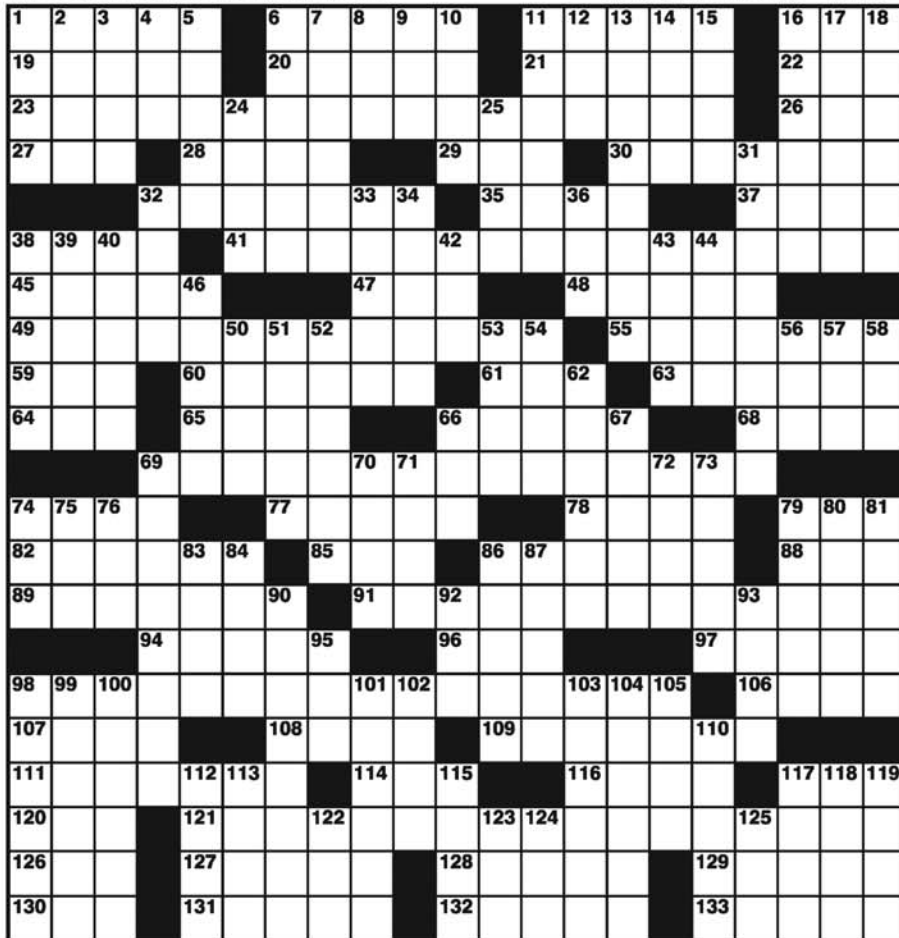
- Dec. 4, 1816:** James Monroe is elected as the fifth president of the United States. Monroe would work to acquire Florida three years later.
- 1942:** U.S. bombers begin strikes on the Italian mainland during World War II.
- 1993:** Rock musician Frank Zappa dies of cancer. He was 52.
- 1997:** NBA player Latrell Sprewell is suspended for one year after choking and threatening to kill his coach.
- Birthdays:** Actor Jeff Bridges (60), former basketball player Bernard King (53), rapper Jay-Z (40) and TV host Tyra Banks (36).

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**WHAT, NO DOT?: a.k.a. "Open for Business"**  
 by David W. Cromer

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- 115 Rapper Snoop \_\_\_
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- 118 Part of MIT
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- 122 Smidgen
- 123 Just out
- 124 Compass reading
- 125 Author Grafton

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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.

A BAY LEAF (89 Across) may come from a bay laurel or a California bay tree. SYD (130 Across) was the platypus mascot of the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. The reference at 16 Down is to MARTIN Van Buren, who preceded William Henry Harrison as U.S. president.





## Café Desha Showcases Student Talent at Warren

By: Deborah Won, Intern

Flashing lights, a spotlight and stage, a club-like atmosphere, and amazing live performances from talented Warren students continues to attract large crowds to Café Desha every Friday during lunchtime.

Created by the choir director Robert Peterson and piano accompanist Desha Dunnahoe, Café Desha allows students with musical abilities to express their talent, while also providing a chic place for students to hang out during lunch.

"We're so used to listening to music on our iPods or in the car, but hearing raw, live music intensifies the experience tenfold," said junior Ivo Rubio, an active performer and attendee. "That's what Café Desha does, and that's why I look forward to it every time."

A complete success, Café Desha, an outlet for students to freely perform contemporary music and show off their astounding musical capabilities, has drawn in numerous singers, bands, and performers. In addition, with all the tables and chairs set up around the stage, the café also provides an area for students to enjoy their lunch while watching fellow classmates perform.

"I was at first looking for a way to recruit kids into choir, and I'm still trying to find talented kids, it's



a talent search," said Peterson. "There's so much we haven't even tapped into, singers, songwriters, dancers. [Café Desha] provides a cool place and a safe place to perform."

Peterson had noticed that he

had very talented singers in his choir class, and wanted to give them a chance to showcase their aptitude and skill. Thus, Café Desha emerged in 2004, and was named so when students were brainstorming names and called

out the piano accompanist's name. Since then, this fresh idea has transformed into a popular weekly event, and attracts crowds of at least 100 students per lunch. Every Friday, the choir room is transformed into a club for students to relax and enjoy the musical acts prepared by the student talent.

"I think it's going great, and it's continuing to grow in popularity, and the talent is getting better and better," said Peterson.

Any student that wishes to perform at one of the lunchtime sessions is allowed to. All they need to do is approach Peterson or Desha, audition, and all else will be taken care of. Everything is provided for a successful performance, including all the instruments, rehearsals, location, and an enthusiastic audience.

"If you want to perform, come tell me what you want to do, and they sort of do an audition for me," said Desha. "And if they're ready they can perform. It doesn't have to be polished and perfect, but they can just let me know."

Desha runs rehearsals for each performing individual or group either at lunch or afterschool, as she guides them in preparation for their acts. Since Desha is able to play all musical instruments, she is quite adept to helping students with their performances, and assists them in onstage performance skills and all other musical aspects.

Although already a large event on campus, Peterson and Desha are still looking to incorporate as many students as possible to participate in Café Desha. They strongly advocate all students to stop by room E-3 during Friday lunches, or to check out their website at [myspace.com/cafedesha](http://myspace.com/cafedesha).

## 2009 Food Drive a Success

By: Joanna Quintana, Intern

Battling a recession and student's procrastination, Downey High School's annual food drive fell short of its goal by 4,000 cans, still managing to result, however, in the donation of nearly 11,000 cans to needy families within the community.

"We didn't exactly reach our goal," said ASB Commissioner of Campus and Community Yaheli Aguilera. "It's kind of disappointing, but we are in a recession and maybe that had something to do with it. It doesn't really matter that we didn't reach our goal, though, because we still got in a lot of foods and it helps."

Striving to help the less fortunate families of their community, Downey High's ASB expected to reach their goal of 15,000 cans within a week. However, they quickly extended the food drive for an extra week when the grand total reached nowhere near the numbers from previous food drives. The outcome was a nearly doubled amount of cans within the first day of the extended second week, drastically raising numbers to a total of nearly 11,000 cans. The difference lay in the students.

"Kids wait until the very last minute," said Commissioner of Pep, Spirit, and Assembly Liz Bernstein. "They love to procrastinate and when they have that extra time, they're just running to turn stuff in—just like with homework."

Though teenagers today are indeed the prototypes of procrastination, it seems that there was an added push to the mix—the teachers. When notified to help encourage their students to actively participate in the food drive, Downey

teachers rose to the occasion, giving extra credit with each can and inspiring speeches to their classes. One teacher that stood out among others, and has continued to stand out in previous food drives, was Rodney Bremer, whose advanced placement Calculus class alone brought in around 4,000 cans this year. His method lay in piquing the logic and emotion of his students.

"I think it's important to help out people who are less fortunate than we are," said Bremer. "I try to convey that to my students and we don't raise all the food that we raise for a pizza party or anything like that—we do it for good, for helping others. I think I have just been able to inspire my students to really step up, maybe more so than other teachers and students have. I just really try to push reason behind it and the importance of helping others on my students and I'm very fortunate that I have really good students who I can connect with—they have a lot of compassion for others, as well."

Downey students and teachers express gratitude that they played a part in helping their community rather than dwell on disappointments. Ultimately, the food drive was a success.

## Downey High faculty helps during the holidays

By: Gabriela Coya, Intern

During the holiday season, the Downey High School faculty warmly helps members of the community struggling through difficult times.

This Thanksgiving, Downey High School Assistant Principal John Baker, in partnership with the Aggressive Community Training and Services Foundation, donated baskets filled with Thanksgiving food to five families in need. This project began five years ago with the help of Shirley Baldwin, the project coordinator of A.C.T.S. and parent of a former Downey student. While A.C.T.S. would provide the food for the families, Baker would find families to donate it to.

"I would identify the families through the counselors and teachers by putting out an email to the staff," said Baker. "I would then interview the students to see if they

were eligible."

To be eligible, families had to be of low-income with more than three children or currently homeless.

For the Christmas season, the teachers at Downey High School have also strived to make the Christmas Day of several families one to enjoy and always remember. In the past five years, family and consumer science teacher Myra Skidmore has not only donated items herself, but also encouraged the rest of the faculty to donate as much as possible. So far, her efforts have been very successful.

"We get lots of food, money, clothing, and toy donations from the teachers," said Skidmore. "We have collected as much as \$2,000 and divided it among the adopted families."

After collecting the items,

Baker and Skidmore even deliver the items themselves to the families'.

Baker also helps English teachers Tina Carlson and Josette Bean find a struggling family to help during the Christmas season. Carlson and Bean decided to personally sponsor a family instead of giving each other gifts.

"Because we are best friends, we used to spend exorbitant amounts of money on each other," said Bean. "Now, we ask the family for a 'wish list' and go Christmas shopping for them."

Whether at small or large levels, members of the school's faculty go far beyond just helping students in the classroom; they reach out to help their families and the Downey community.

## Warren Band Marches in Hollywood Parade

By: Deborah Won, Intern

Internationally televised, the Warren High School Band and Color Guard marched in the world-famous Hollywood Christmas Parade on Sunday down Hollywood Boulevard.

A colossal event, the Warren band was ecstatic to be one of only 16 bands that were selected to march in this parade, many of which traveled from all over the country to be part of this exciting procession. The Hollywood Christmas Parade will be aired on Dec. 10 and 24 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on MyNetwork Channel 13.

"I've been watching this parade ever since I can remember, and now I'm going to actually be in it," said drum line member Fabian Chavez. "I'm going to TiVo this for sure."

Several band members like Chavez all displayed similar enthusiastic reactions when mentioning their performance in the parade.

"That's such a great opportunity, and they really deserve it," said junior Kaitlyn Zamora. "I'm really excited for them."

The student body also recognized this to be a great event and occasion, and adamantly supported

the band in their efforts and accomplishments.

"I think the parade is going to be a great experience for the students and the families," said band director David Niemeyer during the week of preparation for the parade. "I think it's going to be a great opportunity for Warren High School and the Downey community to be nationally and internationally recognized for what we have here. We have a lot of great things going on here, all of our sports teams are doing great, our academics are doing great, and band's doing great. It just gives a chance to open up that avenue of visibility."

Although Warren's band has marched in several parades beforehand, this was the first time in Warren history to ever have marched in the Hollywood Christmas Parade. Normally, in order to march in this famous parade, there is a selection process and each band must submit an application and fee. However, Niemeyer received a call several months ago from a Warren graduate that runs the company Pageantry Productions, and was

asked if the Warren band was interested in participating in the Hollywood Christmas Parade. Niemeyer promptly accepted the invitation, recognizing it is an astounding honor to be invited to march when several other bands are still waiting in the selection process.

"I think it's going to be something that the kids and their families can say 'you know I was part of that tradition' because it's such a huge parade that's so well known throughout the world, and it's broadcast in other countries as well," said Niemeyer. "So, I think that's the first and most important part of doing such an event like this."

Truly a tradition, the Hollywood Christmas Parade has been running for over 80 years, and Warren High School was thrilled to be a part of that tradition this year. Throughout the parade, the band played several songs, including "Christmas Promenade," a traditional march song "Storm King," and for a fun atmosphere included "Lowrider."

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## Boys basketball preview

# Scoring a concern for Downey High

■ Vikings lost top three scorers from last season.

BY SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Looking at the Vikings' boys' basketball season schedule could make the toughest athlete's blood run cold. For quite some time now, the San Gabriel Valley League has been one of the top divisions in high school basketball in Southern California, and this year won't be any different.

Are the playoffs the goal realistically for Downey considering they are losing their top three scorers in Matt Black, Matt Taylor, and Alex Mediola? Those three combined averaged 34 points per game for the Vikings.

Concerns of where the scoring comes from will surface once they start in on their SGVL games. But as always, non-conference games do count toward getting into the playoffs and for the past few years, that's where Downey has been doing their catch-up work.

Downey will first start their schedule in the Loara Tournament, an event that they have historically done well in. The first few games started on Monday. Teams in this tournament are going to be more of the down-to-earth variety, meaning Downey won't see a team of Dominguez or Gahr quality until the last couple games if they manage to advance that far.

Then succeeding that, they'll face off against Norwalk at home, then Don Lugo on the road, then again back on the road again in the North Orange County Tournament, another tournament that the Vikings have had good showings at.

It is absolutely crucial for the Vikings to have good tournaments at the Loara and North Orange

County events because it's not looking too great for them in SGVL play.

Once getting into league play, they'll have to scrape and claw for victories against Lynwood, Warren and Paramount. Gahr and Dominguez have become the elite of the elite in the league and realistically should be seen as a learning experience for the Vikings if they qualify for the playoffs.

Last year, they managed to sneak into the playoffs after finishing in fourth place in league. They took on Martin Luther King Jr. High School and was run out of the gym even though in the first half they managed to keep within striking distance.

But the ability to continue their aggressiveness came from experiences like playing against Gahr and Dominguez. It could have also come from playing in the KSA Holiday Tournament that was held in Florida last year, the first time a Downey athletics team traveled to another state to participate in an event.

They'll need that tenacity again if they plan on getting back into the playoffs this year.

The main question concerns this team's ability to score points. After Black, Taylor, and Mediola, Downey's next leading scorer was Tyler Ellis who averaged only 6.4 points per game. Ellis was primarily Downey's 3-point threat with Taylor and Black cleaning up everything in the paint. Ellis was also named a captain for this year's team.

Josh Carreto was also named a captain of this year's team, being another experienced player. But Carreto last year averaged under a point a game and only scored four points all season.

In league play, it will be crucial for the Vikings to play well against Lynwood, Paramount, and most importantly, Warren. If they can hold their own against these three teams, it won't matter how

they perform against Gahr and Dominguez.

If they perform well in the tournaments and non-conference games, they'll just need a small

push from their SGVL schedule and they'll again sneak into the playoffs just like they did the last two years.

## Warren focuses on new philosophy

■ Team will adjust to a new head coach.

BY JOSEPH APODACA,  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** – With a new head coach after their former one was fired, Warren's boys' basketball team looks to storm into the season with a new focus and philosophy.

Coming off two extremely lackluster seasons under the direction of former head coach Brent Willis, the Bears are ready to prove themselves all over again.

The Bears' game suffered under Willis' coaching, winning only one out of 18 league games in two years. They lost every single league game last season and were virtually dismissed as a credible basketball team. Now, with their new head coach Ryan Hart, the Bears are ready to show everyone who counted them out that they have what it takes to play the game.

Willis was notorious for using players with less experience as varsity starters, whereas most coaches play their most seasoned veterans on a starting lineup. With that said, the Bears' offense and defensive strategies are in for a major revamp in this new season.

Moving the ball down the court effectively and making smart passes will benefit the Bears as they progress throughout the season. Drives to the basket when their

opponent's defense is down will put the Bears ahead. Double teams on offense will also be key contributions to ensuring the Bears' success in the game.

Better tactics as far as defense is something the Bears will need to work on if they want to keep their opposing team from defeating them. Guarding more effectively and communicating on defense will help the Bears gain control of the game and put themselves back into offense.

Keeping track of the shot clock will also help the Bears maintain efficiency in the game. Making smart plays based on the amount of time the clock allots them will help the Bears in their ball handling skills and better their chance of a shot at the net.

Now that the Warren Bears are out of the woods and have a new season ahead of them to look forward to, we can only wait and see what they have to bring to the court. With a new head coach and a new outlook on the game, now is their chance to show those who counted them out that they have what it takes to make it this season.

## College issues scholarships

**NORWALK** -- The Cerritos College Foundation awarded three automotive scholarships to six promising students during its Board meeting on Nov. 19.

The Jeannie M.T. Yang Scholarship, a \$500 award, was presented to Hector Arellano-Garcia, Jr. of North Hollywood and Luis Bautista of Hawaiian Gardens. Established in memory of Dr. Jeannie M.T. Yang, a community college professor.

Arellano-Garcia knows exactly what he wants to accomplish and is determined to work toward his goals. He plans to obtain an associate degree in automotive technology and transfer to Northwood University to pursue a bachelor's in automotive marketing and management.

For Bautista, who recently discovered his fondness for cars, the first automotive class he is taking this semester has been an amazing introduction to the field.

Another Automotive scholarship, the SMCDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, was presented to Alexis Rumbo of South Gate, Juan Arreola of North Hollywood, and Danny Quazada of Paramount.

Rumbo originally enrolled at Cerritos College as a computer science major. One automotive class he took when he had car troubles changed it all.

For Arreola, cars have always been his passion as long as he can remember. He plans to complete his automotive degree at the college and transfer to Northwood University and earn a bachelor's in automotive management.

Quazada used to watch his father work on the cars and help him as a child. He would fix any cars, be it his friends' or his family's, to get more experience. He plans on transferring to a four-year university and become a master technician.

## Girls basketball preview

# Depth will help Downey girls

■ Team chemistry a strength this year.

BY ALYSSA WYNN,  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** – The varsity girls' basketball team at Downey is expecting a successful season with a good mix of returning players and new players as well.

The preseason began this week on Monday night with a tournament that lasted until Thursday. Downey held its 32nd Annual Downey Varsity Classic tournament in their very own gym. Non-conference games, while not important to league standings, will help the lady Vikings' case come playoff seeding time, assuming they find themselves in the field.

"I treat [these games] just as I would any other game," said head coach Nathan Harris. "Ultimately, we're trying to get better and better so we can finish in the top three in our league, which is really tough."

The San Gabriel Valley League will again challenge the Vikings' basketball program as it is known as one of the best in the area. One of the teams in the league, Lynwood, is known to be a power house in the division, being highly ranked in Southern California. Cross-town rival Warren High School is also very good but not something that the Vikings are incapable of handling. Just last year, the ladies tied for third in their league and Harris doesn't

doubt they will be able to accomplish the same this season. He also believes that the team will be better this year than last year, though he has two big players that are out with injuries.

Senior Patsy Pan has a broken collarbone, which she sustained from a girl falling on her during a cheer stunt. It is unknown whether or not she will need surgery. The other player out is one of Downey's best players Rayna Villalpondo. She recently learned that she has a torn meniscus in her knee. The current sophomore was a freshman on varsity last year and is expected to return about halfway through the season.

Unlike their injured teammates who may be out for most of the season, there are two ladies that Harris is especially confident about for this season. Seniors Katie Marifian and Debra Lovell were both all-league selections last year. Marifian after her final season at Downey will definitely be playing college ball. As of now, she is unsure where she wants to go. There are several coaches that have an interest in her, including Cerritos Community College who is really eager to have her on his team. Lovell has enough talent and potential to go on and continue playing basketball but her main focus is softball.

"One thing I really like about our team is the depth," said Harris. "I could play them, 1-12, and have them all play; none of them would actually sit out on the bench."

## Girls soccer preview

# Rebuilding Downey thinks positive

■ Team lost nine seniors from last year's squad.

BY ALYSSA WYNN,  
SPORTS INTERN

**DOWNEY** – The lady Vikings who devote time and effort into the soccer program at Downey High School have a lot to live up to this season, but varsity head coach Rachel Godfrey knows the girls are capable.

"I feel pretty confident in the teams' abilities," said Godfrey. "We have eight or nine seniors missing because they graduated last year. Some might call this a rebuilding year because we're starting this season with the smallest amount of returning players. It makes me uneasy and a little apprehensive. I'm not as 100 percent as I normally am [about the season]. Generally, we're going to be the team that everybody wants to beat."

Downey has placed first in their league for about a decade and last season they went on to compete in CIF where they were runner ups in the playoffs. About eight or nine girls that helped build that winning team have now graduated and are long gone from their high school soccer program.

There are only three players that have consecutively been in varsity for four years now, Briana Bobadilla, Crystal Fresquez and Cynthia Martinez.

Also a returning player is sen-

ior Vanessa Calvillo and she is completing her third year on the varsity team at Downey. Many of the players were brought up from the junior varsity team and there are currently two freshmen that are playing with varsity, Krista Velasco and Andrianna Salazar.

Both Velasco and Salazar have competed in club soccer in the past and thus, were able to attain the knowledge and ability that is necessary to make one qualified for varsity. Usually, club allows the girls to have higher skill, maturity and desire to play, said Godfrey.

Velasco has just finished her season in cross-country and also has a good touch on the ball, which her coach is very confident about. Salazar has been recruited as a back-up goalkeeper.

Lorena Ruiz, who is a junior, is filling in some big shoes for the goalie position on the varsity team. This year will be her first year playing on varsity and she is the usual goalkeeper during the games. Last year, she was the star goalie of the junior varsity team and hopefully her talent will transfer into the varsity team.

Godfrey, who is a soccer veteran herself, coaches the girls from experience she had when she played in high school. She knows that communication, ball control, and shooting are key to make sure the girls are able to complete a goal and win. With endless drills and running the girls are fully prepared for this season.

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SCOTT COBOS

## Warren out of CIF playoffs

■ Warren gives up 21 points in first quarter.

BY SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

## Turkey Day football

After Friday's game last week, a day after Thanksgiving, Warren head coach Chris Benadom was peppered with questions, mainly pertaining to the reason why his team, a team with the best running back in the state and a team that was averaging over 40 points a game during the season, slipped in the second round of the CIF playoffs again.

There really wasn't an exact answer that came out of his mouth. The words "I don't know" floated out a few times and a couple jokes to help ease the frustration of such a devastating loss were uttered.

The real funny joke that was dropped included turkey. Benadom quipped maybe it was the turkey that slowed down his defense and kept his offense dormant until the middle part of the third quarter.

Hilarious, right? Not quite as comical as the notion of a playoff game being played on the day after Thanksgiving, one of the nations' biggest holidays. How is it that CIF could expect a balanced game to be played while kids are stuffed full of turkey or are just stepping off the airplane just hours before the game?

It truly is a riot. It truly is unfair.

Yes, both teams are cursed with the fact that they have to come back and play the day after Thanksgiving, but how is it that CIF could account for all of the players on both teams to be back in order to play a game?

It is unreasonable for CIF to expect all players to be back immediately after a holiday to play in what is up to that point the biggest game of the season.

How could it be fair for CIF to make sure that each player knows that they have to leave their families or completely cancel any family plans what so ever to make sure that they're at the game on time the following day?

For some, Thanksgiving is the only holiday during the year where families do get together and visit and catch up on the happenings that surround those who they care about most.

It's easy to sit back and ask them to choose the team over the family, but until you're actually put in that position, you don't understand how hard it is for them. Putting high school players and families in that position is cold hearted.

On top of the family undertones that present themselves before the game itself is played, most teams don't practice on Thanksgiving day.

Sometimes for teams to be prepared, they need that one last walkthrough on Thursday night to make sure that every loose end is tightened up, that every injury is taken care of, that every assignment is locked in, and that every inch has been walked.

The success of a football team does not only lay in the hands of the players on that night. It is also rooted in the week's preparation,

yard run in the Bears' next possession. But that would be that for Warren's drive as the next three snaps moved the Bears no where, again having to punt.

Aleman finished up their torrid first quarter with an eight-play drive that saw Marable dive up and over a pile at the line of scrimmage at the goal line for a 1-yard touchdown.

Warren did shape up defensively after the first quarter and Alemany didn't get into the end zone again until the opening minutes of the third quarter. But by then it was too late. The Bears' offense stalled completely and was only able to scratch on the scoreboard with a 14-yard pass from Callier to receiver Bailey Cowins in the third quarter.

"We didn't come out to play," said Callier, the state's leading rusher who ran for a season-low 147 yards and was kept out of the end zone for the first time this season. "We didn't come out ready. We didn't expect that to happen."

The Bears' offense turned the ball over five times, never got Callier going, and quarterback Sam Bettencourt only had 10 passing attempts, being picked off once. The seven points is also a season-low for the Bears who had high hopes of advancing to the third round for the first time in years. Instead, they got a chest full of heartache.

"A lot," Callier said about how much it hurts to not get into the third round. "It hurts a lot. We didn't expect this."

Warren finishes their season 10-2 overall, 5-0 in league repeating as the San Gabriel Valley League champions, and Callier also broke the 3,000-yard mark as promised earlier this season reaching 3,021.

## Girls water polo preview Adjusting to a new coach

■ USC grad Mark Jones takes the helm.

BY SCOTT COBOS,  
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – With a brand new coach and plenty of new team members, the Downey girls' water polo team is ready to embark on their next exciting season.

After three years under the direction of Stanford alumnus Dani Bell, the Vikings hired a new head coach in USC-graduate Mark Jones. Though Bell led the team successfully for three years, senior Dominique Diaz feels Jones is just what the team needs to shake things up.

"He has his own style and likes to run plays rather than just play, which can throw the other team off," said Diaz.

Now that the boys have ended their season, the girls are ready to prove that they can play just as hard, if not harder, at the physically-demanding game. The girls are ready to bring a strong offense, with the addition of a new member they couldn't be more excited about.

"I'm excited about the new player, Meghan Nevarez. She is going to be a huge asset to our team," said Diaz.

While as of late, the team has been fused with relatively young members and newcomers to the game of water polo, this season hosts multiple experienced seniors

such as Diaz, Sarah Aguayo, and Brenda Rosero among others. Downey girls' water polo program has had a legacy for taking home two consecutive CIF titles in 2004 and 2005, and the girls hope to give it their all and enter into the playoffs by season's end.

"Were looking forward to the Downey versus Warren game and CIF this year," said Diaz.

Much like that of their fellow male Vikings, the girls will be challenged by schools like Cerritos and Warren. However, their determination to defeat their biggest rivals is their driving force behind their entire season. Working on perfecting their offensive game and strategizing a strong defense is what will bring the girls to success.

The girls have been known to be close both on and off the pool deck, something they plan to work on this year with their new members.

"Our biggest strength is that we have a lot of talent, but working together and building chemistry is something that will progress throughout the season," said Diaz.

The Downey girls' water polo team is without a doubt ready to start their season. After training extensively throughout the summer and during the first couple of months of the school year, the girls are ready to show what they have to offer in the pool. In addition, several girls participate in club water polo, where they get to participate in more games and learn things that they might not from their school coach.

## Chorus needs new members

NORWALK – Southland Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, is searching for female singers in the Downey/Norwalk area to join its group.

Rehearsals are held weekly at the Norwalk Masonic Center, 12345 Rosecrans Ave., at 7 p.m. The chorus is currently preparing for a holiday show, namely a two-day performance Dec. 15-16.

For information on joining the chorus, contact Bobbi Morrill at bobbimorrill@yahoo.com or (714) 376-1810.

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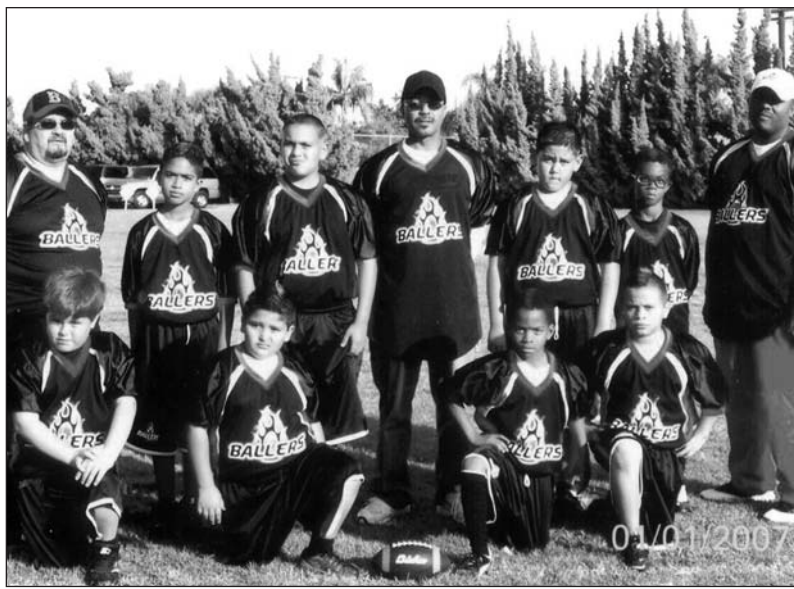
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## DVD RELEASES FOR DECEMBER 8

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince  
Julie & Julia  
Public Enemies  
Ponyo  
Lost: Season 5



Source: www.comingsoon.net



The Lil' Ballers are DJAA Mustang Division champions after finishing their flag football season 12-0. Top row, left to right: George Duvane, Johnny Beeks, Steven George, Coach Thomas Lucas, Kevin Meza, Jahveon Medearis and Coach Lovel Johnson. Bottom row: Joshua Orellano, Alec Duvane, William Lucas and Julian Heredia.



The Downey Ponytail 14U fast-pitch softball team took first place in the annual Turkey Tournament held Nov. 23 in San Pedro. Top row, left to right: Coach Edgar, Coach Gary and Adriana Chavez. Middle row: Miracle Poirer, Jacelyn Orozco, Anissa Loera, Megan Collier, Elaine Arias, Brittany Juarez, Renee Orozco, Manager Darlene and Heach Coach Chris Forseen. Bottom row: Melissa Martene, Stacy Espinoza, Jillian Saiza, Katherine Martene, TeenaMarie Telles and Tiffany Juarez. Downey Ponytail will host early registration Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rio San Gabriel Park. Cost is \$80 for the first player and \$70 for each additional sister.

# DINING-OUT DEALS

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## The Grinch takes over Universal Studios

UNIVERSAL CITY — Universal Studios will host "The 13 Days of Grinchmas" beginning Dec. 19.

Tons of fresh snow will be hauled in for the event, which runs until Dec. 31.

A whimsical, curving "Grinchmas" tree will tower 50 feet above the center of a snow-covered winter wonderland and will be lit in a nightly ceremony that will feature a colorfully cos-

tumed "Whoville" choir caroling and spreading holiday cheer.

The Grinch and his faithful dog Max will be available for photos. Families can romp in a playground of snow and build snowmen.

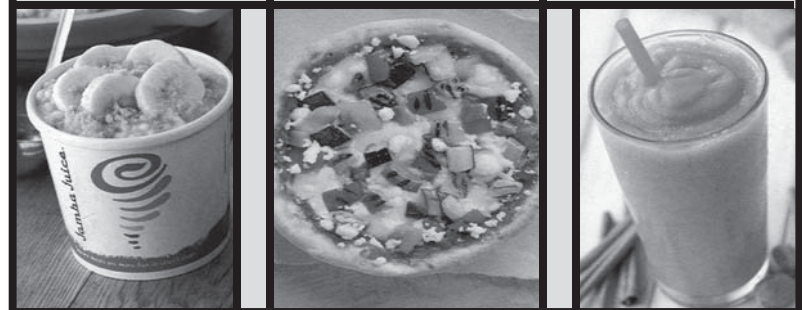
Grinchmas will also provide fans of the blockbuster movie a close-up view of the original Whoville film sets, featured in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." As the tram rolls to a stop amid the fanciful Whoville buildings, guests will experience a performance by Whoville's residents re-enacting scenes from the film.

For ticket information, visit [www.universalstudioshollywood.com](http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com).

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BROTHERS R (11:30, 2:10, 4:50), 7:30, 10:10  
FANTASTIC MR. FOX PG (12:30, 2:45, 5:00), 7:15, 9:30  
NINJA ASSASSIN R (12:20, 2:50, 5:20), 7:50, 10:20  
OLD DOGS PG (12:25, 2:45, 5:05), 7:25, 9:45  
THE BLIND SIDE PG-13 (10:30, 1:15, 1:50, 4:05, 4:45), 7:00, 7:40, 9:55  
PLANET 51 PG (12:00, 2:20, 4:40), 7:10, 9:30  
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG-13 (10:30, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00, 10:00, 10:35  
2012 PG-13 (12:05, 3:35), 7:05, 10:30  
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CERRITOS 10808 Alondra Blvd. (562) 924-9494 FAX: 924-2559  
NORWALK 12253 Imperial Hwy. (562) 929-9988 FAX: 929-6588



Karina Alvarez, a lifelong Downey resident and student at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena, finished in the top five among freshmen at CIF cross country state finals held last week at Mt. SAC. Mayfield finished in sixth place in a race of 23 Div. IV schools. Karina's family belongs to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

## Ride of a lifetime open for bids

DOWNEY — The Downey Rose Float Association is auctioning a seat on the float during the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day. Sealed bids should be mailed to P.O. Box 765, Downey, CA 90241. Minimum bid is \$1,500.

Bids are due by Dec. 9. For more information, call Susan Domen at (562) 824-7172.

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# Final H1N1 flu vaccinations in Downey tomorrow

**DOWNEY** – The City of Downey and the L.A. County Department of Public Health will host a free H1N1 flu-shot clinic tomorrow at Downey Adult School (DAS) at 12340 Woodruff Ave. The site is also known as Columbus High School and is located at the corner of Woodruff and Imperial Highway.

The clinic will use the Harriett Paine Event Center as the vaccination site. Clinic hours of operation will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or when the available vaccine supply has been distributed). The parking gates leading onto the DAS property will be opened at 5:30 am on Saturday morning.

This will be the last flu shot clinic in Downey this year.

The availability of a supply of the H1N1 vaccine for this clinic was confirmed last week by the L.A. County Department of Public Health (DPH). The H1N1 vaccine should be available as an injection and a nose spray. The availability of specific vaccines such as the preservative-free version will not be known until Saturday morning when the clinic supplies arrive.

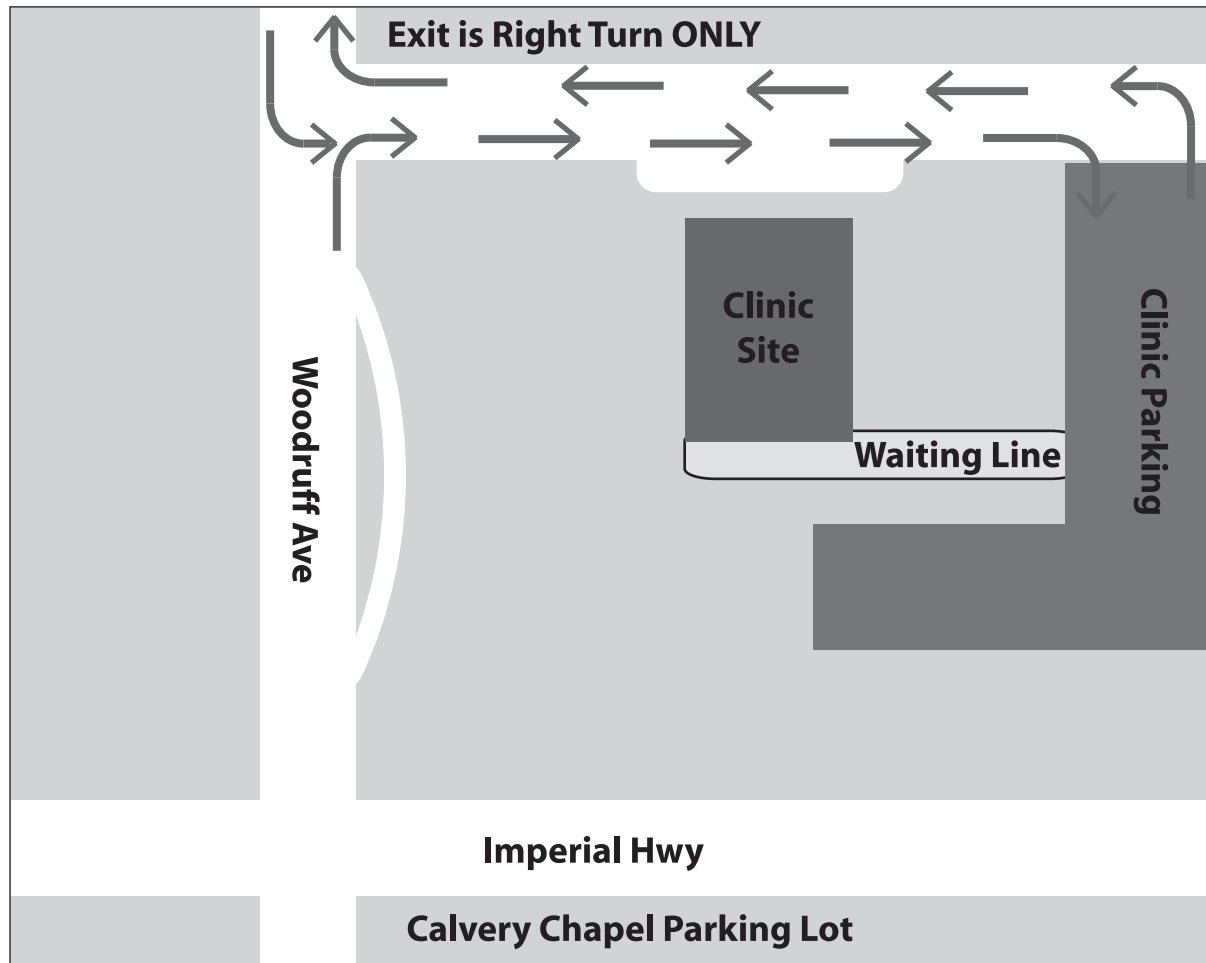
Supplies of the H1N1 vaccine for flu-shot clinics have been limited and have presented planning challenges for clinics such as this one. The DPH staffs believe the number of available vaccinations will be similar to the amounts distributed during the October and November H1N1 clinics in Downey.

The DPH is targeting the following groups for vaccinations at the Downey H1N1 clinic:

- Young people ages 6 months to 24 years
- People living with or giving care to children under 6 months of age
- Emergency Medical Services personnel and health care workers
- People ages 25-64 with chronic heart, respiratory, diabetes and other health problems
- Pregnant women

Clinic attendees should expect to be screened during the registration process for the above criteria. It is important to note that the DPH is prioritizing their vaccinations for this clinic. Clinic staff will do their best to keep those in lines informed regarding the clinic wait times and the availability of vaccine.

Health care professionals recommend children under the age of 10 receive two vaccinations separated by three to four weeks of time. If a child received a vaccination by injection on, or before, Nov. 14, the



child should be eligible for a second vaccination at the upcoming Downey clinic. If a child received a vaccination with the flu-mist nose spray on, or before, Nov. 7 the child should be eligible for a second vaccination tomorrow.

Parents and guardians of children in need of the second vaccination should bring a copy of the DPH paperwork from the first vaccination, if possible.

The clinic is open to those who live throughout the Downey area. Community members from the surrounding cities are welcome. The clinic will not open early, so attendees are NOT encouraged to arrive excessively early.

Attendees should know they may experience wait times of over two hours. Considering the wait, attendees may choose to bring a lightweight chair (and something to read) if standing for long periods of time is uncomfortable.

Clinic attendees can streamline the registration process by downloading the registration form from the DPH website ([www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)) and completing it in advance. The DPH registration forms are available in several different languages. Those who are in a priority group for H1N1 vaccine should bring their completed vaccination form with them to the

clinic.

Attendees should also remember they will likely need to bare a shoulder for their vaccination; therefore they should wear accommodating attire. The waiting lines for vaccinations are entirely outside. Attendees should be prepared for varying fall weather conditions.

There will be congestion in the Woodruff and Imperial Highway area before and during this event.

Questions about the Downey H1N1 free flu shot clinic may be directed to [ready@downeyca.org](mailto:ready@downeyca.org). The L.A. County information phone line (211) may also be helpful.

---Mark Sauter

## Evelyn Silverlake funeral today

**DOWNEY** – Evelyn Frances Silverlake, 94, passed away Nov. 21.

She was born in Township of Grove, Minn., and was a Downey resident for the past 59 years.

She was employed as a manager of Winchell's Donuts for 31 years and was a founding member of St. Raymond's Catholic Church in 1956. She was a member of St. Raymond's Women's Circle.

She is survived by her three sons, Thomas Perry, Timothy John and Perry Richard; two daughters, Barbara Joan and Cynthia Evelyn; and two sisters, Lila and Beatrice.

A Memorial Mass will take place today at 10 a.m. at St. Raymond's. Burial will immediately follow at Los Angeles National Cemetery, where Silverlake will be laid to rest beside her husband, who passed away in 1973.



## Holiday boutique as the lodge

**DOWNEY** – Downey Chapter 160 of O.E.S. will present a holiday boutique – complete with soup and salad dinner – Dec. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 8244 3rd St.

Baked goods, candles, nuts, decorations, gifts and jewelry will be offered for sale. A homemade soup with salad is \$6.

The community is invited.

## Chamber hosting open house

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will host its annual open house Dec. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

## Rise 'N Shine on Tuesday

**DOWNEY** – Gary Veneniste of STAT Diagnostic Service will be the guest speak when Rise 'N Shine Networking meets Tuesday at Downey Brewing Company.

Mary Thompson of the Automobile Club of Southern California will also speak.

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

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Dec 22, 10am  
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Dec 10, 2pm  
Sizzler  
10153 Artesia Blvd  
Bellflower, CA 90706

Dec 29, 6pm  
Denny's  
5811 Firestone Blvd  
South Gate, CA 90280

Dec 15, 2pm  
Denny's  
5811 Firestone Blvd  
South Gate, CA 90280

Dec 31, 2pm  
Sizzler  
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Dec 17, 11am  
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A sales person will be present with information and applications.  
For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-800-418-1874, TTY 711.

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# WWII as seen by poet and historian John Vincent

By Henry Veneracion,  
Staff Writer

He was the Downey Rose Float Association's before he was the Downey Historical Society's, John Vincent was, known as the preserver of Downey's history, a poet, and, then and now, raconteur.

Sometime back in September, Vincent gave us a copy of his memoir of his part in the war in the Pacific. It's not a book in the ordinary sense of the word but a series of "notes and poetry" he wrote at odd moments during and after a voyage that took him from his basic training days in Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to the cusp of the planned invasion of Japan to the exhilarating sight of the Golden Gate Bridge at war's end.

Printing was limited to 35 copies, distributed to relatives, old buddies, and friends. (At this writing, he is printing five additional copies, he says).

For the Wisconsin native John, the once-in-a-lifetime voyage took a little more than three years, from the time he enlisted on Sept. 8, 1942 as an M.P. (military police) until he was discharged on Nov. 5, 1945 with the rank of corporal.

In the main he was a member of the Third Squad, Second Platoon, 211th M.P. Company of the XI Corps.

He has a clear recollection of some episodes (both humorous and serious), and otherwise doesn't dwell overmuch on a few incidents. At any rate, John, of a thoughtful poetic nature from the start, is able to paint a faithful picture of the dreary routine of military basic training and guard duty as well as the inanity and tragedy of war.

In the very first few pages of his memoir, he right away strikes a note of self-abnegation: he quotes the author Mark Helprin who wrote these eloquent lines in his *A Soldier in the Great War*: "It was their war. God preserved me, the best stories were theirs, and these were cut

short. The real story of war is no story at all. Blackness, sadness, silence.... I describe what I saw of the war, you'll know it from the point of view of the living, and that is the smallest part of the truth—the truth itself is what was finally apprehended by those who didn't come back."

Basic training (at Fort Leonard), he said, consisted of "long hikes, full field packs, Springfield rifles and the lot. We had the usual run of odd jobs too, K.P. in regular turns, barracks police—and oh yes routine guard duty in various parts of the post. Pretty routine stuff."

Being able to play the clarinet enabled him to become company bugler, and obviated his disadvantage in height and girth ("I was pretty short and slight for an M.P., but I desperately wanted to remain with my friends in the unit").

The next stop was the California Desert Training Center at Camp Young, "some 27 miles due east of Indio located in the Eagle Mountain Range and along the route of the Metropolitan Aqueduct that transports water from the Colorado River to Los Angeles." Here they spent about seven months, allowing them in the meantime to experience some interesting moments. For example, proximity to Hollywood meant first-run movies at the post theatre, seeing Red Skelton do his "Guzzler's Gin" routine in the flesh, passing by orange groves on their way to visiting the Hollywood Canteen, etc. It was said that more than a million and a half troops were trained there in the years from 1942 to 1945.

In any case, John says he arrived at the training center "months after Patton and his tanks had left for North Africa."

Somewhere along the line, he would learn to sing the praises of Spam, a product much maligned these days.

"Until the morning of Jan. 15, 1944 I'd never seen a ship, let alone sail on one," John recalls of the next chapter of his odyssey. His ship, the

U.S.S. Monticello (there were 8,500 troops on board) from its embarkation point of San Francisco reached Milne Bay, New Guinea ("in a tropical rain storm") some 14 days later, with most on board getting sick. Then they inched their way to Finschaven, then Aitape. These New Guinea ports are unfamiliar names, but in reality they stood in sealanes that had to be navigated in the face of enemy torpedo planes and suicidal Japanese elements. The immediate vicinity bore more historic names, where sea battles were fought: Coral Sea, Solomon Sea, Rabaul.

During a lull he wrote a letter to his folks, dated 9/2/44, excerpts of which follow: "Dear Mom and Dad, ...I am pretty well satisfied with the job I am doing these days...anyhow a guy always feels better when he knows he is helping the war effort even a little bit. I have been doing a little traffic directing the past few weeks but mostly I do guard duty. It gets sorta tiresome at times but it's a very necessary job...John."

The Philippine Campaign portion of their sea trek started when they landed at Dulag, Leyte on Nov. 14 from their staging area in Morotai, "after having survived a number of attacks by Japanese aircraft during the previous afternoon and evening," notes John almost nonchalantly.

It was about this time that the Battle of Leyte Gulf raged. Then this paragraph: "Left Tacloban, Leyte on Tuesday, Jan. 23 (1945) aboard U.S.S. Sarasota for the invasion of western Luzon, landing at San Narciso, Luzon and advancing to a village called La Paz. Was on traffic duty all night, and the next morning boarded a navy LCM which took us down the coast to Subic Bay which we entered and debarked at a place called Rifle Range Beach."

From here John says, "We motored through Zig-Zag Pass (of Bataan Death March fame) to a

series of towns in the central plain of Luzon: San Fernando, Guagua, Pulilan, Plaridel, Calumpit, Malolos (the provincial capital)"—towns with which I am very familiar, having traveled through them innumerable times. It was at Calumpit (the alleged headquarters of the notorious group of dissidents called Hukbalahaps—Huks for short) where somebody pointed out Luis Taruc, who was later to become its infamous head.

After a little while, they were sent to the port town of Batangas, south of Manila: it was the staging point for the planned invasion of the Japanese Home Islands which promised to be bloody and "to which," says John, "all our training pointed."

"We arrived [in Honshu Island] on Sept., 2, 1945," John says, "and I spent the night there on an intersection doing traffic duty in an otherwise almost deserted downtown Yokohama. As it happened, it was V.J. Day."

The planned invasion of Japan Home Islands never took place.

"We arrived in San Francisco on Oct. 24. I can still recall the thrill of the pennants and boats and whistles as we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge. I was discharged on Nov. 5, 1945," John says.

Following the war John came to Downey and became chairman of the science department at Santa Fe High School. He was to teach for a good number of years.

"The period which I describe in my memoir," he says, "was the most exciting, interesting part of my life."

John celebrated his 88th birthday on Aug. 12.

## Open house at Historical Society

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Historical Society will host an open house with Christmas exhibits on Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments and lunch will be served all day. The Society will also provide tours of the historic Dismukes House.

The Downey Historical Society is at 12540 Rives Ave., half a block north of Imperial Highway.

## Hanukkah dinner available

**DOWNEY** – A traditional Hanukkah dinner will be served at Temple Ner Tamid on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

Visitors are invited to bring a menorah and candles to light their table. There will be drawings for several door prizes.

Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased by Dec. 6. For tickets and more information, call (562) 861-9276.

## Trombone Christmas concert

**DOWNEY** – An Advent/Christmas concert featuring the Downey Moravian Trombone Choir will be presented Monday at Downey Moravian Church, 10337 Old River School Rd.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Christmas music from the all-trombone choir.

A freewill offering will be taken. For more information, call the church at (562) 927-0718.

## Christmas sale at St. Raymond's

**DOWNEY** – Senior congregation members at St. Raymond's Catholic Church will hold their annual Christmas boutique on Sunday 6 in the Msgr. Gipson Hall.

Many handcrafted items suitable for Christmas giving, plus a raffle of baked goods and a silent auction, will be available.

The boutique runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call Elaine Langford or Lil Villareal at (562) 862-6909.

## Pot luck for hard of hearing

**LAKESWOOD** – The Hearing Loss Association, Long Beach/Lakewood chapter, will hold their annual holiday pot luck dinner Thursday at the Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood.


Admission is free and the community is invited.

Members and guests are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to share. The dinner begins at 6 p.m.

For information on attending, call (562) 433-6509.

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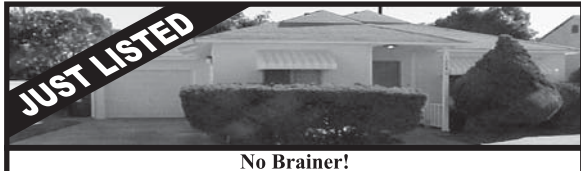


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