

# The Downey Patriot



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heralded  
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Friday, December 11, 2009

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

## Christmas stories celebrate love's power

By Henry Veneracion,  
Staff Writer

Everybody loves a good story, and Saturday Downey city library volunteers were treated to not one but two at their 'Volunteer Holiday Celebration' to honor their vital contributions throughout the year. The event was sponsored, as it does every year, by the Friends of the Library and was held at the First Baptist Church gym.

A new approach was tried this year. In the tradition of dramatic readings, two invited 'spoken word artists'—Sally Shore and David St. James—'emoted' the words of two short shorts with 'feel-good' holiday themes, which if nothing else definitely provided this reporter at least with a more meaningful perspective with which to view the coming holidays.

Both Shore and St. James have similar rich film/TV/performing backgrounds, with Shore increasingly devoted to creating opportunities for presenting "new work by West Coast writers to a wider audience."

She shaded her concept of spoken-word performance (differentiating it from a Hal Holbrook performance, say) thus: "They are not full performances, but neither are they simple readings. They allow the actors to explore characters and interpretations in scaled-down intimate settings, without scenery or staging. The actors sit on a stool and perform through gesture, expression and voice as they read the stories." This was exactly what Shore and St. James did.

Both readers/performers had mellifluous voices, with St. James' stronger and, as expected, with more carry. St. James gesticulated more, too, as when he shadow-milked the family's cow. But I get ahead of my story.

The book Shore read was "Christmas Tapestry" by children's author/artist Patricia Polacco. It's the poignant story of "two families, two faiths, and two lonely people united by a beautiful twist of fate." I read the book through afterwards, and the beautiful story of love touched me deeply. I learned later that the story is really an adaptation of a tale the author heard before in various venues in homilies. Polacco adapted the tale for younger readers.

The second book read, by cover-all-clad St. James, was Pearl S. Buck's "Christmas Day in the Morning," a beautifully-wrought story of a father's love for his son, and vice-versa. The boy's gift had something to do with milking a cow.

Both stories are powerful, compelling. The Downey City Library volunteers had a nice treat.

## Bayer voted in as mayor

■ Bayer enters last year on City Council as mayor.

By Christian Brown,  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – In a 3-2 vote on Tuesday, Councilmember Anne Bayer was chosen by the City Council to serve as Downey's next mayor, but not before the decision was vehemently opposed by former Mayor Mario Guerra and Councilmember Luis Marquez, who will now serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

Initially, the mayoral transition ceremony took a cordial tone, celebrating Guerra's accomplishments during his year-long term, but the chambers grew tense as the Council clashed over the proposed rotation of mayor, which would place Bayer next in line for the position.

Prior to the vote, Guerra read a statement, which summarized the reason for his dissenting vote.

"I'm worried for our city," said Guerra, whose words drew audible jeers from some audience members. "This is not a personal thing – let me make it clear, I have great respect for her as a person, but voting for her is not in the best interests of the city."

Guerra continued by listing a number of city events not attended by Bayer. While sharing many dissenting votes found in Bayer's voting record, Guerra highlighted her vote against the redevelopment of downtown Downey and the city's Character Counts program.

"The voting record is very clear," said Guerra. "I'm just doing what's right for our city."

Marquez agreed with Guerra and voted against the proposed rotation.

"You run for office to best represent the people – everyone in the city," said Marquez. "Someone who gets to be mayor earns it."

Before either Guerra or Marquez stated their opinions, several supporters of Bayer expressed their concern, worried that the council might vote to elect another council member as mayor instead of Mayor Pro Tem Bayer.

Former councilmember Diane Boggs defended Bayer and warned the Council.

"Don't get too political with



COURTESY PHOTO

Anne Bayer, who represents the District 4, the city's northeast quadrant, was elected mayor of Downey on a 3-2 vote Tuesday night.

this position," said Boggs. "It would be bad if she doesn't take that position."

Longtime Downey resident Maria Larkin read the minutes from last year's mayoral transition where Guerra was unanimously chosen to be mayor and Bayer was selected as Mayor Pro Tem.

Gafin also came to Bayer's defense, calling the mayoral position, just a ceremonial one.

"We're all still steering the ship," said Gafin. "A year and a half ago, we set up a plan that everyone was in agreement with – there's no reason to change it now."

With Guerra and Marquez dissenting, Brossmer and Gafin voted with Bayer, granting the two-term councilwomen her second term as mayor.

Bayer never responded to the arguments brought up by her fellow council members and, likewise, Brossmer chose not to comment on his decision to vote for Bayer.

Following Bayer's election, Marquez was unanimously

approved by his fellow council members, making him Mayor Pro Tem. Marquez abstained from the vote.

Prior to the vote, Guerra thanked the city and residents for a "phenomenal year in the city" during his final address.

From Tesla to crime statistics and from Porto's Bakery to Downey's newest sister city, Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico, Guerra recounted the many events he attended and projects he helped initiate during his term.

During the ceremony, Guerra was honored by several organizations and legislators including the Chamber of Commerce, the Downey Unified School District, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, County Supervisor Don Knabe, and both the cities of Artesia and Cerritos.

"The city is in great hands," said Guerra. "We have outstanding leadership and a great City Council – It was an honor to serve as the 43rd mayor of the city of Downey."



PHOTO COURTESY DFCU

Downey Federal Credit Union issued grants totaling more than \$8,000 that will benefit Downey students.

## Teachers have plans for their grants

■ Forty-one teachers and staff receive \$200 grants.

By Henry Veneracion,  
Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – In an annual ritual meant to underscore its support of local education, both public and private, the Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU) Thursday handed out 41 checks of \$200 each to an assortment of Downey teachers and others within the educational fold to help enrich the lives of students under their care.

This was the eighth year DFCU has given out the checks for student enrichment. This year's recipients, whose number actually increased over last year's, were selected out of a total of 110 grant applicants.

Comprising this year's awardees were "regular and new teachers, non-teachers, support [staff]," as well as those affiliated with Character Counts, financial education, and Adopt-a-School programs.

The eventual grantees won for the "clarity, uniqueness and creativity of their idea; number of students impacted; relevance to classroom focus and district standards; level of enhancement of student's learning experience and environment; and relevance to DFCU, per-

sonal finance, and financial education."

Alameda Elementary's Kim Brooks said she would use the \$200 to fix up their kindergarten playground and get a mural painted on the wall, while Gaudin's Karla Hufenbach is thinking of a Character Counts garden for the school grounds; Imperial's Tracy Yanez plans to buy a flip camcorder to monitor student progress with their social stories; Lewis' Charlene Shimada is using her incentive money to teach leadership skills to those holding student council government posts, while, operating under DFCU's Adopt-a-School program, Brad Mathews intends to use his for an informal garden club; Rio Hondo's Valerie Leonard is taking 20 disadvantaged fifth graders to Walden Books to buy their own book; Rio San Gabriel's Diana Vance will use her funds to support her garden club.

There were four winning representatives from Ward. Adriana Perez is treating her class to a field trip to El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach, while Charlotte Rippel will award T-shirts to her first grade students for reading 100 sight words; Jackie Graves (Adopt-a-School) will be in the market for monarch butterflies for

See GRANTS, page 4

## Tesla, IRG reach lease deal

■ Tesla won't confirm an agreement.

By Eric Pierce,  
City Editor

**DOWNEY** – Tesla Motors and Industrial Realty Group have reached a lease deal to open an electric vehicle production line in Downey, and the lease is now awaiting government approval, city officials said this week.

"It is my understanding that the last step to make this a reality is the federal government's approval of the lease between Tesla Motors and Industrial Realty Group for the

Downey site," Councilman Mario Guerra said in a statement Tuesday. "The City is looking forward to that approval. We are very excited and happy about our relationship with Tesla Motors."

An approval by the federal government is necessary because Tesla received \$465 million in government loans to jumpstart production of its Model S, an all-electric vehicle sedan.

Government approval on the deal is expected to take several weeks, city officials said.

A spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Energy, which issued the Tesla loans, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Guerra's announcement came

minutes before the city of Long Beach approved a \$28.6 million incentive package for Tesla, which reportedly is also considering a former Boeing plant near the Long Beach Airport.

Last month, to facilitate a deal with Tesla, the city of Downey waived nearly \$6.9 million in future rent payments from IRG on 20 acres of land on the former NASA site.

The city also waived a stipulation that IRG build a 40,000 square foot learning center, and agreed to pay \$1.8 million in roof repairs using federal grants.

Tesla representatives would not confirm that it had reached a deal with IRG.

## City encourages use of reusable bags

By Lars Clutterham

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey will celebrate "A Day Without a Bag" on Thursday in conjunction with many Los Angeles area communities.

Holiday shoppers and retailers will be encouraged to forgo single-use plastic shopping bags in favor of reusable bags.

The grass-roots educational project, sponsored by Heal the Bay, is designed to raise public awareness of sustainable alternatives to disposable plastic bags.

Most estimates put individual bag use nationwide at 500-600 per year. In Los Angeles County, that translates to 6 billion bags, and in the city of Downey the same estimate yields a figure of 69 million bags used per year by Downey's approximately 115,000 residents.

Of those 69 million bags, only about 5 percent are recycled, leaving more than 65 million disposable plastic bags in Downey alone that wind up in the trash headed for landfills or in sewage leading to the ocean.

The Downey City Council, while endorsing city participation in the event, also has given its blessing to a pilot program underway in the Downey Unified School District to teach students the value of reusable bags. "A Day Without a Bag" also provides a natural tie-in to the school district's December emphasis on one of the six pillars of the Character Counts program: "Caring."

Lars Clutterham is a member of the city's Green Task Force.





Downey resident Mikayla Minnig, 11, received the Progress in Policy Award at the City Club on Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles on Dec. 2. The award recognizes her efforts to influence government action to benefit people with arthritis. Mikayla, who had had juvenile arthritis since age 3, is an ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation and has traveled to Washington, D.C. several times on behalf of the 300,000 American children who suffer from arthritis.

## Kids programs at Downey parks

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department will offer a free program for children Dec. 21-31 at local parks.

Activities will include lunch with recreation leaders (children must bring their own lunches), group games and crafts.

The program will be offered at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Rio San Gabriel, Furman, Golden and Brookshire parks. The program will operate 12-5 p.m., except for Brookshire Park where operating hours are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

There is no program on Christmas Day and parks will close early at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The program is for children ages 6-11. There is no charge but registration is required and can be completed at the park. The program will not operate during inclement weather.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

## Gift cards come personalized

DOWNEY – Stonewood Center is now offering personalized packaging for gift cards that allow users to record a 15-second message.

“Imagine letting your kids record a message for their grandparents to go with the gift card,” said Whitney Wigle, marketing manager for Stonewood. “This adds even more value to your gift card, and you can even re-record the greeting multiple times.

“You can convey a specific message and the message will be heard exactly as intended. This personalized touch is sure to make your gift a standout,” she said.

Stonewood has three gift card options: the traditional American Express-branded gift card, a “green” gift card in which a portion of the sale price goes to support non-profit American forests, and a “Give Style” gift card.

“American Express-branded gift cards offer recipients the perfect gift, and they can be used anywhere American Express is accepted,” Wigle said. “A recent study showed that they are widely accepted by virtually all of the nation’s top 200 retailers – many of which are right here at Stonewood Center.”

Gift cards are available at guest services near JCPenney.

## Teaching values through sports

DOWNEY – Registration will be held tomorrow for the new season of KidzPlay, a competitive basketball league that also teaches Christian values, at First Baptist Church of Downey.

Children compete in different age divisions and receive basic basketball instruction. There are weekly practices games and Bible studies.

Cost is \$65 and includes uniforms and trophies for all players.

Registration times are: grades 1-2, 10 a.m.; grades 3-4, 11:30 a.m.; and grades 5-6, 1 p.m.

For more information, call Sam Torres of First Baptist Church of Downey at (562) 923-1261.

## Learn a new office career

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School will host an orientation meeting Dec. 16 for residents interested in switching careers and updating skills for an office setting.

The school offers four office courses, including General Office Clerk, Accounting Assistant, Medical Front Office Clerk and Administrative Assistance.

Each course incorporates computer skills, work readiness skills and office skills to help students become a more valuable office employee.

The orientation on Wednesday begins at 10 a.m. RSVP by calling (562) 940-6247.

## Christmas concert at Messiah

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church will host a Christmas concert this Sunday at 7 p.m.

“Veni, Emanuel, A Christmas Celebration” will feature Kyle Black and his brass band. A free will offering will be taken.

Proceeds will be used for the enhancement of the church’s pipe organ. Thrivent, a Lutheran-based insurance company, will match all donations.



Bill Coomes, an active volunteer in Downey, was honored with the mayor’s Diakonia Award last month.

## Coomes honored with Diakonia Award

DOWNEY – Downey resident Bill Coomes was honored with the Diakonia Award at the Nov. 24 City Council meeting.

“Mr. Coomes has demonstrated a great commitment to serving others and is very active in his community,” said Councilman Mario Guerra, who presented the award, his last as mayor.

Coomes has volunteered “countless hours” at St. Raymond’s Catholic Church and collects donations and food for the Tijuana Orphanage Ministries.

He has been involved with the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, has implemented the Disaster Preparedness for the Disabled program through the American Red Cross for his transverse mellitus support group and also participates in the “Downey Library for Literacy” program.

Coomes and his wife, Roselea, completed training for the city’s Community Emergency Response Team and are active in monthly meetings and disaster drills.

“Bill has been an inspiration, a guiding light,” Guerra said. “He does great things with great love and I am proud to honor him with this award.”

To nominate a person for the Diakonia (Servant) Award, call the City Council office at (562) 904-7274.

**Downey Memorial Christian Church**  
A New Beginnings Congregation



Dec. 20, 10:30 am  
Christmas Sunday  
December 24, 7:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Festival  
of Carols and Lights

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Sunday School for adults & children: 9:00 AM  
Bible Study Wednesdays: 10:00 AM




**Christ Lutheran Church**  
7707 Florence Ave. Downey 90240  
562 927-4421


# Winter Worship Directory

**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**

*"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12*



*Christmas Eve Service*  
December 24th  
at 6:00pm




*2010 New Year's Eve Communion Service*  
December 31st  
at 7:00pm

**CALVARY CHAPEL Downey**  
[www.calvarydowney.org](http://www.calvarydowney.org) 12808 Woodruff Ave  
Downey, CA 90242  
(562) 803-5631

Children's Ministry Available for Infant - 6th Grade Traduccion en Espanol

**First Presbyterian Church of Downey**  
A Multicultural Congregation



To Know Christ and Make Christ Known

Christmas Concert 6:00 p.m. Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 p.m. Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Children's Service

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Candlelight service

10544 Downey Avenue at Seventh Street

# Love, Peace & Happiness

Family Christian Fellowship Church  
"Building People of Purpose, Prayer, Perseverance and Prosperity"



**Bishop Leon & Dr. Jacqueline Martin**  
Senior Pastors

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Sunday:**  
Early Morning Service 8:30 A.M.  
Sunday School 9:00 A.M.  
Mid-Morning Service 10:00 A.M.  
Evening Service 4:00 P.M.

**Tuesday - Friday:**  
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 A.M.

**Wednesday:**  
Mid-Week Bible Service 7:30 P.M.  
Youth Service 7:30 P.M.

**Saturday:**  
Operation Outreach 9:00 A.M.

**Daily Radio Broadcast**  
Mon. - Fri. @ 7:45 AM  
**KTYM 1460 AM**



**Bible College:** The Love, Peace and Happiness Community Bible College presents a structured 3-year diploma program in which our enrolled students will learn from 36 prominent scholars who have taught at some of the most famous Bible colleges, seminaries and universities. Our instructors are born-again, academically trained, and Holy Ghost filled individuals who possess a godly character. Each one will ignite you with spiritual fervor!

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[www.lphfamily.org](http://www.lphfamily.org)

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\* **Prayer Line: (800) 757-6552**  
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**Temple Ner Tamid of Downey**  
on  
**Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**"A Song for all Seasons"**

Featuring favorites from today and the past

**Starring**  
**Cantor Kenneth Jaffe**  
with special guest  
**Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel**  
of Temple Emanu El, San Bernardino, Ca  
Accompanied by  
**Jerry Ripley**  
Music Director of Temple Emanu El, San Bernardino, Ca  
There will be a Raffle Drawing, Door Prizes and Refreshments

**Ticket Order Form**

General Admission Tickets @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Reserved Section Tickets @ \$36.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to and mail to:  
**Temple Ner Tamid of Downey**  
10629 Lakewood Boulevard, Downey, CA 90241-3501  
(562) 861-9276



## Four arrested after home invasion

**DOWNEY** – Four suspects have been arrested following a home invasion robbery in an affluent neighborhood of Downey.

According to Downey police, two women approached a home on the 9700 block of Haledon Avenue at about 11:50 a.m. Wednesday and asked for water for their overheated vehicle.

As the victim was closing the front door, two men forced their way into the house and at gunpoint ordered two victims to lie on the ground. The suspects demanded money and ransacked the home, Downey police said in a news release.

One of the victims managed to obtain a license plate number as the suspects drove away.

Downey detectives tracked the suspects and made three arrests in Huntington Park. A fourth suspect surrendered to police later that night.

The suspects were identified as Daisy Castellanos, 23, of Bell Gardens; Emilio Escovar, 22, of Huntington Park; Ricardo Arroyo, 27, of Whittier; and Richard Leandro, 23, of Huntington Park.

A fourth suspect, described as a female Hispanic in her 20s wearing medical type scrubs, is still at large, police said.

Castellanos, Leandro and Arroyo were charged with armed robbery, while Escovar was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery. All four suspects are in the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department pending a court appearance.

Anyone with information on the case or the whereabouts of the fourth suspect is asked to call Detective Sam Gatfield at (562) 904-2391 or Detective Paul Hernandez at (562) 904-2368.

## Crime Watch

### Friday, Dec. 4

At 1:15 p.m. a robbery occurred at Rives Avenue and Yankey Street when two males confronted a 19 year-old Downey resident taking his cell phone and backpack.

At 3:40 p.m. a 14 year-old girl was entering a building in the 7900 block of Imperial Highway when she felt someone removing her cell phone from her rear pocket. The suspect ran with the phone.

### Tuesday, Dec. 8

At 5:10 p.m., a robbery occurred in the 12100 block of Paramount Boulevard. Five males in a four door vehicle simulated a firearm and took the victim's cell phone.

At 5:00 a.m., officers responded to the 11500 block of Paramount Boulevard regarding a vehicle burglary in progress. An individual was seen breaking into the victim's car and leaving on foot. Officers arrested the suspect, who was located near by. The suspect was charged with vehicle burglary.

Source: Downey Police Department

## Ezra to screen a movie

**DOWNEY** – The Ezra Center for Mature Adults will meet Tuesday 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.

## Santa Claus visiting the library

**DOWNEY** – Santa Claus will visit preschool storytime at the Downey City Library next week and children ages 3-5 are invited to the free holiday event.

After listening to holiday stories read by the Children's librarian, kids can meet Old St. Nick in person.

"Join us in singing 'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town' and watch as he makes his grand entrance," said Children's librarian Gina Orello. "This is a perfect opportunity for a holiday photo, so don't forget to bring your camera."

Santa Claus will be at the library Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m. The Wednesday visit is for a bilingual storytime.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

## 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.

## Holiday home tour on Sunday

**DOWNEY** – The San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is sponsoring a tour of Downey's most beautifully decorated homes this Sunday.

The tour will visit homes throughout Downey, including a newly-completed Habitat for Humanity house.

There will also be an opportunity to shop at a craft boutique and homemade bake sale, and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

Cost is \$25 and proceeds will benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, a nationally-recognized pediatric center. The tour runs from 1-7 p.m.

Tickets are available at Saywell Florist, 10235 Paramount Blvd., or from Stacy Brabant by calling (310) 927-8511.

## Holiday boutique at the lodge

**DOWNEY** – Downey Chapter 160 of O.E.S. will present a holiday boutique – complete with soup and salad dinner – tomorrow 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.

## 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 Hall.

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.

## Elks Lodge hosting boutique

**DOWNEY** – Downey Elks Lodge 2020 will host its annual holiday boutique on Sunday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be crafts, jewelry, raffles, door prizes and refreshments. Admission is free.

The lodge is located at 11233 Woodruff Ave. The sale will take place in the back parking lot.

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## 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 Wednesday, 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 Oliari, band director, at Downey High School.

Beginning tomorrow, 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 this weekend during mall hours, Dec. 14-18 from 4-9 p.m., and Dec. 19-24 during mall hours.

## 'Polar Express' at the library

**DOWNEY** – Children ages 3-7 are invited to hop on board the Polar Express during a free Family Story Night at the Downey City Library on Thursday.

"Polar Express Night" will feature Chris Van Allsburg's beloved Christmas book beginning at 7 p.m. in the Children's area.

Kids and their parents will enjoy the story of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve that takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

## Meeting pushed up to Wednesday

**DOWNEY** – Due to the Christmas holiday, the city's Emergency Preparedness Committee has moved its Dec. 23 meeting to this Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Downey Fire Department headquarters, 12222 Paramount Blvd.

For more information, call (562) 904-7344.

# Grants: Downey students will benefit.

*Continued from page 1*

her life cycle science project, while Leslie Neill (Financial Education) will be providing her students with T-shirts with multiplication tables on them.

Williams' Lori Zaremski (Non-Teaching) plans to spend the money on play and art materials for use in socialization groups for special ed kids.

There were winners from private schools, too, three from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and one from Calvary Chapel Christian School. OLPH's Gina Pilloni intends to purchase books and study aids for the academic decathlon team competition; Molly Smith (New Teachers) plans to buy a document camera with visual projector for "upclose views of primary documents"; and Amanda Kravanger (Character Counts program) plans to provide birthday/Christmas gifts for adopted children at Children's International. Calvary Chapel Christian Schools John Voorhies is using the money to buy a class guitar to be kept in the classroom for use by forgetful students.

The money received by TLC's (True Lasting Connection) Luz Perez (Support) will buy a new (replacement) fax machine heavily used, she says, for referrals for health care, counseling, and other critical needs services.

Griffiths Middle School's Jessica Ortiz is taking her special ed class on a field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Sussman Middle School had four awardees. Leslie Chavez said she will hire an outside company, Mosaic Academy, "to help solve community problems"; Lorraine Neal intends to get a video camera to film an original screenplay for their 'Academy Awards Night'; Kelly McClurg will use her money to pay for buses for college field trips by seventh and eighth graders enrolled in the AVID program; and Jennifer Angulo (Character Counts) will use the funds to help the Impact Club volunteer at Samaritan's Purse (for Operation Christmas Child, etc.).

West Middle School also had four representatives to the awards ceremony: Darla LaFortune-Webster is taking her special ed class on a field trip to the Museum

of Tolerance; Marlene Camacho will purchase reading books for her 'literature circles'; Daniel Rojas is taking autistic kids in the community for socialization/community-based instruction; and Pat Bledsoe (Non-Teaching) will invest in Radio Flyer wagons for transporting handicapped students around the city.

Also turning in winning entries were nine Downey High School students: Josette Bean and Teresa Hill are both taking their senior classes to hear Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel at Chapman University; Bryn Wade is taking her class on a field trip to Huntington Library to analyze art; Kevin Kendall's share will pay for class transportation in a tour of the Los Angeles Police Academy; Michelle Napoli will underwrite printing costs of high-end award-winning photojournalism magazine; Steven Guthrie will use his money to use as bus fare for field trips to the LAPD Academy; Leslie Patterson will purchase Therabands for physical education students; Melody King (Support) is setting aside her money for grief support group for students who

lose someone; and Charlotte Mann's (Character Counts) funds will help prepare special ed kids learn appropriate behavior for their junior and senior proms.

Warren High had four winners: Kyle Deichman plans to buy new scripts for the theatre arts program; Monique Willis (Non-Teaching) will use her funds for student training so they can help freshmen achieve better grades and attendance; Simon Moon (New Teachers) will buy tickets to the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center; and Erin Hanohano (Financial Education) is earmarking the money to buy videos to make the subject of economics more interesting to students.

Columbus High School's Susan Rodriguez and Scott Marshall are both getting APEX learning programs that allow students to recover class credits.

DFCU operates out of 8237 Third St. in Downey and Downey Regional Medical Center on Brookshire Avenue.

## POET'S CORNER

### Advancing Years

In our advancing years,  
Young people say we're old.  
Sometimes we're brought to tears,  
When days are damp and cold.

Our muscles start to ache,  
Our joints will cause us pain.  
It's more than we can take,  
And yet, we prayed for rain.

With ev'ry sign of rain,  
Must we go through it all,  
And must we use a cane,  
To just walk down the hall?

We used to take a chance,  
And try most any thing.  
We used to sing and dance,  
And now, we only sing.

These are the golden years.  
For me, my youth was gold.  
So lets hold back the tears,  
And gracefully grow old.

Now let us pass the test,  
We're going for the gold.  
It's time to do our best,  
Enjoy growing old!  
-Bill Milburn,  
Downey

### Untitled

Suns golden glow  
white velvet snow  
trees icy limbs  
wind singing hymns!  
-Terese Akins Anthony,  
Downey

# Questions about your Medicare options?

**JOIN US** for a no-obligation seminar, learn about Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (HMO) and get answers to your Medicare questions.

Good health is more than just preventing illness. It's about feeling good all the time—in your body, mind, and spirit. So having the right health plan goes a long way in helping you stay healthy.

If you're eligible for Medicare, you'll want to hear about our Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan. Join us at our upcoming seminar and find out how Senior Advantage can play a healthy role in your life. There's no cost to attend, but reservations are recommended. And feel free to bring a friend!

### Meetings will be held at the following locations

**December 14 at 9:30 a.m.**

**December 14 at 1 p.m.**

**December 16 at 1 p.m.**

Barbara J. Riley  
Community and Senior Center  
Downey Room  
7810 Quill Drive  
Downey

**December 29 at 1 p.m.**

**December 31 at 1 p.m.**

Kaiser Permanente  
Orchard Medical Offices  
Building C  
2nd Floor, Room C21 & C22  
9449 E. Imperial Highway  
Downey



### Contact us for more information.

Seating is limited. To reserve your space at our informational meeting, call toll free at **1-877-834-0785** (TTY **1-888-758-6054** for the deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

### Can't make it to the meeting?

We'll come to you, whether it's to your home or the corner coffee shop. Call the numbers above to schedule a one-on-one visit, with no cost or obligation.

Or you can visit our Web site at [kp.org/medicare](http://kp.org/medicare) to find out more about Senior Advantage.

### Get up. Get out. And thrive.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs, call toll free **1-877-834-0785** (TTY **1-888-758-6054**), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Kaiser Permanente is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract that is renewed annually. Coverage beyond the end of the contract year is not guaranteed.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.



## Letters to the Editor:

### Hunger for arts scene

Dear Editor:

All congratulations and honors are due Mayor Guerra, the Downey City Council and other officials who have been instrumental in bringing new businesses to Downey. Bob's Big Boy, Porto's, Kohl's, the Granata's bar-b-q grill on 2nd and Downey Avenue are among the new arrivals – in the middle of a deep recession, no less.

Tesla Motors is of course the coup de grace, a state of the art electric car manufacturer whose vehicles have the audacity to be sleek, sexy and powerful. Tesla shows every sign of becoming an international success story.

To the estimated 1,200 jobs that will be created at the old NASA site, Tesla will be bringing its own executive, engineering and professional cadre to Downey. Question: What will they find away from the workplace in our putative downtown? And what will the residents of the proposed affordable housing projects at the Avenue Theatre and Verizon sites find when they have leisure time?

Answer: Not much.

Downey is a fine area for homes and real estate. Its homes are representative. Its service infrastructure (police, fire, city management) is excellent. But when it comes to a municipal version of the Tesla car, it's more like those improvised '50s Chevs that stink up the streets of Havana. The plucky Cubans have an excuse: no money and a 50-year-old U.S. trade embargo. What's ours? Why is it that downtown is so pokey, desultory, moribund and gray, cramped and empty at the same time? Why is it that the Krikorian theater is the social center for the young, when its product is studio generic and bludgeoning to the spirit? How is it that people of all ages, ethnicities and interests will routinely say of downtown Downey that it's boring?

The Tesla exec and his family, like the mythic observer from Mars, will see in Downey retrograde traffic congestion, no vibrant center, no cultural scene, no night life, no buzz. Forget chic. If a city is characterized by a mentality, all a visitor has to do is pick up the letters page of The Downey Patriot to find the most stupefying ignorance spew forth without regard to fact or reason, most of it, alas, reflective of Fox News and its cranky reactionary buffoons. Talk of retrograde. No wonder Trader Joe's doesn't want to come in. They're right: we're in the wrong demographic. Besides, we have our Trader Joe's, if we're willing to get real about the makeup of our citizenry. It's Amapola's on Florence Avenue. It may not do for the chardonnay and brie crowd, but it does offer fresh produce and meat.

I was born and raised in a great city – New York – and have stayed in a number of the great cities of the world, Paris, London, Rome, Rio, Buenos Aires, Sydney, Beijing and Moscow among them. They all have their history and traditions. What distinguishes them in culture and a municipal planning scheme that provides for convenient mass transit and plenty of opportunity for people to walk where they need to go. Not even the most frenetic civic booster is going to place Downey in the company of the above-mentioned cities. On the other hand, Florence, one of the principal sites of the Italian Renaissance, had a population of only 60,000 when Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci worked there. Ours is 110,000 and rising. What can we do to revitalize Downey?

I keep coming back to the arts and their variant, entertainment. The Avenue Theatre, though apparently doomed, remains an option to anchor downtown with indie films, festivals, lectures, music and readings. There's the Downey Theatre next to the Embassy Suites and a number of open spaces and sites for outdoor concerts of every sort. There are other indoor venues that could be transformed into night spots, comedy clubs, underground spaces and jazz and music spots – all located in the vicinity of Firestone Boulevard and 4th Street and Dolan Avenue and Paramount Boulevard. And maybe, God forbid, we could put in a bookstore. Which means people could get out of their cars and walk from one place to another, revivifying the street scene. Sharon Lavery, director of the Downey Symphony, is connected with USC, where a lot of tomorrow's world-class musicians come to study. It shouldn't take much to get them to perform here.

You don't have to go to more than a couple of city council meetings to realize that our current panel, though obviously capable of advancing the city's economic and civic interests, doesn't for the most part have the skill set, knowledge or interest in seriously getting behind an arts scene. It may take a couple of election cycles to get one going. The hunger is there, as attendance at the Epic Lounge (when it was happening), the packed summer concerts at Furman Park, and DCLO performances, signify.

It's a law of nature that things either grow or die. All of us have a stake in what happens to Downey in the immediate future, whether we glow in the night or become as dark and dreary as an industrial park after dusk. Right now the dominant tone of the Avenue is set not by restaurants and clothing stores, but the decaying eyesore of the theater marquee and the macabre space that yawns around the Miller Mies Mortuary.

That should tell you something.

— **Lawrence Christon,**  
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. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

### Editorial's timing

Dear Editor:

Coincidence? A pre-planned coincidence in which Eric Pierce wrote a hit piece on Councilwoman Anne Bayer and simultaneously two Letters to the Editor appear on the same page, parroting Pierce's column.

All this to the public on Friday before the Tuesday planned lynching so that no rebuttal will be possible.

Perhaps the problem is that Bayer votes in the interest of the taxpayers of Downey. She was elected twice and has served as mayor. I live in her district and she does return phone calls to her constituents.

— **Don Johnston,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

One of the unscrupulous tactics used by politicians is to make public spurious attacks timed so the target cannot reply before it's too late. ("A Vote for Change," 12/4/09)

Frequently these antagonists point out that they have contacted their victims many times for an explanation but received no reply.

No doubt.

This is a ploy that has been used by some council members in the past. Too bad other council members can't find the fortitude to remonstrate against it in our "Character Counts" city.

If Mr. Pierce had printed his editorial a week or two earlier, we might have seen a reply by Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer before the appointment of a new mayor, again contravening the established practice.

— **R.V. Rankin Sr.,**  
Downey

### Faulty gas pump

Dear Editor:

Today (Dec. 5), at about 1:05 p.m., I purchased gasoline from the Thrifty (Arco) station located at 11025 Paramount Blvd. in Downey. I utilized pump No. 5 and placed it on the automatic pumping feature. It failed to shut off when the tank was full and spilled about one gallon of gasoline onto the driveway around my automobile.

I alerted the two attendants on duty who failed to either clean up the gasoline or provide me credit for the spillage.

It is my firm belief that there was a significant chance that upon starting my car, a fire could have ensued. Furthermore, it appears that the pump No. 5 rubber tip contains holes and is in unsafe condition.

— **Benjamin R. Margolis,**  
Pacific Palisades

### Coffee in Downey

Dear Editor:

In response to "Venti Latte, Hold the Attitude," (Letters to the Editor, 11/27/09) I would like to throw a shout-out for the coffee drive-thru Drinx on Lakewood Boulevard in the Ralph's center parking lot.

It is very convenient, very personable and makes the same lattes, espresso and non-coffee drinks, same as Starbucks. Probably more reasonably priced. They also have bagels, danishes, etc.

I have never been a fan of Starbucks, nor do I have any interest in the Drinx drive-thru business, except for the fact that I like it and would like to pass that info on. So enjoy!

— **Diana Borzi,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I'd like to share my thoughts on the recent letter commenting on the poor service the writer received at two Starbucks locations in Downey.

I've been a Starbucks customer for years, and tend to agree that the locations in Long Beach typically provide a better customer service experience than the ones in her hometown.

All is not lost, however, on the pursuit of a great cup of coffee in Downey. I'm in town quite often and have recently become a big fan of 3rd Street Coffee, located across from the Krikorian Theatres. And what's not to like? There's convenient curbside parking, a nice atmosphere, friendly service and a great product. I often stop there on Saturday mornings right before I visit the nearby farmers market.

I feel 3rd Street Coffee's a great example of how a small business can succeed in Downey, and hope they enjoy many more years of well-deserved success.

— **Mark Echmalian,**  
Long Beach

### Appreciation from Toastmasters

Dear Editor:

As the outgoing president of Downey's Toastmasters Club 587, and on behalf of our club, thank you for publishing our press releases throughout the year and bringing awareness to the benefits of Toastmasters.

Publishing our announcements has given us the opportunity to reach out to those interested in improving their communication and speaking skills, as well as their leadership capabilities.

Many of our new members and attendees say they found out about our club through your publication; so I would like to remind your readers that we meet at First Baptist Church of Downey, room 116, at 6 p.m. every Tuesday evening and more information can be found about our club at <http://club587.freetoasthost.net/>.

The Downey Patriot is a great resource for community news and information about service clubs and organizations.

Again, thank you and keep up the good work you do for this community.

— **P.J. Mellana,**  
Bellflower

### Project's upside

Dear Editor:

I understand that the city is seeking \$2 million in order to build an affordable (low-income) complex in the heart of the city.

Of course it is great that the city is trying to revitalize downtown Downey. However, I must agree with Barry Dunlap (Letters to the Editor, 11/20/09). I cannot see how those who can't afford paying rent will contribute to the economic growth for downtown that the city is seeking.

I cannot see any advantage to the project other than the city will end up with more debt, and more over, little chance of any type of an equitable return.

The city has not explained what the upside of this project would be.

— **Ed Romero,**  
Downey



### Ban divorce

Dear Editor:

Today I did something I never do; I signed a petition to have a measure placed on the November ballot in California. The petition is something I believe every religious group in this state should and will support as I do. It doesn't matter if you're Christian, Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Jew, Buddhist or any other religion, your "church" is opposed to divorce.

This measure would make it illegal for married couples living in the state of California to divorce.

Why did I sign this petition, of all petitions? Because it only stands to reason if the people of this state believe they have the right to dictate which babies can and cannot be killed (abortion), which couple can and cannot get married (gay and lesbians), then we the people should deny those that took an oath to stay together the right to separate.

Today in this country roughly 50 percent of those getting married will divorce. This to me is abysmal! Do we forget why we got married in the first place? Are we so spoiled and into "me" that we don't care about others? Are we afraid to work through the issues that inevitably crop up? What about the children and their lives, do we just throw them away?

I have been married almost 50 years and I can honestly say I love my wife more today than when we were first married. Is it a different type of love? Of course; it's a deeper, more profound love and maybe just maybe when we make it illegal for couples to divorce they will be forced to work through their issues and we will have a much better and more stable population.

— **Jim Richards,**  
Downey

### Science of evolution

Dear Editor:

It is presumptuous for Mr. Cristea to claim to speak for all Downey residents in his disingenuous letter ("Philosophy of Evolution," 11/27/09). To conclude that because he did not witness any celebrations of the publication of Charles Darwin's book "On the Origins of Species", then those celebrations did not happen, is far too simplistic.

Mr. Cristea seems to want to have it both ways. He refers to "today's elite in the scientific and academic community" with derision when they prove evolution as a widely accepted scientific theory backed by a preponderance of evidence. Yet the elitist tag disappears when in the very next paragraph he holds up the achievements of the very same scientific and academic community. One can only surmise this is because the computers, cell phones, laser eye surgery, space shuttle, and electric cars (hello, Tesla Motors) to which Mr. Cristea refers pose no threat to his freely chosen religious beliefs.

The claim that evolution is godless is irrelevant to its validity, but demonstrates Mr. Cristea's true motivation. The prevailing theories of gravitation are also godless, but few would argue that they are invalid. Simply claiming that no transitional fossils exist does not make the claim true. Hundreds of transitional fossils have been unearthed, most notably Archaeopteryx, easily viewed at the London Natural History Museum, discovered just two years after the publication of "On the Origin of Species."

The problem is, when a transitional fossil is discovered, evolution deniers only see the need for two more transitions, creating a never-ending cascade of missing transitions. Mr. Cristea's discussion of whales on cornstalks and elephants birthed by dogs has nothing to do with any aspect of evolutionary science and needs no rebuttal. As to the claim that there is "no scientific evidence of any kind" that life began from chemical reactions in Earth's primitive oceans, I would refer Mr. Cristea to the 1952 Miller-Urey experiments at the University of Chicago and the many studies that followed. Choosing to ignore peer-reviewed, scientifically validated evidence does not make the evidence disappear.

The results of Mr. Cristea's study, as he "looked far and wide all over Downey" that "no one celebrated here or even took notice of Darwin's infamous book," are flawed. Did he drive every street in Downey on November 24, every third street, or did he simply carefully look around on his way to work that day and notice no celebration.

I, for one, know for a certainty that he missed some thoughtful celebrations.

— **Monte Weiss,**  
Downey

### Microcosm of diversity

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Mr. Parmer for speaking out in response to the "Philosophies of Evolution" letter published in the Nov. 27 issue of The Downey Patriot.

I, too, was shocked at the fairy tale view of a homogeneous Downey expressed by the author. In addition, I am troubled by the writer's call to return to an earlier time of religious and social intolerance. I believe that we in America need to continue to struggle against such intolerance.

I find no contradiction in celebrating both Christ and Darwin. If anything, I wish that Christians would spend more time focusing on the teachings of Christ expressed in the New Testament and less time attempting to extract science from the Old Testament.

Finally, I have no fear in celebrating Downey for what it really is: a microcosm of the wonderful diversity of Southern California and the diversity of our country.

— **Frank Kearns,**  
Downey

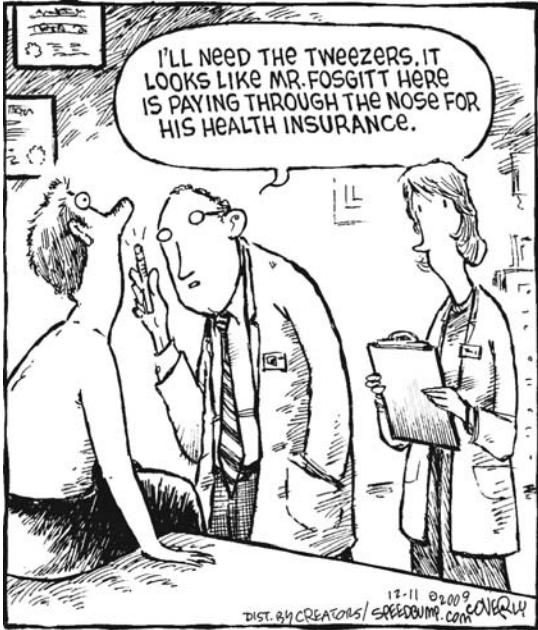
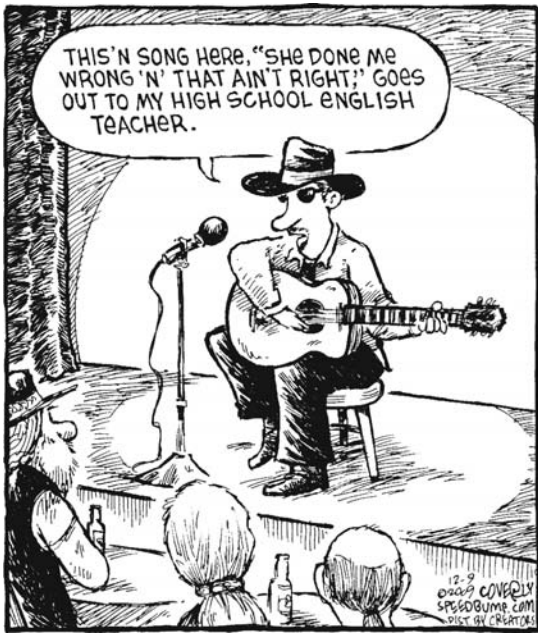
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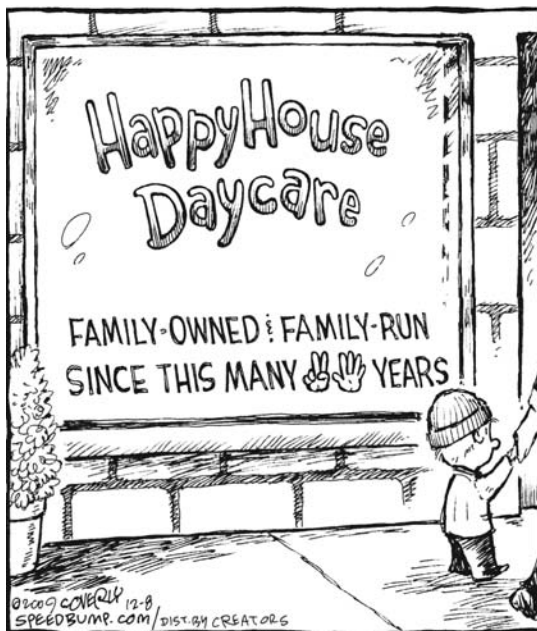
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



# Downey Community Calendar

### Events For December

- Fri. Dec. 11: **Open house**, Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m.
- Sat. Dec. 12: **Downey Holiday Lane Parade**, Downey Elks Lodge, 4 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 13: **Christmas concert**, Messiah Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.
- Tues. Dec. 15: **Movie screening**, Temple Ner Tamid, 10 a.m.
- Tues. Dec. 15: **City council meeting**, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 16: **Career orientation**, Downey Adult School, 10 a.m.
- Wed. Dec. 16: **Emergency preparedness meeting**, Fire Station 1, 6 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 16: **Winter Concert**, Downey High School stadium, 6 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.

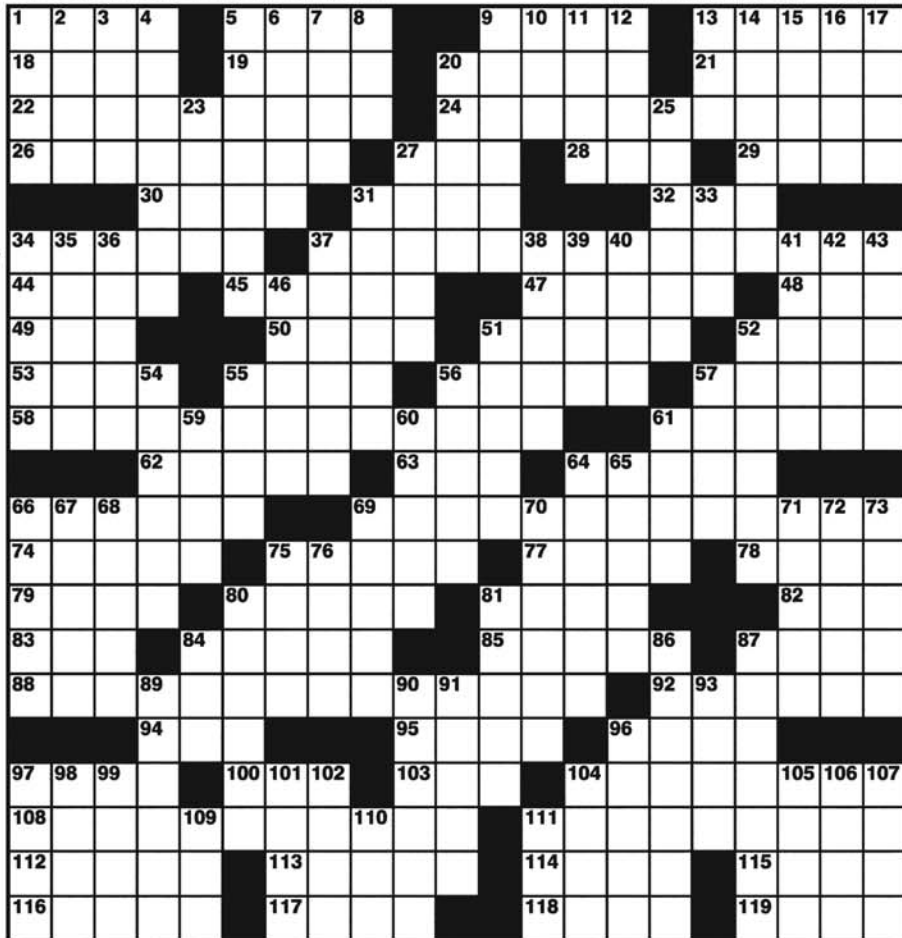
## On This Day...

- Dec. 11, 1872:** Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback becomes the first black governor of the United States. He would serve only 35 days, during the impeachment of Gov. Henry Clay Warmoth.
- 1941:** Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.
- 1972:** Man lands on the moon for the first time.
- 2002:** Baseball player Alex Rodriguez agrees to a 10-year, \$252 million contract with the Texas Rangers.
- 2008:** Pin-up model Bettie Paige dies at age 85.
- Birthdays:** Actress Rita Moreno (78), Sen. John Kerry (66) and singer Jermaine Jackson (55) and comedian Mo'Nique (42).

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**JUST ASK:** Featuring a well-known sextet  
 by Fred Piscop

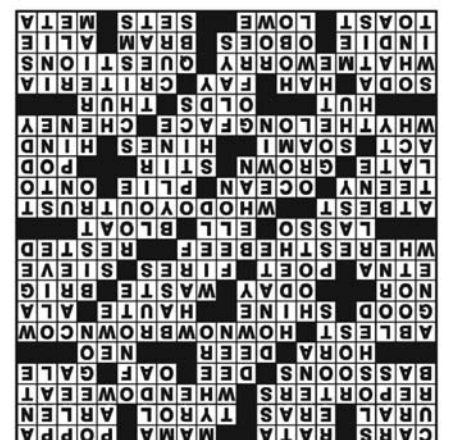
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  - 50 Jazz singer Anita
  - 51 Fritter away
  - 52 Naval lockup
  - 53 Sicilian peak
  - 55 Odist, for one
  - 56 Inspires, with "up"
  - 57 Holy utensil
  - 58 Slogan coined in '84
  - 61 Took a break
  - 62 Calf catcher
  - 63 New wing, perhaps
  - 64 Cause to swell
  - 66 If all goes right
  - 69 Game show hosted by Johnny Carson
  - 74 Itsy-bitsy
  - 75 Cousteau's balliwick
  - 77 Ballet bend
  - 78 Not fooled by
  - 79 After the buzzer
  - 80 No longer a minor
  - 81 Make uniform, perhaps
  - 82 Bit of okra
  - 83 Behave
  - 84 Copycat's comment
  - 85 Tap dancer Gregory
  - 87 Golden \_\_\_ (Drake's ship)
  - 88 Words to a gum guy
  - 92 Biden predecessor
  - 94 Crude abode
  - 95 Erstwhile auto line
  - 96 T-giving day
  - 97 Fast-food offering
  - 100 "So there!"
  - 103 Wray of King Kong
  - 104 Benchmarks
  - 108 Mad Magazine slogan
  - 111 See 22 Across
  - 112 Sundance Festival entry, often
  - 113 Certain double reeds
  - 114 Dracula creator Stoker
  - 115 "I cannot tell \_\_\_"
  - 116 Best-man ritual
  - 117 Rob of The West Wing
  - 118 Solidifies
  - 119 It means "beyond"
- DOWN**
- 1 Curtail
  - 2 Neck of the woods
  - 3 Sharp sounds
  - 4 Walked through puddles
  - 5 Snappy comebacks
  - 6 Combat site
  - 7 Sea dogs
  - 8 Wild equine
  - 9 Rescued damsel's cry
  - 10 "Odds \_\_\_"
  - 11 MSG part
  - 12 Guys and Dolls Tony winner
  - 13 Handle crudely
  - 14 Nike's headquarters
  - 15 Earnest request
  - 16 Bell sound
  - 17 Price to play
  - 20 10-to-12-year-old
  - 23 Aussie bounders
  - 25 Worth remembering
  - 27 Donald Duck nephew
  - 31 Give a pint, say
  - 33 Meadow mother
  - 34 Veep who resigned
  - 35 Diner seating option
  - 36 Greene of Bonanza
  - 37 Cab Calloway catchphrase
  - 38 Berth place
  - 39 Barracks locale
  - 40 Road furrows
  - 41 Insertion mark
  - 42 Oil source
  - 43 Carried on, as a battle
  - 46 Derisive cries
  - 51 Exert, as influence
  - 52 Modest eatery
  - 54 Actress Dahl
  - 55 Clandestine call
  - 56 Serious offender
  - 57 Candidate's goal
  - 59 Like falling off a log
  - 60 Borstal Boy author
  - 61 Cad
  - 64 Author credit
  - 65 France's longest river
  - 66 Attorney-\_\_\_
  - 67 Show the ropes to
  - 68 Crocker of cake mixes
  - 69 Victory cry
  - 70 Science of light
  - 71 Detach, in a way
  - 72 Mango's center
  - 73 Après-ski drink
  - 75 Ph.D. exam
  - 76 Lake in Lombardy
  - 80 Faust writer
  - 81 Less than legit
  - 84 Moo \_\_\_ pork
  - 86 Disunions
  - 87 Words after "Yoo-hoo!"
  - 89 Clarification starter
  - 90 Be released
  - 91 Chews out
  - 93 Jabba the \_\_\_
  - 96 Practice medicine on
  - 97 Loretta of M\*A\*S\*H
  - 98 "This looks bad!"
  - 99 Word from the crib
  - 101 Delinquent GI
  - 102 Boxcar rider
  - 104 Practice medicine on
  - 105 Cameo, for one
  - 106 \_\_\_ for the long haul
  - 107 On the briny
  - 109 Ran into
  - 110 Column counterpart
  - 111 The Mannings of the NFL

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.

Announcer Ed McMahon's association with Johnny Carson began in 1958, on the TV game show WHO, DO YOU TRUST? (69 Across). Headquartered in Bearton, OREGON (14 Down), Nike was co-founded by a University of Oregon track coach and track athlete. The "moo shu" of moo SHU pork (84 Down) refers to the tortilla-like pancakes that are served with the dish.





## Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer



result, instead of seeing the typical decline in brain function associated with age, those who were active performed at about the same level as their younger counterparts. Aerobic exercise increases the supply of a protein known as *brain-derived neurotrophic factor*, which protects brain neurons and promotes the growth of new nerve cells and synapses that are related to learning and memory.

Exercise attacks diabetes in several ways. With advancing age and weight, the body becomes more resistant to the effects of insulin, the hormone that enables sugar to be used as energy. Aerobic as well as strength training increases the number of glucose transporters, the proteins that move glucose from the blood into cells, and boosts insulin sensitivity. Studies clearly show that regular exercise will also halt or reverse the accumulation of visceral fat. This type of fat accumulates with age, around the belly, and is also linked to insulin resistance and diabetes.

Another interesting consequence of exercise is a potential decreased risk of cancer. First, by reducing weight, exercise indirectly reduces cancer risk. Studies have clearly shown that weight gain is associated with quite a few different cancers, including post-

menopausal breast cancer, colorectal cancer, endometrial cancer, pancreatic cancer and adenocarcinoma of the lower esophagus. Exercise may have an even more direct affect on colon cancer. The most active people in a Washington University School of Medicine study were 21 percent less likely to be diagnosed with colon cancer than were their less active counterparts. The mechanism of this protection is unclear, but one theory is that exercise improves the movement of waste through the bowels. My recommendation is clear. With your doctor's permission, exercise for at least 30 minutes with moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, at least three to five days per week. (45 minutes will show even more benefit!) Clearly, Americans are far too sedentary. At a minimum, let's all consider how we can increase the amount of any exercise that we are doing.

I wish for you healthful, invigorating exercise!

*Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and current chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.*

Many of you are aware that I love to exercise. It makes me feel great, and I know that it helps to keep me healthy. Of course, everyone knows that regular exercise will help control weight, build endurance, make our muscles stronger and strengthen the heart. Most even know that it decreases the risks of stroke, hypertension, depression, broken bones, and falls. But let's look at a few more benefits that aren't yet as commonly discussed.

Exercise can create new brain cells. It appears from animal studies that exercise increases blood flow to the brain and stimulates the growth of new brain cells, new connections between cells, and new capillaries to distribute blood and nutrients to brain tissue. As a

## Autism group supports federal legislation

Today the National Autism Association announced its support of H.R. 4247, the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act, introduced Wednesday by Congressman George Miller (D-CA) and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The federal bill is a much-anticipated solution to the issues of unregulated restraint and seclusion in schools.

In June, the National Autism Association (NAA) launched a campaign to spur letter writing and raise awareness about dangerous restraint and seclusion practices following a May 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report that revealed no federal laws regulating restraint and seclusion in schools, no laws in 19 states, and "widely divergent" laws in remaining states.

The report investigated hundreds of cases, including deaths from "mechanical compression to the chest," or "smothering," one schoolchild died from restraint following a seizure, another died from hanging himself in a seclusion room. Other cases included a four-year-old girl who was tied to a chair and abused, five children who were duct-taped to their desks, and a ten-year-old boy who was put in a seclusion room "75 times over a 6-month period for hours at a time for offenses such as whistling, slouching and hand-waving."

In a CNN OpEd Piece yesterday, representatives Miller and Rodgers wrote, "It's difficult to believe, but there are no federal laws to prevent this from happening. Local newspapers recount bone-chilling stories of schoolchildren tied to chairs, or with their mouths taped shut, sometimes locked in dark closets, or pinned to the floor for hours at a time. If parents treat their kids this way, it's considered a criminal offense."

Research shows that aversive interventions, restraint, and seclusion carry no therapeutic value. "Our children essentially regress when they are abused. They lose progress and are traumatized," stated NAA President Wendy Fournier. "We need positive, effective interventions in place that prevent the need for restraint or seclusion. We need proper training for our school

personnel, better support, more tools and immediate solutions to this system-wide failure that has caused so many of our children to either lose their lives or become victims of horrific abuse. We applaud Representatives Miller and Rodgers for introducing this critical legislation."

If signed into law, the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act would:

Prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools

Protect students from physical or mental abuse

Protect students from aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety

Prohibit any physical restraint or seclusion imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience

Require parent notification within 24 hours

Assist States, local educational agencies and schools in the areas of establishing policy; gaining tools, proper training & support; collecting and analyzing data; identifying and implementing effective evidence-based models to prevent and reduce physical restraint and seclusion in schools

"Withholding food and water, lemon spray to the eyes, force feeding, sensory exploitation, shaving cream to the mouth, peppers to the mouth - these are just some of the methods that have been used on schoolchildren, many of whom have been diagnosed with autism," states NAA Executive Director Rita Shreffler. "This federal legislation marks the first step in ending abuse that should have never existed."

In addition to the legislation, NAA feels surveillance cameras in special education classrooms are necessary. "Many of our children are nonverbal and cannot communicate acts of abuse. Surveillance cameras will protect both schoolchildren and staff," says Fournier. Prone (facedown) restraint should be banned completely, says NAA. And district, administrative, parent, and community support of special education staff is critical, as well as proper training. "Training 'don'ts' should be uniform among States to explicitly draw the line,

but the 'do's' of restraint and seclusion need to start with prevention utilizing de-escalation techniques and then take into account an individual's size, medical history and medications - it's not one-size-fits-all," Fournier says.

According to a January 2009 report by the Disability Rights Network, 41% of states have no laws, policies, or guidelines concerning restraint or seclusion use in schools, almost 90% still allow prone restraints, and only 45% require or recommend that schools automatically notify parents.

"Because no federal laws are currently in place and most parents remain unaware of their child being restrained or secluded, parents should take steps now to protect their child," says Shreffler.

NAA encourages parents to download a "no-consent" sample letter created by APRAIS to submit to their child's school. To download, visit [www.nationalautismassociation.org/abuse.php](http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/abuse.php).

The nonprofit is taking steps to help reduce acts of abuse in schools and pledges its full support of federal legislation. For more information about NAA and autism, visit [www.nationalautismassociation.org](http://www.nationalautismassociation.org).



Jim Branchick, executive nurse with Kaiser Permanente, traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive an award from the Leapfrog Group.

## Kaiser named top 'urban' hospital

**DOWNEY** - The new Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center has been named one of the top urban hospitals in the nation, according to a survey released last week.

"This year's class of top hospitals not only hits the mark in areas such as medication error prevention and preventing ICU deaths, but

they also use their resources wisely, providing excellent and efficient outcomes for patients," said Leah Binder, CEO of the Leapfrog Group, which conducted the survey.

The new Downey medical center opened in September after moving here from Bellflower. It was named a top "urban hospital."

Other urban hospitals to make the list include the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz., UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, University Medical Center in Princeton, N.J., and Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

More than 1,200 hospitals were ranked in the survey.

## HIV/AIDS vaccines in the pipeline

BioWorld Today recently highlighted a new report published by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America that identifies 97 new drugs and vaccines in development to treat or prevent HIV/AIDS and related conditions.

The report, which was released ahead of the 21st anniversary of "World AIDS Day" on December 1, found that the 97 products in development include 23 vaccines and 54 antivirals. These drugs are either in human clinical trials or awaiting approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Thirty-one medicines to treat HIV/AIDS have been approved since scientists first identified the virus that causes AIDS more than 20 years ago. The first HIV/AIDS medicine was approved in 1987, just four years after the virus was identified.

"We are greatly encouraged by these critically important medicines and vaccines in development to treat and prevent HIV infection," said PhRMA President and CEO Billy Tauzin. "Pharmaceutical researchers are continuing their efforts to develop new therapies and vaccines to improve and lengthen the lives of HIV-infected patients."

The CDC estimates that since the introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy in 1995, the annual number of deaths in the U.S. due to AIDS has dropped by more than 70 percent.

"As a result of HIV/AIDS medicines, a disease that was once a virtual death sentence can now be controlled and treated as if it were a chronic disease," stated Tauzin. "And the new medicines our scientists are working on right now bring hope for even more promising results in the future."

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by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

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# Roybal-Allard wins 'Legislator of the Year'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) was one of two politicians named Distinguished Legislators of the Year by the American Public Health Association.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) also was recognized with the award. "I extend my sincerest thanks to the American Public Health Association for honoring me with this year's Public Health Legislator of the Year award," Roybal-Allard said. "I commend Dr. Georges Benjamin, the organization's executive director, and the entire APHA organization for your strong voice of advocacy for public health and prevention in America, and for your tireless efforts to eliminate health disparities in our vulnerable and underserved communities."

Roybal-Allard is the new chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Health Task Force and recently introduced legislation to help those with cognitive impairments navigate the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

She has also spoken out on such public health issues as access to maternity care, insurance coverage for children, HIV/AIDS among Latinos, and improved mental health and substance abuse services.

Roybal-Allard served three terms in the California State Assembly before becoming the first Mexican American woman elected to Congress in 1992. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services and Appropriations Subcommittee, she oversees funding for all health-related programs and agencies of the federal government, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

She co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Study Group on Public Health to educate members and staff about public health issues. Among her health-related efforts, she authored the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which became law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. She introduced the STOP (Sober Truth on Preventing) Underage Drinking Act, which was signed into law in 2006 and coordinates federal programs and research initiatives on underage drinking and funds a national media campaign to educate parents.

The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, also signed into law, trains doctors and nurses in newborn screening and educates parents about appropriate follow-up care. To garner increased support for investing in public health, Roybal-Allard authored a resolution expressing support in Congress for an "increased federal commitment to prioritizing prevention and public health for all people in the United States." The bill was endorsed by more than 160 health advocacy groups.



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, shown with Dr. Georges Benjamin of the American Public Health Association, has been named "Distinguished Legislator of the Year. Roybal-Allard represents the 34th district in Congress, which encompasses Downey.



P.J. Mellana is one of five 50th district candidates for the State Assembly.

# Mellana lands non-partisan endorsement

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – In an effort to reduce political corruption in Sacramento next year, the Independence Caucus has endorsed 50th district candidate P.J. Mellana for State Assembly.

Founded in 2008, the national, non-partisan organization exposes candidates who use special interest money to win elections and supports candidates who value tax reform, limited government and individual liberty.

"I'm excited to partner with them because they're a grassroots organization," said Mellana, a registered Republican. "A lot of their values line up with mine."

Stephanie Jahn, who represents California in the organization, applauded Mellana's values and his decision to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a contract signed by elected officials with the promise to oppose any and all tax increases.

"We here at the Independence Caucus have high hopes for P.J. Mellana," said Jahn in a released statement. "He is a wonderful candidate and in this era of greed, corruption and closed doors in Sacramento, P.J. Mellana stands to bring a welcomed change."

In the past, Mellana has criticized the four democratic contenders for their ties to Sacramento and embrace of wasteful spending practices.

"One of the candidates in this election has raised a lot of money, but from other areas," Mellana said. "The Independence Caucus fights corruption on either side of the aisle."

The Independence Caucus was formed by active campaign volunteers who helped elect republican Jason Chaffetz of Utah to the U.S. Congress after rallying against a six-term incumbent who they accused of being "compromised by the 'big money' of special interest groups."

## Spring college classes still available

CARSON – Spring 2010 classes are still available at Cal State Dominguez Hills through Open University and Special Sessions degree programs.

System-wide, the California State University system has closed spring 2010 admissions for most programs. However, at CSUDH, students can take classes in such undergraduate distance learning programs as Applied Studies, Quality Assurance and Nursing.

Through the Open University program, students may also enroll in campus-based courses without being formally admitted to the university, school officials said. These classes are open to all students as long as all prerequisites are met and there is space in the class.

Open University enrollment begins Jan. 23. For more information, visit [www.csudh.edu/ee](http://www.csudh.edu/ee) or call (877) 464-4557.

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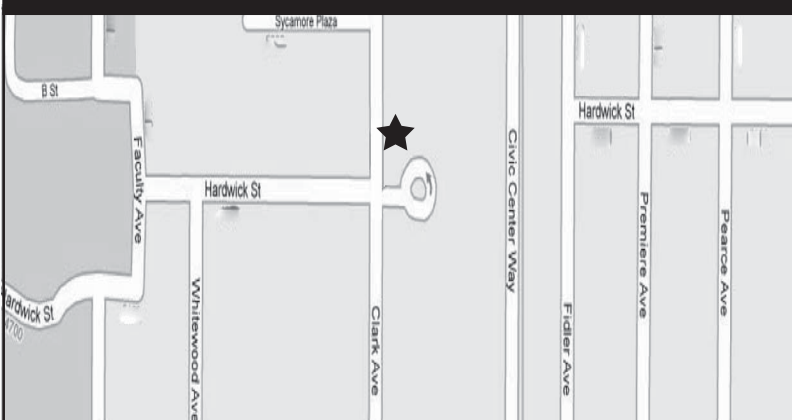
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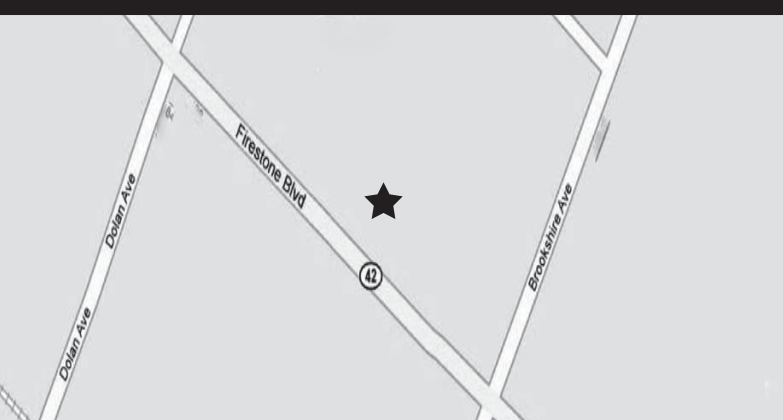
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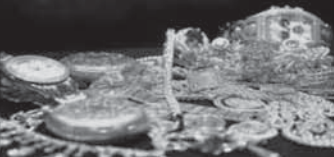
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The Trojans tied for first place in the DJAA Soph Division after a 10-3 record. Top row, left to right: Coach Ryan Duran, Josh Chavez, Matthew Olivarra, Darren McCaughn, Elvis Ponce DeLeon, Eddie Tapia, Mitchell Guastella and Coach TJ Fontaine. Bottom row: Karmel Drake, Bryan Bordete, Vincent Fontaine-Garcia, Johnathon Moreno, Adrian Diaz and Tanner Mahr.

The Downey Youth Baseball Association donated more than 500 toys to Downey PTA HELPS and Fire Station 1 for its "Operation Santa." The 8-year-old Stingrays and 10-12 year-old Express teams "helped out tremendously" in collecting the toys.

"We also want to thank Mr. Sergio Palos and Richard Pacheco of DYBA who steerheaded this big event along with Kevin Ellis, director of parks and recreation, Kathy Simmons of Downey Public Works and all Fire Station 1 personnel for making it truly a memorable [experience] for the kids of Downey," the DYBA said in a statement.



## Warren girls trounce Pacifica, 74-25

By Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Not having to travel far, Warren girls' basketball paid a visit to their cross town rival's gymnasium to take part in the Downey Classic last week, splitting the four games they played, 2-2.

Like the Downey boys' team, Warren started off right winning their first two games, but then dropping their last two against quality opponents.

Last Monday, Warren took Pacifica to school winning 74-25. The 49-point trot over Pacifica started early and didn't end until the fourth quarter, the only quarter where Warren didn't score in double digits.

After one quarter, Warren was up 20-4 and never looked back. The blowout saw Warren deny Pacifica to score in double digits in any of the four quarters. Warren on the other hand scored at least 20 in each quarter except for the last.

Their next game on last Tuesday, while not as much of a blow out, was more of the same defensively, decisively beating Santa Fe 40-25.

Again, Warren did not allow their opponent to score in double digits in any of the quarters. The closest Santa Fe got to scoring 10 or more points in a period was in the first quarter where they scored nine. That was the best quarter Santa Fe would have with them scoring only one basket in the second quarter and seven points in the third and fourth quarters.

Leading the way for Warren was Danielle Rodriguez who had 12 points. Franny Vaalu had a double-double for the Bears scoring 11 points and collecting 13 rebounds, three of them offensive.

Warren's first flunked test of the tournament would come the following day against Palos Verdes in a 46-32 loss. The Bears started hot and kept Palos Verdes at bay, but their offense hit a standstill in the second and third quarters where they were outscored 23-10. It would be those two quarters that doomed the Bears and sent them to their first loss.

Possibly still feeling the sting of their first loss the following day, Warren played North Torrance in a game they probably should have won but instead let the game slip in the second quarter and lost 41-39.

Going into the second half, Warren had a 6-point lead but watched it slip away in the third and fourth quarters of the game.

The Bears were able to keep most of North Torrance quiet offensively except for Kelly Kika who had 18 points and five rebounds. Warren started the second half off sluggish and scored only six points in the third quarter then lost the final quarter by two.

Warren will enter their first game today in the Glenn Tournament. The game time and opponent was not announced before press time.

## Warren ekes out win over Schurr

By Joseph Apodaca, Sports Intern

**DOWNEY** – The Warren boys basketball opened their season last week with a loss against Bellflower High School and a close win against Schurr High School.

The Bears ended their game against the Bellflower Buccaneers losing 44-35 while they defeated the Spartans by one point, 61-60. The Bears are now 1-1 for their preseason efforts.

In last Tuesday's game against Bellflower, Cejay Anderson scored the most points of the night with eight while Rene Bagaygay and Chad Corapi followed close behind with six and four points respectively. Eddie Romero scored the most points off of rebounds with ten while Tremaine Giron followed with four points. Anderson also led the night with three steals.

The Bears held onto the Buccaneers for the first two quarters, ending at 10-7 in the first and 15-12 in the second. Following halftime, the Bears picked it up a bit more, putting themselves ahead 14-6 in the third quarter. However, the Bellflower boys improved their offensive strategies by the fourth quarter, where their 13-2 lead over the Bears put them over the top to victory.

In Thursday's game against the Schurr Spartans, Moises Benitez scored the most points of the night with 22 while Anderson followed a close second with 21. Romero, Corapi, and Giron round out the scores with eight, six, and four respectively.

Each quarter came close for the Bears, until the games fourth quarter where they turned everything around. They were down consistently throughout the night, losing 19-16 in the first quarter, 13-12 in the second, and 17-11 in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, the Bears stepped it up on offense and moved the ball down the court better, winning that last quarter 22-11.

The Bears gave it their all in both games and showed some definite signs of improvement over their previous seasons. Better attention to the shot clock was made and more effective passing benefited the Bears in both games.

After their first two games, Anderson and Moises Benitez lead the Bears with the most points scored so far in the season, with 29 going to Anderson and 22 for Benitez.

## Girls come up short in own tourney

By Alyssa Wynne, Sports Intern

**DOWNEY** – The 32nd annual Downey Varsity Classic began on Nov. 30 and lasted until Dec. 3 with Downey girls basketball winning one out of four games.

"This is the 32nd year that Downey has hosted a girls varsity tournament to start the season," said Downey varsity head coach Nathan Harris.

On the first day, the Vikings competed against Bellflower and lost, 66-46. Katie Marifian scored nine of the points, which is more you can say for some of her teammates. This does not apply, however, to Debra Lovell and Brie Hatter who each scored eight points for the game.

The second day followed with a win against St. Mathias High, 55-37. Marifian once again knocked off all possible competition and earned 18 of points of the total score. Right behind her was Andrea Acosta with 15 points.

They played Sunny Hills High on the third day and lost, 55-58. Nineteen points were made by Marifian in this match and on her heels was Irma Urzua, with 14 points.

Finally, to conclude the tournament Downey lost against Lakewood, 57-51. Marifian dominated the scoreboard as she shot basket after basket and earned almost 30 points for her team. However, this time there were not any of her team mates even mildly comparable.

On Tuesday, Downey had an away match against La Serna that was set to begin at 7 p.m. The results and stats were unavailable at press time.

## Vikings split Loara tournament

By Scott Cobos, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – The Loara Basketball Tournament didn't treat Downey's boys' basketball team as well as it has in the past with them splitting their four game set for the tournament 2-2.

Downey had started off their season on the right foot quickly dispatching North Torrance last Tuesday 71-55. It was a great game for the Vikings to start off with, considering North Torrance is no team that can be walked over. In fact, North Torrance had beaten Magnolia, a team that Downey would beat later in the tournament, the previous day by 14 points.

The next day, the Vikings cleaned up against an overmatched Magnolia 58-43. Downey had no problem keeping the Sentinels offense at bay and held their two best scorers, Nathan Williams and Artie Gonzalez to only 21 combined points.

Other than that, Downey dominated the rest of the game and cruised to a quick 2-0 start in the tournament.

The third day is where things started to get a little rocky for the Vikings. Playing against Los Alamitos quickly brought back flashes of last year's first round playoff game against Martin Luther King Jr., a team that seemed to allow Downey to hang around in the first half and cruise in the second half.

Los Alamitos while scoring only 51 points, held Downey to its lowest point total in the tournament. The 51-40 loss to the Griffins, a team that is ranked in the top 50 in the state and top 200 in the country, handed the Vikings their first loss of the season. The loss against Los Alamitos could be seen as a possible precursor to what may be coming up in the San Gabriel Valley League.

Finally in their fourth game, and their second consecutive loss in the season, Downey found themselves pitted up against Canyon and were unable to hold down their offense, losing 77-45.

Downey's offense did enough to keep the Vikings close after one quarter, but an offense that went stagnant and a defense that was starting to get tired allowed three of Canyon's players to score in double digits.

Canyon's Chris Anderson had 14 points, Bryan Barker had 13 points, Taylor Mossman had 12 points, and 12 different players scored against the Vikings in their final game of the tournament. Anderson, Mossman, and Barker averaged a combined 55 percent from the field and Anderson also had nine assists and seven rebounds, coming close to a triple double.

Tonight, Downey will travel to Chino to play against the Don Lugo Conquistadores in their sixth non-conference match up of the year. Game time is 7 p.m. Yesterday, the Vikings hosted Norwalk but scores were unavailable at press time.

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**WDLL sign-ups begin**

**DOWNEY** – West Downey Little League will host sign-ups this week for its 2010 season.

Registration will be taken tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Herb Welch Field at West Middle School and Monday from 6-8 p.m. in the West Middle School cafeteria.

Other registration dates are Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dec. 28, 6-8 p.m.; Jan. 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## CIF playoff action continues tonight

### Contributed by CIF Southern Section

Thirteen divisional winners will be crowned champions this weekend in the 2009 CIF Southern Section-Toyota Football Championships, scheduled for sites spanning from the desert to the sea.

Championship football competition among CIF-SS member schools dates back to 1914. This year's 95th edition features 11 schools that appeared in championship games last year.

**CENTRAL DIVISION** Los Osos (9-4) vs. Upland (11-2) at Citrus College, Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Two Baseline League powers with different history's tangle in the Central Division Championship.

Unseeded Upland, the at-large entry of the Baseline League, is out to win its third crown overall and first since 2000. The Highlanders appeared in the finals last year but, found themselves on the losing end of 21-7 contest to Rancho Cucamonga at Chaffey College. In 2000 they defeated Chino, 26-10 at Citrus College for the Division II crown. Upland also claimed a title in that 1995 contest versus Rancho Cucamonga, 33-13 at Citrus College. The Highlanders other loss in a final was to Diamond Bar in 1999, 17-14 in a controversial final at Cal State Fullerton. Coached by Tim Salter, Upland features stone wall defense which led Upland to a 13-7 victory over unseeded Sierra League Champion Chino Hills last Saturday night at Chino Hills High School. Upland also has playoff wins over Damien (30-6) and No. 2 seeded Colony (21-17). The Highlanders are led by senior running back Keith Hutchins and senior linebacker Tim Helton. Upland defeated Los Osos during the regular season, 17-0 (Oct. 16) at Upland High School.

Fourth-seeded Los Osos, champions of the Baseline League, seeks the school's first sectional title in their first finals appearance. The Grizzlies finally got over the hump this year.

After losing in the semifinals last season to eventual division champion Rancho Cucamonga, Los Osos took care of the Cougars in this season's semi, 28-21 at

Chaffey College. Senior quarterback Blake Loncar leads a quality offense, while senior linebacker Connor Jahnke fronts the defense. Coach Tom Martinez's high-octane offense was also a force in Los Osos' other playoff wins over Arroyo Valley (63-35) and Chaffey (28-26).

**EASTERN DIVISION** – Serrano (11-2) at Palm Springs (10-2), Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

The Eastern Division title game features a pair of outstanding programs in a rematch of the 2004 Division VIII Championship game.

Serrano, champions of the Mojave River League, is the division's second-seeded team. The Diamondbacks, coached by Ray Maholchic, topped Heritage (34-0) in the first round; got past Desert Valley League Champion La Quinta of La Quinta (3-0) in the second round; then took care of unseeded Norte Vista in the semifinals (49-36). Serrano is hoping to hang the school's second CIF-SS Football Championship banner in their second finals appearance. The Diamondbacks defeated Palm Springs, 25-18 for the 2004 Division VIII title at Serrano High School. Junior quarterback Joey Peterson and senior running back Dionza Bradford are the Diamondbacks offensive leader, while junior linebacker Andrew Reagan anchors the defense.

Unseeded Palm Springs, the Desert Sky League runner-up, takes their 10-2 record into the championship game with the hopes of taking home their first CIF-SS football crown. This is the Indians third trip to a final with the last one coming in that 2004 loss to Serrano. The only other championship appearance came in 1950 when they lost to San Dieguito, 12-0 in the Southern Division title game. Palm Springs, coached by Steve Fabian, has advanced into the final with wins over Barstow (41-0), Summit (33-26) and Kaiser (41-0). Senior running back Michael Karls leads the Indians' offense. Senior linebacker Christian Spears is the defensive standout.

**EAST VALLEY DIVISION** – St. Margaret's (12-1) at Ontario Christian (7-6), Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Two teams who took different roads meet up in the East Valley Division Final.

High-powered St. Margaret's, the No. 1 seed and Champions of the Academy League, is looking for its fifth CIF-SS championship in football and fourth in a row. It would be their fourth playing 11-Man football as the Tartans claimed an 8-Man title in 1989. In 2006 St. Margaret's defeated Maranatha, 21-10 for their first 11-Man title. In 2007 the Tartans defeated Brentwood, 37-6 for their second-consecutive title and first under coach, Harry Welch. Last season St. Margaret's defeated Twentynine Palms, 17-3 to make it three-in-a-row and to break the Orange County consecutive victories record at 42 (they won their first game of 2009 to stretch that mark to 43 games before losing in week 2). They went on to defeat Hamilton Union, 59-7 for the 2008 CIF State Small Schools Bowl Championship. Welch, who former led Canyon of Canyon Country to five CIF-SS titles and one state championship, defeated Santa Paula (33-6) and Aquinas (35-0) before taking care of Bishop Union in the semifinals (47-6). Junior quarterback Brennan Smith leads the offense,

while junior defensive back James Murayama leads the defense. St. Margaret's defeated Ontario Christian earlier (Oct. 2) this season, 42-0 at Ontario Christian High School.

Ontario Christian, runner-up in the Christian League, is an unseeded team. The Knights, coached by another coaching legend in Laing Stevens, topped Twentynine Palms (14-9) in the first round; upset No. 2 seeded Maranatha (28-24) in the second round; then took care of unseeded Grace Brethren in the semifinals (45-0). The Knights are hoping to hang the school's fourth CIF-SS Football Championship banner in their seventh finals appearance. In 1978 Ontario Christian defeated Brethren Christian, 28-12 in the Inland Division title game for their first championship. They followed that up with championships in 1982 (Inland Division) and 2002 (Division XII). The Knights dropped title game appearances in 1984 (Inland Division), 2004 (Division XII) and 2005 (Division XII). Senior Andrew Lachelt is the Knights offensive leader, while senior linebacker Buddy Traxler anchors the defense.

## Downey girls water polo starts season with a splash

### Joseph Apodaca, Sports Intern

**DOWNEY** – The Downey varsity girls' water polo team started their season off on a high note, winning their first game of the year against Estancia High School.

The girls took home a victory of 18-8 against the Estancia Eagles, marking their first win in their pre-season effort. Seniors Dominique Diaz and Brenda Rosero led the count with the most goals throughout the game.

Though it was only their first game of the season and the first

ever for several players, the girls managed to work quite well together in the water, as if they had all been playing together for years. Needless to say, the returning players were very satisfied with the team's overall performance.

"Everyone played really well together. Brenda, Sarah Aguayo, and [newcomer] Meghan Nevarez played exceptional," said Diaz.

Offensively, the girls were unstoppable throughout the duration of the game. Already proving herself as an unstoppable force of

## New Titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **"A Christmas Blizzard"** by Garrison Keillor. A wealthy and depressed man bound for Christmas in Hawaii is abruptly summoned home to North Dakota, but arrives just in time to be trapped there by a blizzard. During his stay, he reaches an epiphany worthy of the season and resolves to simplify his life.
- **"Ford County"** by John Grisham. In this surprising collection of stories, the bestselling author returns to Ford County, Mississippi, the setting for his popular first novel, "A Time to Kill."
- **"The Memory Quilt: a Christmas Story for Our Times"** by T. D. Jakes. The beloved pastor and spiritual leader takes 10 life lessons from the story of the Virgin Mary to help others enjoy Christmas and find favor in unfavorable moments.
- **"Plum Pudding Murder"** by Joanne Fluke. It's the Christmas season--and Sleuth Hannah Swensen investigates the murder of "lunatic Larry" Jaeger while trying to nab a murderous Scrooge who doesn't want her to see the New Year.
- **"Under the Dome"** by Stephen King. The small town of Chester's Mill, Maine is faced with a dilemma when it is mysteriously sealed off by an invisible and completely impenetrable force field.

### Non-Fiction

- **"Last Words: a Memoir"** by George Carlin. The autobiography of the late comedian chronicles his career, as he pushed the boundaries of comedy and influenced several generations of performers.
- **"Path of Miracles: The Seven Life-Changing Principles That Lead to Purpose and Fulfillment"** by Samuel Rodriguez. Based on Christian teachings, this book shows how real personal growth emerges from life's most difficult challenges.
- **"Robin Rescues Dinner: 52 Weeks of Quick-Fix Meals 350 Recipes and a Realistic Plan to Get Weeknight Dinners on the Table"** by Robin Miller. With three planned meals a week plus optional side dishes and desserts, this helpful guide contains healthy recipes for the whole family.
- **"A Simple Christmas: Twelve Stories That Celebrate the Holiday Spirit"** by Mike Huckabee. The talk show host and former Presidential candidate shares heartwarming stories from his past that help recall the true meaning of Christmas.
- **"The Sound of Wings: the Life of Amelia Earhart"** by Mary S. Lovell. This biography of aviation legend Earhart describes her life, from her tomboy childhood and early fascination with flying to her consuming quest for aviation fame.

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nature, newcomer Meghan Nevarez took command as a sprinter, winning every sprint to start the periods. As a driver, Nevarez used her speed to gain leverage in the water, keeping the ball on offense rather than handing it over to the opposing team.

"She [Meghan] is such a big contribution to our team and she probably works the hardest," said Diaz. "The fact that she's so fast really helps us because she pretty much wins every sprint and counters throughout the entire game."

Nevarez's speed in the water has only made the performance of veterans Diaz, Rosero, and Aguayo

better. Rosero remains in the center of the action, as the player closest to the goal with a better chance at a shot. Set guard Diaz is consistent with her attempts to keep opposing team members from getting close to set from her position at the two-meter marker. As a left-handed player, Sarah Aguayo handles the ball throughout the game and helps keep the ball in possession.

In addition to winning their season opening game, the girls took home three victories in last weekend's El Rancho tournament, losing only one in a sudden death round.

## Downey soccer loses a close one

### By Alyssa Wynne, Sports Intern

**DOWNEY** – After a close game that resulted in a 2-1 loss against Valley Christian High School, the Downey Vikings girls' soccer team still walked away from the field with their heads held high and their hearts full of hope.

The game began on a cold afternoon last Tuesday but the girls were able to ignore the weather and get their blood pumping to have a very intense game. Vanessa Calvillo, Cynthia Martinez, Stephanie Juanillo, Crystal Fresquez, Marysol Flores, and Brandi Neilan attempted goals but only Martinez was successful in shooting the ball into the net and Downey's crowd erupted.

At this turning point in the game, when Martinez attempted another shot at the opponent, Downey learned that Valley Christian's goalkeeper had a big weakness; she did not know how to cover her posts. For the remainder of the game, the Vikings were shooting right and left at their adversary's goals, and each time

they aimed for the post, but each time they missed by a slim margin.

Newly instated goalkeeper, Lorena Ruiz, definitely proved that her abilities are varsity worthy. The young junior was able to save five out of the seven shots fired against her. Though she let in two goals, many of the players agreed that it was not the fault of the goalie but of them. They lacked communication when the ball drew near their goal and panic set in while trying to remove it as quickly as possible.

Also to be noted as a savior for the team is defensive player Brianna Bobadilla. She played the role as "sweeper" which is designed to do exactly what it entitles; the player is assigned to sweep the ball away from their side of the playfield. In this position she made one save for her team. After Valley Christian scored, Downey began to take the team in circles, literally. Right midfielder Fresquez was very eager to get the ball to her players and in doing so did a trick on her victim by using her body to spin her, full circle, and

succeeded. Fresquez ran the ball up the line and passed it on as the dazed forward smiled at what had just happened to her, and there were obviously no hard feelings. A soccer player knows a talented person when they are spun.

The Vikings had another game this Tuesday but results were unavailable at press time. This weekend, beginning today, the

ladies will be attending the Mustang Cup Tournament, which will last until the Dec. 14.




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Funeral services for Henry Ikemoto will be held at 10 a.m. today.

## Funeral today for Henry Ikemoto

**DOWNEY** – Henry Yutaka Ikemoto, 86, passed away on Dec. 2. He was the husband of Mildred Toshiko Ikemoto; father of Paul (Eileen) Ikemoto, David (Arlene) Ikemoto, Lynn Hauer and Sharon (Casey) Spenser; grandfather of DJ, Kevyn, Jayson, Dawn (Mike), Kristin (Brian), Jamie, Lani, Kacie and Kelani; great-grandfather of Lauryn, Justin, Brittany, Landon, Quincy, Blake and Ashlyn; and brother of Ted (Edith) Ikemoto, Bill (May) Ikemoto, Sam (Lil) Ikemoto, Dorothy Sakai and Harumi Low.

He is also survived by numerous extended family members. Funeral services will be held today at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Downey. In lieu of flowers or koden, the family requests donations in the name of Henry Yutaka Ikemoto to Go For Broke National Education Center, 370 Amapola St., Suite 110, Torrance, CA 90501, or Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, P.O. Box 1052, Downey, CA 90240.



Neftali Cruz passed away Dec. 1 at age 70.

## Neftali Cruz passes away at 70

**DOWNEY** – Longtime Downey resident Neftali C. Cruz, known to his family and friends as “Tali,” passed away Dec. 1. He was 70.

He was born June 7, 1939 in Manila, Philippines to Alfredo and Felicidad.

He was highly-involved with the Catholic Church and served as a Sacristan.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Sonia; children; and friends.

Services were held in his honor Dec. 5 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Services were entrusted to Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary.

## Young author discusses book, writing at West

By Henry Veneracion, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** — Twenty-eight year old Nathan Charlton teaches pre-algebra to sixth and seventh graders at Griffiths but since he’s also the author of a 357-odd-page novel that came out only last March, he was invited to speak to all English and Special Program classes for all six periods at West Middle in observance of the school’s Author’s Day Wednesday.

The book’s title, “Terra Nova: The Search,” refers to the search for a new colony far out in deep space for survivors of a “nuclear winter” resulting from the eruption of volcanoes around the globe, similar to the catastrophe millions of years ago that wiped out the dinosaurs.

Giving his imagination free rein but careful to avoid dipping into deep science, Nathan talks about gravity, Einstein’s theory of space-time, space vehicles, speeds greater than the speed of light, and other fascinating hi-tech stuff, while charting the fates of several characters that figure prominently in the story.

“In writing your novel,” Nathan said in the Q-and-A period that followed his presentation of the synopsis and a sampling of the novel, “you have to dream up of characters that you care about, and you determine whether you want them to succeed or not, fulfill their dream or not, and otherwise cast about for people that will make your story go.”

“At first,” he said, “at least in my case, you start with an idea. Then you follow the idea where it leads. Once this stage is reached, I usually develop a story plan. I know more or less how it will end, then I fill in the other outline details. In any case, other authors have their own ways of developing a novel.”

The beauty of all this, he said, is that one is able to create contraptions, situations, and events entirely of one’s own making, decide what happens to each character, etc.

Nathan, whose wife Stacie likewise teaches at the district (second grade) and has a 2-year old son, said he finished his novel in two years, a project that he figured would take only a few months. But he had a lot of fun writing it, he said: “Parts of this novel were written at my kitchen table, in bed, at my in-laws, on vacation to Yellowstone, at the car dealership, outside a courtroom while on jury duty and at the library for a good chunk of a whole summer.”

He also emphasized to the young kids the importance of going to school to learn as much as one can especially about “what really interests you,” about what it takes to be really good, even great, at something, about “taking charge of your future.”

A luncheon in honor of the author hosted by the West Library formed part of the event, as was an after-school Student ‘VIP’ Party where about 100 students lined up to pick up their pre-ordered and autographed copies of the novel, along with enjoying some refreshments.

Coordinator and emcee of the event was West librarian/media teacher Julia Desalernos.

“I intend to keep my day job,” Nathan said. “There’s no money in this now, and at least not in the foreseeable future. But since I find writing fun, and I have two months of summer break, there’s no reason why I shouldn’t continue writing.”

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Neftali Cruz passed away Dec. 1 at age 70.

## Marjorie Sadofsky passes away at 87

**DOWNEY** – Marjorie Jeanne Sadofsky, born Sept. 11, 1922, in Evansville, Ind., to Orval and Marguarite Black, passed away Dec. 6 at the age of 87.

She worked in the war department in Washington, D.C. during World War II. Later, she was employed at the Abco Hardware store where she worked for 30 years.

She is survived by her daughters, Phyllis and Barbara; and grandsons, Steven and Michael.

Services will be held in her honor today at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary. Interment will follow at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

## Mary Louise Pickett survived by family

**DOWNEY** – Services were held Nov. 20 at Forest Lawn in Cypress for longtime Downey resident Mary Louise Pickett, who passed away Nov. 11 following a lengthy illness.

She was born Feb. 12, 1947, in Cleveland, Ohio. She moved to California as a young woman and worked to put herself through nursing school.

She worked at Rio Hondo Hospital in Downey for a number of years, and later worked at Downey Community Hospital.

She was predeceased by her husband of 35 years, Thomas Pickett Jr., in 2007, and her younger sister, Dorothy, in 2001.

She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer (Ryan) Rose, of Hawaiian Gardens; sister-in-law, Violet (Vernon) Lee, of Downey; nieces and nephews, Ann Millard, April Detterich, Bill Lee, Tom Lee and Mike Lee, and their families; 12 great-nieces and nephews; and three great-great nephews.

## Hula concert in Whittier

**WHITTIER** – The Polynesian Paradise Dancers will host their seventh annual “Ho’ike” Hula Dance Concert on Sunday at the Whittier High School auditorium.

Children from group homes have been invited to attend the concert at no charge, courtesy Entertaining Angels, a non-profit organization.

“It appears last year there were so many kids who had to go without gifts because of the lack of people willing and able to donate,” said Lisa Shipley, a representative with Entertaining Angels.

To purchase tickets to the show, or to donate an unwrapped toy for child, call (562) 945-2599.

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# Fantasia stars in 'The Color Purple'

**HOLLYWOOD** – "American Idol" Season 3 winner Fantasia Barrino will reprise her starring role of Celie in the "The Color Purple," opening at the Pantages Theatre on Feb. 10 for a two-week engagement.

Fantasia made her Broadway debut in "The Color Purple" on April 10, 2007. She won the 2007 Theater World Award and received stellar reviews from the New York Post and New York Daily News.

As a 19-year-old single mother, Fantasia began her path to international stardom when she became the winner of Fox's hugely successful singing competition in 2004. Now 25, she has garnered critical acclaim for the release of both her debut album, "Free Yourself," which marked her becoming the first artist in Billboard Hot 100 chart history to debut at No. 1 with her single, "I Believe."

Her second album, "Fantasia," released Dec. 12, 2006.

To date, she gathered more than 20 award nominations from the Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, Vibe Awards, Soul Train Awards and Soul Train "Lady of Soul" Awards, Billboard Music Awards, BET Awards, Teen Choice Awards and NAACP Image Awards.

She starred in "the Fantasia Barrino Story: Life is Not a Fairytale," the Debbie Allen-directed Lifetime original movie adaptation of her memoir. For her performance, Fantasia was nominated for a 2007 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special.

The biopic ranks as the network's second most-watched movie and has been seen by 19 million viewers.

Nominated for 11 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "The Color Purple" opened in 2005 at the Broadway Theatre where it ran for two years. It is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the film by Steven Spielberg.

It is the story of Celie, who finds the strength to triumph over adversity and discover her unique voice in the world.

"The Color Purple," on its first North American tour, is directed by Oprah Winfrey, Quincy Jones and others.

Tickets to see "The Color Purple" are \$25 to \$65 and are available online at [www.broadwayla.org](http://www.broadwayla.org) or by calling (800) 982-2787.

## 'Riverdance' and 'Stomp'

This January, both "Riverdance" and "Stomp" will return to Hollywood's historic Pantages Theatre for the first time in four years.

"Riverdance" will play 16 performances Jan. 12-24, while "Stomp" will be in town for a limited two-week engagement.

Tickets will go on sale Sunday at the Pantages box office at 9 a.m. and online at [www.broadwayla.org](http://www.broadwayla.org).

"Riverdance" is the thunderous celebration of Irish music, song and dance that has entertained millions of people around the globe. Composed by Bill Whelan, "Riverdance" to date has played more than 10,000 performances, been seen live by more than 22 million people in more than 350 venues throughout 40 countries and four continents.

They have traveled well over 600,000 miles, played to a worldwide television audience of 2 billion, sold more than 3 million copies of the Grammy Award-winning CD and more than 10 million videos, making it one of the best-selling entertainment videos in the world.

"Riverdance" had its world premiere at the Point Theatre in Dublin in 1995, where it opened to unanimous critical acclaim.

"Stomp" brings to L.A. new surprises, with some sections of the show updated and restructured, and two new full-scale routines added, utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans.

The changes now seen in the tour are the biggest since the late 1990s. "Stomp" has been an overwhelming success marked by rave reviews and sell-out engagements, along with numerous awards, including an Olivier Award for Best Choreography, an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatre Experience, and a Special Citation from Best Plays.

"Stomp" uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – trash cans, tea chests, plastic bags, plungers, booths and hubcaps – to fill the stage with compelling rhythms.

Performances of both "Riverdance" and "Stomp" are Tuesday – Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 and 6:30 p.m.

Tickets range from \$25 - \$78.

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**562-923-4484**  
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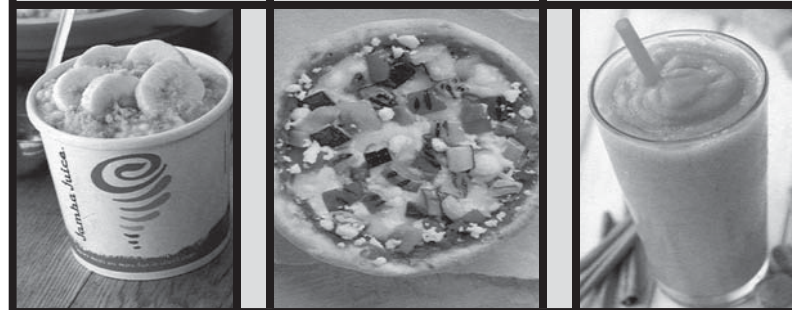
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Source: [www.comingsoon.net](http://www.comingsoon.net)

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Set in the LUTZ radio station at Christmas time in 1947, "LUTZ Radio Hour" looks forward to the beginning of the television age, when, ready or not, LUTZ will convert to a TV station the very next day.

"LUTZ Radio Hour" will play until Dec. 27, with performances on Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$22 general admission, \$20 for seniors and \$12 for students with ID. For more information, call (562) 494-1014.

Call Linda Larson to put your ad in **The Downey Patriot Classifieds** section. Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am (562) 904-3668

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**INVICTUS PG-13** (10:25, 11:00, 1:15, 1:55, 4:15, 4:55, 7:15, 7:55, 10:05, 10:45)

**\* THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G** (11:30, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10)

**ARMORED PG-13** (10:35, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05)

**BROTHERS R** (11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10)

**OLD DOGS PG** (10:25, 12:35, 10:05)

**THE BLIND SIDE PG-13** (10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35)

**PLANET 51 PG** (2:45, 5:05, 7:35)

**THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG-13** (10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30)

**2012 PG-13** (12:05, 3:35, 7:05, 10:30)

Times for Friday-Thursday, December 11-17, 2009

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Although The Downey Patriot is adjudicated in the County of Los Angeles, it's limited on the types of legal notices it is able to publish. Our goal is to become adjudicated in the City of Downey in order to run all types of legal notices. In order to print all legal notices, The Downey Patriot must meet additional requirements set forth by the Government code. One of these additional requirements is "a bona fide subscription list of paid subscribers".

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Call Marie for a Buyer or Seller appointment!

**7834 4TH ST. ~ DOWNEY**  
Huge Master Suite. Glorious kitchen & Family room 4 BD, 3BA, 3000 + Sq ft. Remodeled. MAKE OFFER!! A MUST SEE!  
Virtual tour at [www.MARIOBERSICO.COM](http://www.MARIOBERSICO.COM)

**SPANISH CHARMER!**  
**WALK TO "THE GROVE"**  
3 BD, hardwood floors, wood beam Ceilings, upgraded kitchen,  
Call for Price!  
Call Marie Picarelli @ 562-618-0033

**WOW!**  
**PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP**  
3 BD, 3 BA, nearly 2300 sq. ft. of living space, + rumpus room HUGE 14700 sq. ft. lot!!  
Virtual tour at [www.MARIOBERSICO.COM](http://www.MARIOBERSICO.COM)  
Call Mario for a private showing 562-533-7433

**CALL NOW!!**  
**DOWNEY HOME FOR RENT**  
4 BD, 2 BA, 1,545 sq. ft. living space, 2 car garage  
Call Cristina Picarelli  
To see it (562) 234-7862

**JUST LISTED!**  
**ORIGINAL OWNER**  
Lovely N. Downey home w/ 3 BD, 2 BA, newer roof, paint, A/C, over 1,700 sq. ft. Not a foreclosure not a short sale!  
Call Mario for a private showing 562-533-7433

**SOLD**  
**939 W. ARBUTAS ~ COMPTON**  
2 Units, 5,981 sq. ft. lot  
I CAN SELL YOURS TOO!  
Call JAMES POLIDORE  
TODAY (310) 487-5703

**LEASE!**  
**OFFICE SPACE**  
Triple net lease, 1400 sq. ft.  
call for more details!  
Call Pam Lee  
(562) 618-0390

**ATTENTION!!!**  
**MARIO IS NOW TAKING LISTINGS!**  
Low Inventory of Homes  
+ LOTS of Buyers  
= TOP \$\$\$ FOR YOUR HOME  
Call Mario Today For a FREE CONSULTATION!  
(562) 533-7433

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**MICHAEL BERDELIS**  
"The 24 Hour Agent"  
**(562) 818-6111**  
[www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

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**Northeast Downey Prize!**  
5 BD, 4.5 BA, 5200 sq ft home with amazing kitchen and master bathroom, excellent attention to details, and backyard with pool, spa, and BBQ.  
Price: \$1,079,000  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**Northeast Downey Pool Home**  
5 BR, 2 BA pool home with new kitchen with granite counter tops and new cabinets, an extra bonus room, and large yard with newer pool.  
Price: \$589,000  
Call Michael at 562-818-6111

**Fabulous Custom-Built Home!**  
5BD, 5BA home on a large lot near Rio Hondo Country Club and Furman Park. Features: Master suite with wet bar and fireplace, intercom and surveillance system.  
Price: \$1,225,000  
Call Michael at 562-818-6111

**Get it While It's Hot!**  
3 BD, 1 BA, 1,303 sq ft home on a large 10,500 sq ft lot!  
Just listed for \$409,000.  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**JUST REDUCED**  
**Don't Miss This!**  
3 BD, 2 BA home w/ new kitchen, master BD, liv rm & fam rm, new windows, new roof, and large yard.  
Price \$529,000  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**The Perfect Palace!**  
6 BD, 7BA, 7,500 sq ft, 10,890 sq ft lot, dual-staircase entry, Vegas-style master suite, and resort-like backyard.  
Price: \$1,399,000  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**NE Downey Home!**  
3 BD, 2.5 BA, 2587 sq ft, large master bedroom, new roof, 3 car garage, 10,005 sq ft lot.  
Priced right @ \$695,000  
Call Michael at 562-818-6111

**PENDING**

**"The 24 Hour Team"**



**Michael Berdelis**  
"The 24 Hour Agent!"



**Stephanie Hernandez**  
Listing & Escrow Coordinator



**Armando Martinez**  
Buyer's Agent

View more properties at:  
**View these homes at: [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)**

## Suspicious odor drifts through Downey

BY MARK SAUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**DOWNEY** – Many residents and visitors noticed a pungent odor drifting across the city on Monday afternoon and evening. The odor was similar to those from previous incidents.

There were no reported illnesses or injuries as a result of the odor. The prevailing winds ultimately pushed the odor though Downey and into Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, La Mirada and La Habra.

The Downey Fire Department received many calls for service and dispatched crews to investigate the reported problems. The Gas Company also received a large number of calls and sent crews to investigate. As result of the reported problems, fire department communication operators contacted the Air Quality Management District

(AQMD) and asked them to respond with an investigation crew. The source of the odor was reportedly a refinery operation in a neighboring city. The AQMD is following up with them on their business practices.

The Fire Department responds with fire crews to investigate suspicious odor incidents immediately after the problems are reported to the fire dispatch center. However, community members are also encouraged to call the Gas Company and the AQMD immediately when a suspicious odor is detected.

Gas Company representatives recommend residents and business owners who believe they smell natural gas to immediately call 1-800-427-2200 and report their findings. Once notified, a Gas Company service person will investigate the problem.

AQMD representatives recom-

mend residents and business owners immediately call 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) to report any suspicious odors. They advised an investigator will respond after the receipt of one phone call during business hours. After hours, the AQMD waits for the third caller before sending out an investigator.

Residents can also file written complaints with the AQMD. The AQMD noted they follow up on public nuisance problems when at least 10 residents complain of a problem.

Gas Company and AQMD representatives advised that residents should call the 24/7 phone numbers, listed above, when they notice the suspicious odors.

Without early notification, it is difficult to track down the possible odor sources and remedy the situation.

## Nearly 1,600 vaccinated at H1N1 flu-shot clinic

BY MARK SAUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**DOWNEY** – The free flu-shot clinic sponsored by the City of Downey and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) on Dec. 5 was successful.

The clinic was held at the Downey Adult School on Woodruff Avenue because the Downey Theatre and the Barbara J. Riley Community Center were both previously reserved.

The new clinic location worked well for the attendees and workers. There was ample parking in the rear lot of the school and more than adequate space and support facilities for clinic operations. Moving the clinic to the school was an opportunity for city and Downey Unified School District (DUSD) staff to work together on a project. The result of the collaboration between City, DUSD, DPH and the volunteers was a very efficient flu-shot clinic for the community.

Due to limited vaccine supplies, the director of DPH directed his staff to limit the vaccinations to specific targeted groups. After the initial screening of the attendees, all of those in the targeted groups were vaccinated as quickly as possible.

DPH staff members and volunteers successfully dispensed the H1N1 vaccine to 1,597 area residents during the course of the December clinic operations. Nearly half of those vaccinated were children. Many of the children were there for their second vaccination. Over 500 people were in line waiting for their vaccinations when the clinic opened at 9 a.m.

Public health officials say the vaccination process interrupts the virus transfer cycle of one person passing the virus to another as a key to minimizing the impact of a flu virus on the community.

Volunteers, city staff and county staff walked the entire waiting line to ensure those waiting for vaccinations were aware of the pre-

viously set priority groups for Saturday's vaccinations. This action was carried out approximately 60 minutes before the opening of the clinic

More than 50 Downey area volunteers worked hard to ensure the clinic operated efficiently. The registration area was staffed by nursing program students from the Downey Adult School. Volunteer members of the Downey Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Community Emergency Response Team assisted with the operations of the clinic for the entire day. Volunteers from the Fire Explorer and Auxiliary groups and the Police Explorers were instrumental in assisting with the flow of traffic and the crowd as they waited for their vaccinations. City staff from Police, Fire, Public Works, Administration and Community Services Divisions all contributed to the organization and operation of the event as well.

Questions can be directed to [ready@downeyca.org](mailto:ready@downeyca.org).

## Emergency preparedness gift suggestions

BY MARK SAUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER,  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**DOWNEY** – As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, we often find ourselves in a shopping quandary with gift choices for our friends or family members. This year the Downey Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) have assembled a list of gift ideas to keep those close to our hearts more 'ready' and prepared.

Since emergencies can happen at any moment, these gifts are a great way to encourage someone to start the simple steps toward being more prepared for emergencies. Please ensure your friends and family have an emergency communications plan, a disaster supply kit, and stay informed about emergencies in their area. Helping someone become more prepared for an emergency doesn't have to cost very much, many preparedness actions are free and only take a little time. Assisting a friend or loved one develop a supply kit or having a discussion about what should be done during an emergency (and what can be done

beforehand) are no cost 'gifts'.

"Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere and the holiday season provides a great opportunity to ensure that you and your loved ones are taking simple steps to be prepared," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "As families gather this holiday season, I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and discuss what you would do in case of an emergency or disaster. The public is the most important member of our nation's emergency response team and the more the public does to be prepared, the more successful this team will be."

The most important thing any individual can do is take a few minutes to discuss with their family, friends and loved ones what they will do in the case of an emergency or disaster. This includes developing a simple family communications plan and identifying how you would get in touch with loved ones and where you might meet if you are separated when an emergency or disaster takes place.

Additionally, there are simple supplies that can go a long way in the case of an emergency or disaster that would make great gifts this holiday season.

A list of possible gifts that may assist in disasters includes:

- Disaster kits for homes, offices and autos (first aid kits; food, water and prescription medications for 72 hours; i.e., extra clothing, blankets, and flashlights).
- NOAA weather radios with extra batteries (or hand-crank powered).
- Enrollment in a CPR or first-aid class.
- Smoke or Carbon Monoxide detectors.
- Fire extinguishers (for kitchen, garage, car, etc.)
- Foldable ladders for second-story escape in a fire.
- Car kits (emergency flares, shovels, ice scrapers, flashlights and fluorescent distress flags).
- Pet disaster kits (food, water, leashes, dishes and carrying case or crate).
- Battery powered lamps
- Batteries for smoke detectors and other emergency preparedness devices.

This year, consider at least one of these ideas. You just may save the life of a friend or family member. For more information and preparedness tips, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).