

The Downey Patriot



Supporter of Downey police
See Page 13



Caroling at Rancho
See Page 4



Tesla makes toy donation
See Page 16

Friday, December 18, 2009

Vol. 8 No. 35

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



Looking back on... *Richie's Drive-In*

■ The Downey Patriot begins a new series this week, "Looking Back On...", a bi-weekly revival of Downey's sometimes forgotten past.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – This year, Downey saw the rebirth of one of its oldest restaurants when the drive-in formerly known as Johnie's Broiler opened its doors once again as Bob's Big Boy on October 19.

However, during the 1950s, Johnie's, then named Harvey's, was not the only drive-in in town. In fact, less than a mile away from Rives Avenue and Firestone Boulevard was another burger place called Richie's Drive-In.

Built in 1953, Richie's was bought on July 15, 1954 by Buck Chandler, who turned the structure into one of the most popular drive-ins in the area until Harvey's opened four years later.

Though the small restaurant has been closed for decades, the building is still intact and has not changed much since it played host to the wild teenagers of the '50s who would cruise around the restaurant looking for friends and possible dates.

Seventy three-year-old Don Frieze remembers being one of those teenagers.

"It was basically a Downey Senior High School hang out, although kids from surrounding towns would cruise it as well," said Frieze who graduated from Downey High School in 1956.

"It was not very big compared to the drive-ins in some of the other cities – however, it was very important to us who went to Downey High to be seen at Richie's – to "show off" to others

the girl you were dating."

Bill O'Neill, who graduated from Downey High in 1952, recalls vividly the atmosphere of Richie's.

"That was the "happening place" on Friday nights, long before Harvey's was established a few yards to the west," said O'Neill, who covered high school sports for the local newspaper during that time.

"A couple of kids named Jim Hearn and Ward Vaughan used to stop cars "cruising" bumper-to-bumper into Richie's, and charge them 25 cents to drive through. And Jim, the legendary street fighter and football star, would get up and dance a jig on the hood of any car whose driver refused to pay the "toll."

Like most drive-ins of the time, Richie's had several carhops, where visitors could order their delicious Richie's burgers. Frieze recalls them always being full.

"I never remembered anybody walking up to Richie's window," said Frieze. "That would have really been a not cool thing to do at Richie's."

Growing up, Kay Cofield never got to hang out at Richie's, where teens were also known to secretly smoke and drink so not to be caught by the Downey Police.

"I vaguely recall that I was not allowed to go to Richie's because it had a rather "rough" reputation," said Cofield. "What that meant in the parlance of the mid to late '50s was that the kids who went there were a little on the tough side."

Towards the late '50s, Richie's began to lose some of its teenage patrons as another burger restaurant named McDonald's began to expand.



PHOTO COURTESY DOWNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BROWN

"When McDonald's on Florence Avenue and Lakewood Boulevard opened up, it slowly took the place of Richie's as the Downey High School hang out," said Frieze. "It [Richie's] became more of a hang-out for the car-club guys in the area than for the average teens."

Today, Richie's is owned by Kal Motors, a used car dealership based in South Gate since 1995. Kal Motors purchased the property

in 2007.

Despite its many owners and minor changes, the integrity of the building is still intact, standing as a reminder of Downey's golden era of hot rods, juke boxes and carhops.

Next up: Gallatin School and Bell. Do you have memories of the old Gallatin School that you would like to share? If so, contact reporter Christian Brown at christian@thedowneypatriot.com.

Ban on pot clinics extended

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – In a unanimous decision on Tuesday, the City Council voted to extend its moratorium on the establishment and operation of pot dispensaries in the city, from 45 days to a full year, despite a local dispensary's protest against the decision.

Last month, the Council approved a 45-day moratorium in order to provide city officials time to evaluate the legality of medical marijuana dispensaries and draft a new city policy to regulate the facilities.

Prior to the Council's vote, Assistant City Attorney Ross Trindle said the temporary ordinance would suspend the operation of the dispensaries until Nov. 10, 2010, giving the city more time to fully study the conflicts that exist between federal and state law regarding the collectives.

In addition to legal inconsistencies, the city ordinance also cites various studies, which report an increase in burglaries, drug-trafficking and robberies near and around pot dispensaries, a concern that several council members

See POT, page 4

Kiwanis launches evening meetings

DOWNEY – Councilman Roger Brossmer will be guest speaker when Kiwanis Club of Downey hosts its inaugural evening meeting Jan. 7 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Brossmer, who is also principal of Downey Adult School, is expected to speak on city issues.

Social drinks begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and Brossmer's talk at 6:30.

Kiwanis is one of the oldest service organizations in Downey, operating since 1925. It is made up of volunteers dedicated to helping children, and help sponsor the monthly barbecue for patients at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center; the Rancho Los Amigos Carnival for patients and their families; scholarships for Downey high school students; La Casita Rehabilitation Center; Arc; and more.

Kiwanis has also funded computer labs for all DUSD schools and, with *The Downey Patriot*, honors local youth with the Downey Youth Service Award.

Downey residents are invited to attend the free event. For more information, contact Fernando Vasquez at (562) 261-7601 or fvasquez562@gmail.com.



Roger Brossmer

Samperi is new DUSD board president

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The three female Downey Unified School District board members, who were unopposed in last November's district elections and will serve their second 4-year terms, were sworn in Tuesday by Downey Councilmember Roger Brossmer, who also serves as Downey Adult School principal for the district.

Taking their oaths of office were Barbara Samperi, representing Trustee Area 7, who was subsequently voted board president, replacing D. Mark Morris; Martha Sodontani, representing Trustee Area 1, voted vice-president; and Nancy Swenson, representing Trustee Area 5, who will serve as clerk.

After the usual congratulations were made, the 7-member board matched member assignments to various committees. Tod Corrin, Sodontani, and Swenson will comprise the Audit Committee; Morris, Don LaPlante and Willie Gutierrez

the Budget; Corrin and Samperi the School/City Coordinating Committee; while LaPlante was reappointed to serve as representative to LACSTA and for Electing Members to the County Committee on School District Organization.

Meanwhile, the board heard a presentation by Downey High School principal Tom Houts on a pilot intervention schedule for at-risk students for the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.

The gist of the proposed program will be to reward high-achieving students (A-B students) with, say, greater flexibility in their lunch schedules (as an added incentive) and continuing tutoring opportunities for C and below students. The program will be re-evaluated at year-end.

In other action, the board:
•Accepted with gratitude various cash and in-kind donations from individuals and institutions, including \$13,176.33 for classroom use at Gallatin Elementary

See DUSD, page 12



Barbara Samperi was sworn in as school board president on Tuesday, taking over for D. Mark Morris (above).

Christon adds voice to 'cultural' cry in Downey

By Henry Veneracion,
Staff Writer

More and more, for reasons that will become clear later, longtime Downey resident Lawrence Christon is making his views known in the pages of the *Downey Patriot*. More specifically, he thinks Downey lacks a cultural identity and it's about time something is done about it.

Christon was born and grew up in Manhattan in the 50s, a time of pristine artistic and cultural flowering, a time when a literary figure such as T. S. Eliot routinely made the cover of *Time*, something that just doesn't happen nowadays.

Not without talent, he soaked up the literary, artistic and cultural New York scene, and honed his writing skills. It was a good thing, too, as he became a victim of circumstances: a basketball all-star in high school, his college basketball scholarship fell through, and he quit college after only one year. He tried his luck as a writer for a while, then served in the Marines from 1963 to 1969.

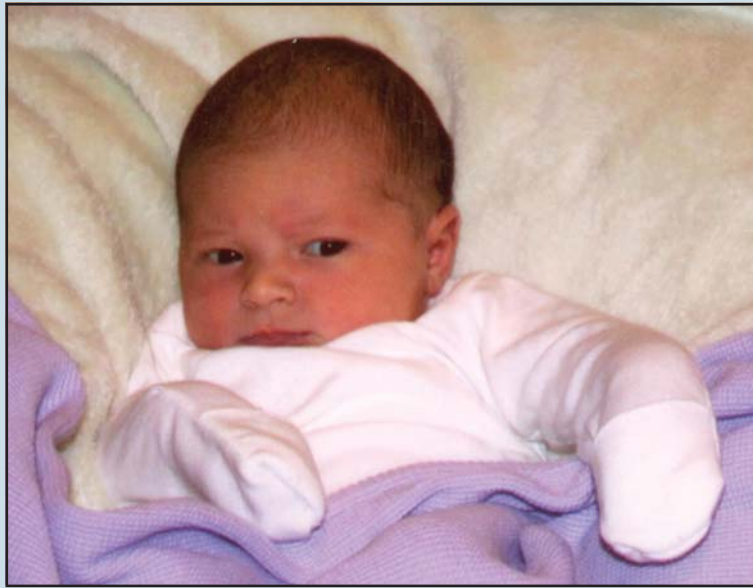
After a stint with the now defunct *Herald Tribune*, Christon was for 22 years a staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*. He was drama critic, columnist, features and profiles writer, essayist, and reporter. His reporting centered on international cultural developments, especially about Brazil, South Africa, and Australia. At the same time, he also wrote for the *Washington Post*, *Daily Variety*, *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and *Orange Coast Magazine*—mostly about the U. S. military, including the Persian Gulf War. His other gigs over the years include being a lecturer and commentator on cable TV.

Not too long ago, he was involved in "Operation Homecoming" published by Random House. It's a collection of 50 of the best essays about the Iraq War written by veterans. Among the contributors are such well-known writers as Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov and Mark Bowden (of "Blackhawk Down" fame). Christon was a writing instructor.

Just last September, a 340-page book he wrote on commission, "Stepping Ahead," about the 45-year history of the Orange Coast Repertory, "one of the nation's premier regional theaters"—came out.

See CHRISTON, page 10

Alexis Paige Givens



The Downey Patriot is happy to announce its newest addition: Alexis Paige Givens. She was born December 10th and weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and 20.5 inches long. Scott Givens & Jennifer DeKay-Givens are the proud parents

John G. Downey statue going up at City Hall

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – The City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to hire a consultant who will help facilitate the process of creating and constructing a full-size statue of John Gately Downey, which will be placed in front of City Hall.

Just prior to the vote, Community Services Director Thad Phillips said the consultant would take the project from beginning to end, soliciting proposals for the sculpture from local artists.

The public art sculpture will also contain some points of historical record around its base about John Gately Downey,

who served as Governor of California from 1860-62 and whose company owned land here before it was subdivided into smaller cities.

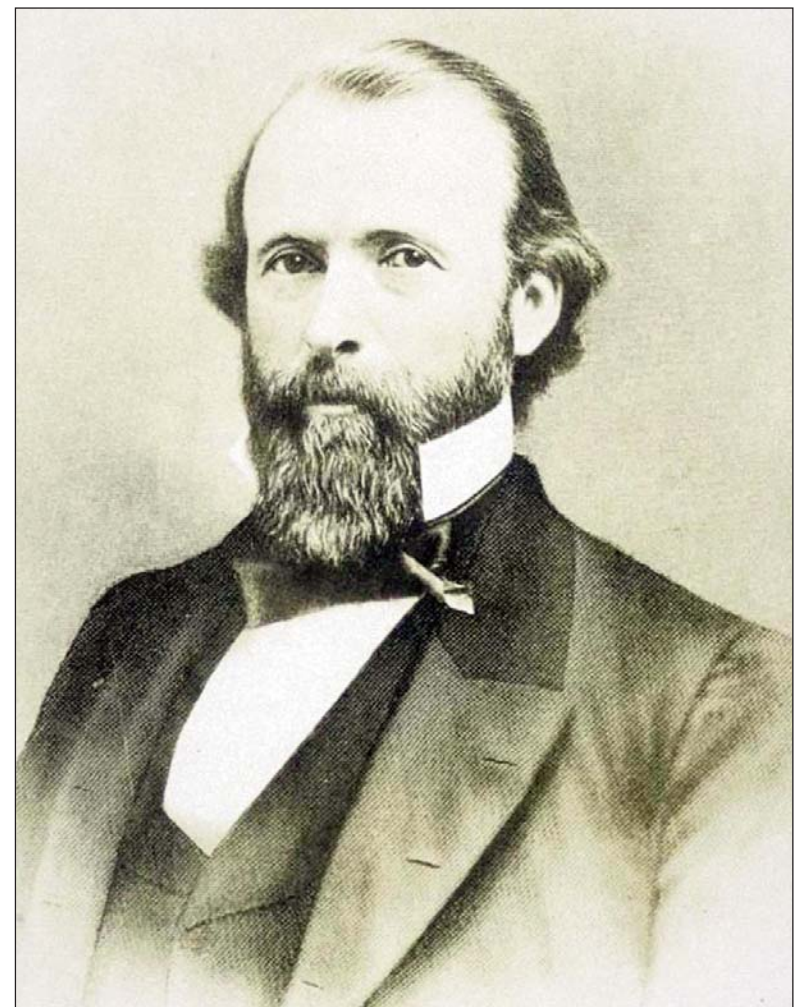
Councilman Mario Guerra applauded the idea, one he has introduced in the past.

“I really want to see this done as soon as possible,” said Guerra.

Phillips said he will search for a consultant with experience managing public art projects.

“I commit to do it as fast as possible and come back to you with the artwork and where it will be,” said Phillips.

Once hired, the consultant’s work will be reviewed by the Art in Public Places Committee and later approved by the City Council.



John Gately Downey, the seventh governor of California and the person after whom the city of Downey is named after, will be further honored when a statue of his likeness is erected outside City Hall.

First Presbyterian Church of Downey A Multicultural Congregation



To Know Christ and Make Christ Known

Christmas Concert 6:00 p.m. Saturday the 19th
3:00 p.m. Sunday the 20th
Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Thursday the 24th
Children’s Service
Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Thursday the 24th
Candlelight service
10544 Downey Avenue at Seventh Street

Christmas Eve Worship Service Thursday, December 24th 6:00 pm Downey First Christian Church Iglesia Cristiana de Downey



You are invited to come join family and friends in the community as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate together the real reason for the Christmas Season. This year our Christmas Eve will be filled with candlelight, communion, music and a message - followed by a time of drinks and dessert. This worship service is a great opportunity for the family to spend time together at church during the holiday season. Childcare will not be provided; however, a separate family room will be available for families with active little ones.

10909 S. New Street Downey, CA 90241
(one block north of the Krikorian Theater)
562-862-2438 (english)
562-862-7418 (español)



Winter Worship Directory

Desert Reign Assembly of God



11610 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA 90241
Hear the Christmas message in song!
“Rejoice! Jesus is...Emmanuel!”
Sunday, December 20
Two service times: 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.
“Soup at Six”
Free soup & cornbread following the 5 p.m. service.
562-861-6011 www.desertreign.org

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

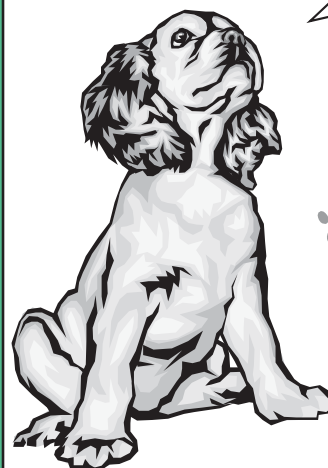


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Senior Pastors

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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Call (562) 806-9890



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Christmas Sunday
December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Festival
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Come & Share
with us
the Joy of
Christ’s Birth



Christmas Eve 7:00 PM
Christmas Day 10:00 AM



Christ Lutheran Church
7707 Florence Avenue, Downey 90240

Lottery ticket sold here worth \$190K

DOWNEY – Check your lottery tickets, because a Fantasy 5 ticket sold in Downey is worth more than \$190,000, California Lottery officials announced this week.

The ticket, which matched all five numbers in the Dec. 12 draw, was purchased at the 7-Eleven located at Downey Avenue and Stewart & Gray Road.

The winning numbers were 17, 20, 23, 31 and 32. The ticket is worth \$191,335.

Lottery officials did not say if the winner has come forward yet. Lottery winners have 180 days from the date of the draw to claim prizes.

City will pick-up, recycle trees

DOWNEY – CalMet Services, the city's franchised refuse hauler, will collect Christmas trees for recycling Dec. 26 until Jan. 16.

Residents who receive automated curbside trash collection – usually single-family homes – may place their trees on the curb on their regular trash collection day.

Apartment residents and businesses should call CalMet at (562) 259-1239 to schedule a pick-up date. However, trees must be set out at the curb and not by their trash bins.

All trees must be free of decorations and stands, and should not be in a bag. Trees over four feet tall should be cut in half. Flocked trees are OK.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the city's public works yard at 12324 Bellflower Blvd., behind Independence Park.

Learn about federal student aid

DOWNEY – Potential college students and their parents are invited to "FAFSA Night" at Downey High School on Jan. 14 to learn about free federal student aid.

Financial aid experts from Cerritos College will be on hand to answer questions and guide students through the application process.

Students who attend FAFSA Night do not need to attend Cerritos College.

Students are advised not to use www.fafsa.com because the site charges unnecessary fees, according to a school flier.

The meeting is free and begins at 6 p.m. inside Downey High School's new auditorium. RSVP by calling (562) 869-7301, ext. 5545, or go online to www.downey.dusd.net.

Hospice needs volunteers

DOWNEY – A Downey hospice is in need of volunteers to spend time with residents in the final stages of their lives.

Volunteers can also relieve tired caregivers for short periods of time or help with errands and shopping.

Training will be held at Companion Hospice Care in Downey on Feb. 27, March 6, March 13 and March 20.

Volunteers will receive 16 hours of orientation and training. Afterwards, volunteers will be given assignments close to home.

For more information, call Deanna Miles at (562) 944-2711.

Assistance League of Downey's Christmas Distribution program culminated this week with president Judy Faust presenting \$1,000 to PTA HELPS president Stacy Brabant. Christmas Distribution is funded by the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop and the Christmas Tree Brunch. Thirty-two nursing homes, shelters and non-profit community agencies, including Su Casa, the Salvation Army and Metropolitan Hospital, received wrapped gifts as well as monetary support. Assisteens, the teenage auxiliary of Assistance League of Downey, shop for the gifts and wrap them during the summer, and chapter members deliver the gifts during the holidays.



Church choirs in concert

DOWNEY – First Presbyterian Church of Downey will host two Christmas concerts this week and the public is invited.

The concerts will feature the Instrumental Ensemble, Kids Choir, Praise Band and Adult Choir. Fellowship and complimentary dessert follow the concerts.

Performances will be given tomorrow at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

For more information, call (562) 861-6752.

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

The Downey Patriot
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Call (562) 904-3668

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Christian club meets Jan. 13

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club will celebrate the New Year on Jan. 13 with guest speaker Susan Anderson.

The meeting begins 11:45 a.m. at Los Amigos Country Club. Cost is \$13 and includes a buffet lunch.

RSVP by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.

Holiday jam session Tuesday

DOWNEY – The Downey Folk Music Jammers, profiled recently on Time Warner Cable, will play and sing music from Christmas and other December holidays when they meet Tuesday at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The round-robin style jam is open to acoustic instrument players and singers of all levels. Visitors are also welcome to observe and listen.

For more information, call Bea or Jim Romano at (562) 861-7049.



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For more details and to apply, please visit our website: www.das.edu
Don't delay. Orientations dates: 5:00-7:00 pm on January 7, February 9, and March 11.

Need more assistance? Please call 562-940-6200.

Believe in yourself





Assisteens, the teenage auxiliary of Assistance League of Downey, recently went caroling at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Assisteens have been visiting patients and spreading good cheer at Rancho for more than 25 years, and this group "clearly enjoyed carrying on this annual Christmas tradition."

POET'S CORNER

Time is a Gift

Christmas time in my bread and wine
will you bring me peace tonight?
Stockings placed amidst the bricks
are red crimson for Santa's tips
Cocoa, bread, and cookie chips
adorn plates to grip and dish
Christmas tree with gifts and glee
The kids grin has blessed your seed
Sadly, things are not the point or
days spent with countless dreams
We must learn to give and share
and give gifts we'd like received
No more Christmas clad in trash, I
gave gifts of plastic tabs
Merry Christmas, holidays, or days
spent with people loved!

—James Hernandez,
Downey

A Christmas Wish

There came upon a midnight clear,
Jingle bells jingling all the way,
Old Saint Nick was coming here,
Arriving upon his reindeer sleigh.

On Dasher, On Dancer, the saying goes,
As eight spry reindeer flew out of sight,
Joined by Rudolph who won by a nose,
To deliver gifts on Christmas Eve night.

Instead of dashing through the snow,
I would rather be singing in the rain,
We can fill our reservoirs, I know,
From the rain falling on the plain.

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
With turkey could be a real delight,
And gentle falling rain, is my desire,
To make a wonderful Christmas night,

Near that cozy open fire, while I dine,
As rain falls gently to the ground,
My heart will be filled with sunshine,
When Christmas comes around.

—Lee Edward Woodfin,
Downey

Pot: Proponents say dispensaries fill medical need.

Continued from page 1

expressed.
"I don't deny that it can be used

for legitimate problems," said Councilman Roger Brossmer. "But people are taking advantage — marijuana is a very big problem."

Herbal Solutions, a Downey dispensary located on 8830 Imperial Highway, triggered the original moratorium after being denied a business license by the city. The dispensary appealed the decision, but their public hearing was suspended indefinitely after the moratorium was enacted.

Before the Council voted to extend the moratorium, Mark Adams, the operator of Herbal Solutions, read many letters written by patients requesting that the dis-

pensary remain open.

"I have over 100 hardship letters here," said Adams. "I'm not a medical doctor, but I've seen patients with multiple sclerosis, cancer and I realize there is a true need for this. One day it will be realized."

Since fracturing her leg last year, Janine Garcia now uses medical marijuana to cope with the severe pain.

The 24-year-old Downey resident frequented Herbal Solutions before its closure and now must travel outside the city to pick up her medication.

"I work 12-hour shifts," said Garcia over the phone. "So if I start at 10 a.m., I don't get off until 10 p.m. I either drive to Santa Fe Springs or Paramount — I'm not from those areas and don't like to drive in those areas at night."

Garcia said she understood people's safety concerns, but maintains that many residents who need the drug are greatly inconvenienced when they must travel elsewhere to get it.

Adams proposed that the city

grant his dispensary a provisional license so his nearly 1500 patients could continue receiving medical marijuana and other drugs while the city forms its policy.

However, Councilman Mario Guerra agreed with Brossmer, understanding the need for medicinal marijuana, but worried about the potential problems a dispensary could cause.

"We care about cancer patients — every citizen in Downey, but I can't get around the abuse problem," said Guerra. "Unless I can be guaranteed of different things, I will continue to be against this in the city of Downey."

Both Brossmer and Guerra asked that the city make its decision sooner than later, instead of waiting until the end of next year to adopt a policy on the issue.

Adams, who runs dispensaries in Long Beach and Los Angeles, hopes the city will come back quickly with an ordinance.

"We want regulation," said Adams. "But education is important — they don't have all the facts."

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Letters to the Editor:

Problem with laziness

Dear Editor:

Warren High School has a trash problem. Everywhere I walk I can find at least two pieces of trash lying around. Big or small, it's still trash and doesn't give a good look to Warren's campus.

The main reason there is so much trash is because kids are too lazy to walk to a trash can and throw it away so they simply dump or toss the trash on the ground. There are a lot of trash cans in various places around campus, so that proves it's just the students being lazy.

It's a disgusting problem everyone could easily avoid by simply throwing away their trash. If every student would clean up after themselves Warren would look much cleaner.

— **Nicholas Barrios,**
Downey

Unsafe streets

Dear Editor:

I would like to bring to your attention my concern for the speeders in our community. Most the time they go over the speed limit and get away with it.

I have witnessed them speeding mostly on residential streets and school zones. They run red lights, stop signs, tailgate other cars, cut people off, cause accidents and deaths. They're the reason why insurance goes up.

My suggestions are as follows:

- Put more police officers on the streets and freeways.
- Higher fines for speeders and possible suspension or loss of license for repeat offenders.
- More speed bumps on residential streets and school zones.
- Cameras on streets.
- Manufacture cars to go a safer speed.

I do appreciate the time you spent reading my letter. I hope that my concern for our community is taken into consideration.

— **Bridgette Hayes,**
Downey

Police patrol

Dear Editor:

Police in Downey do their job in protecting the city. One thing that concerns me, however, is that too many officers arrive at one location of police activity.

The weekend of Halloween I got pulled over along with my father, cousin and friend. They sat us down because they were looking for a group of four who were wearing masks and jumpsuits and carrying a machete and an axe. We all had the masks but only of us was wearing a jumpsuit.

While we were sitting on the curb lots of police officers came to where we were. I understand that this is back-up but we were completely harmless. They didn't know that at the time but they searched us and we were clean.

I agree that they have to protect themselves but the officers that arrived after we were searched only went there to talk to the ones that were already there. They were discussing things that had nothing to do with the situation we were in.

I think police officers should stay patrolling if they are not needed at a location.

— **Enrique Ramirez,**
Downey

King Taco

Dear Editor:

We need a lot more Mexican restaurants here in Downey. One suggestion is a King Taco. We do have Mexican restaurants in Downey, but nothing compared to King Taco. I have never met one person that tried their food and said it wasn't good.

The items they serve include tacos, burritos, sopas, rotisserie chicken, nachos, tamales, quesadillas and much more. Hungry yet? I bet you are.

More and more Mexicans are beginning to migrate into Downey so this means that sales would be phenomenal. But this food isn't just for Mexicans. Everyone can enjoy this food and they already do in other cities.

— **Freddie Roberts,**
Downey

Place for teens

Dear Editor:

Teenagers in Downey enjoy going out on Friday or Saturday nights, but when it comes to over-protected children, they are stuck at home because Downey has no places for teens to hang out.

Downey should open a fun and safe place for teenagers to hang out close to their homes. If you think about it, the only place to go are the movies and that can get boring, especially when there are no good movies or when you have no money.

— **Cynthia Rodriguez,**
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.

Jennings has to go

Dear Editor:

I feel it is my duty to draw attention to a serious scandal in the making in regards to Kevin Jennings, the man President Obama has appointed as "Safe Schools Czar."

This man created the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) organization which seeks to indoctrinate children as young as 6 into accepting and even experimenting with the homosexual lifestyle. GLSEN has published a "recommended reading list" for our children that encourages them to engage in all kinds of disgusting sexual behavior.

If you think I am being overly sensitive and just "behind the times" in regards to what is currently acceptable for our children to be reading, then I encourage you to check out the GLSEN website and read passages from their book list for yourself. The stuff I have read in these books, through tears of shock, cannot be printed in a local newspaper.

This organization is promoting child pornography, and I, as a parent of a small child, am outraged! I will be investigating whether or not teachers in the Downey school district are using any of these books in their classroom. If they are, I am certain they won't for long because the outrage from other parents just like me will be too overwhelming.

For those of you who are parents of school-aged children, pay attention to what your kids are "learning." If you don't, you will regret it — after it's too late.

— **Alaina Niemann,**
Downey

Coffee choices

Dear Editor:

In response to "Venti Latte, Hold the Attitude," (Letters to the Editor, 12/4/09), first, tell her welcome to Downey.

Second, Summer York, an ex-Starbucks employee, is suing Starbucks in a \$5 million class action lawsuit. It seems they have failed to pay for overtime and minimum wages. This really explains her bad service at Starbucks — it seems because the higher-up bosses are stiffing them on their pay.

Third, tell her she's right. Since she pays \$5 for her lattes, she should get exactly what she paid for. It's called "customer service." The golden rule in business says "The customer is always right." Her \$5 cup of coffee pays for the barista's wages per hour. They make what — \$8, \$9 or \$10 per hour, plus a cut of the tips, too?

Fourth, tell her she should hit up these other coffee joints in Downey:

- Kelly's Coffee and Fudge Factory inside Stonewood Center, next to Orange Julius.
- The Coffee Bean on the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Patton Road, next to the Sprint store. I've actually been to this place a few times and they are pretty fast, decent and cool on the service.
- Xela Café (a Guatemalan coffee shop) on the corner of Paramount Boulevard and Cole Street, near Shakey's Pizza.
- Tropicana Bakery, next to Chase Bank on Florence Avenue and Paramount Boulevard. They serve coffee here, too.
- The Habana Café Cuban bakery on the corner of Firestone and Old River School Road.
- McDonald's. From what I've heard, their coffee is actually pretty good and dirt cheap. A large regular coffee there is like \$1.60. I know they serve different types of coffee there.

— **Michael Hanker,**
Downey

Value of downtown housing

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Lawrence Christon's letter titled "Hunger for Arts Scene" (Letters to the Editor, 12/11/09)

It seems to me that he makes several valuable points regarding the arts scene or lack of any real entertainment value in the downtown area.

How the Downey City Council can justify turning the old Avenue Theatre into low-cost housing really baffles the mind. How do you justify turning a seemingly commercial area into a housing district?

It would seem to me that if the Council was serious about improving the downtown area and improving Downey as a whole, then it would be looking at ways of bringing businesses into the downtown area that would better reflect Downey's support for the arts while improving foot traffic in the area.

An independent theater showing foreign films would be a great place to start in my opinion. How about a downtown area that competes with the likes of Old Town Pasadena?

Restaurants with alfresco dining, street vendors and music on weekends would surely bring in more foot traffic. I believe this would be more beneficial to the community as a whole than low-income housing in the middle of downtown Downey.

It really boggles the mind every time I read another article about the city's proposed use of land in the downtown area. I really wonder how this adds any value to Downey as a whole and how it is going to help improve the quality of life for Downey residents, not to mention what it is going to do to property values.

The Downey City Council is at a very crucial "fork in the proverbial road" at this time. They have the opportunity to either improve our great city or change it in a way that many residents will regret.

I truly hope our new mayor and all council members will consider this decision very carefully before any decision is made.

— **Moises Alonso,**
Downey

In need of sidewalks

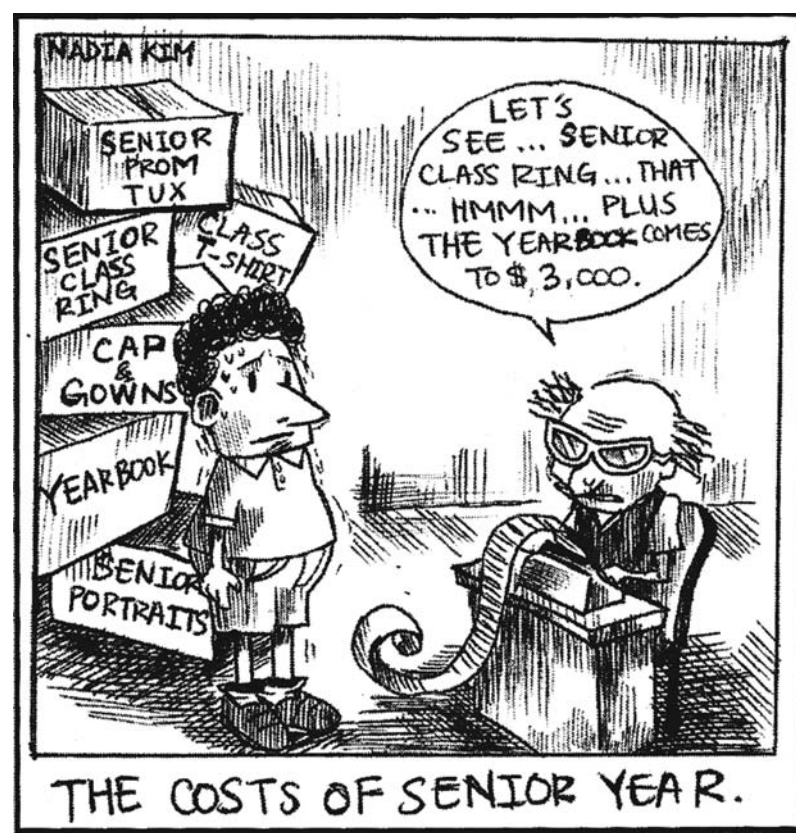
Dear Editor:

There should be more sidewalks in Downey because without sidewalks we have a greater chance of getting hit by a car or getting in trouble with the law for walking in the street. It would also be nice to have sidewalks so we could go for walks and walk our dogs.

Living without sidewalks has become a safety hazard for the children in our neighborhood. We have an increasing number of children walking home due to parents working late hours. We need to ensure that these children have one less risk of getting hurt when walking home.

As a community we should fundraise to help this cause and provide not only a safer Downey but a more appealing community. If we all come together and work hard I'm sure we could accomplish our goal of creating a safer community for our children and future generations in the great place of Downey we call home.

— **Arturo Hernandez,**
Downey



Legal extortion

Dear Editor:

David Letterman had a male co-worker arrested for extortion. He was arrested when he tried to cash or deposit a \$2 million check.

Now Tiger Woods' mistress hires a lawyer to extort between \$1 million and \$3 million for her silence of being his mistress of two years.

I guess by hiring a lawyer you can make extortion legal.

— **Mike Sandoval,**
Downey

Waiting for green

Dear Editor:

I am concerned that the traffic lights in the morning, at around 7:30 a.m., take too long to turn green. I know there are a lot of cars these days, but it is still not fair for people that go in late to work or school because of the lights.

When I am on my way to school, there is always a traffic jam because of the lights taking too long. Also, there is not a day I do not hear cars honking and people fighting their way through traffic.

What I want is to just make sure the lights do not take that long to change green. After this change less adults, teenagers and children will be late to their school or work.

— **Maysie Loyola,**
Downey

Strict on skaters

Dear Editor:

I am a skater from Downey and I am informing you about the strictness shown toward skaters by police.

Any little thing that us skaters do is a crime now. I have received two tickets in the past year for skating; one was for riding my board across the street and the other was for skating without a helmet. Both of these tickets were well over \$100.

Police will look for things wrong with us. They think that we are full of drugs and up to no good. We should be treated like roller bladders because they don't go through the constant stops and searches from the cops. They kick us out of everywhere we go: the mall, stores and even at school they will take our boards away, even if we are just holding them.

Don't police have better things to do besides constantly checking skaters and issuing tickets? There are crimes all over the place: people getting robbed, shootings, accidents and emergencies.

What I am trying to say is: police, can you ease up a bit on us skaters? We are not full of money to pay for tickets and most of us are not bad people. We are just want to have fun.

— **Joseph W. Rodriguez,**
Downey

Teen pregnancy

Dear Editor:

I am currently a student at Warren High School, and as an adolescent, I am learning about sex and contraceptives more and more. I am noticing the increasing numbers of teen pregnancies in our schools.

In my past four years at Warren, I've noticed that every year the age of pregnant girls keeps lowering and lowering. There are many factors to this problem, such as: lack of parental guidance, lack of education and lack of responsibilities as an individual.

We should open the doors of our school to more open communication about sex and contraceptives. Today's adolescents tend to believe everything is simple when they don't know the consequences or responsibilities of being sexually active.

I believe it is our duty as residents of this city to inform our youth of the possibilities of pregnancy. We should open up about giving out condoms and teach the consequences of pregnancy and STDs.

— **Lynne Lares,**
Downey

Downey's bad crowd

Dear Editor:

Throughout the years, Downey has been getting closer to being a ghetto. I am not saying it is as bad as other cities, but it seems like it is starting to.

When I first moved to Downey about 10 years ago, it didn't seem so bad. The streets were clean and everybody would be friendly to each other. Now I see people littering and tagging on streets and local shops. I also see people running red lights and not stopping for pedestrians.

I am a senior at Warren High School and about two years ago I was walking down the street going to my house. A car pulled up where I was walking and five people with switchblades stole all of my things. That was my turning point about how nice Downey was and is now.

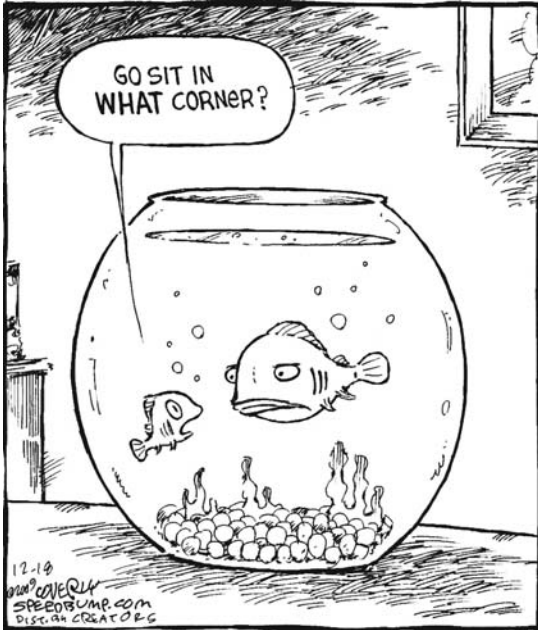
There are a lot of people from other cities that move into Downey and just start destroying the city because they are gang-related or want to be like one. Maybe it is just getting overcrowded with a lot of bad-influenced people that don't really care about Downey.

I think there should be more police officers in the residential streets as well as the main streets.

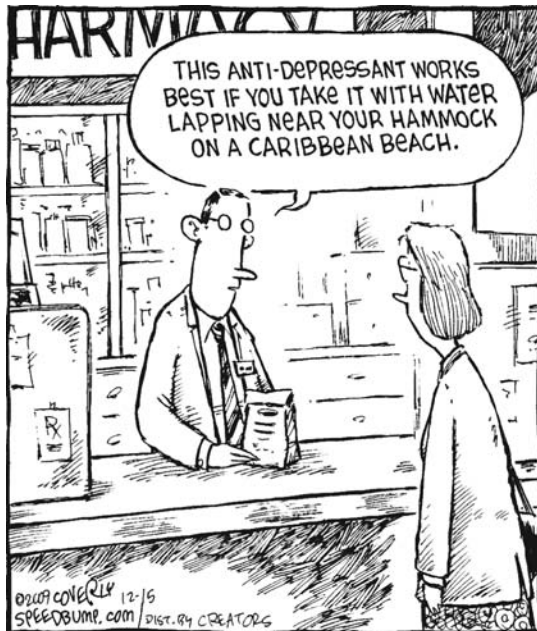
— **Ariel Cebrenos,**
Downey

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For December

- Fri. Dec. 18: **Christmas play**, First Baptist Church of Downey, 7 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 19: **Photos with Santa Claus**, Del Taco, 1 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 19: **Christmas concert**, First Presbyterian Church of Downey, 6 p.m.
- Tues. Dec. 22: **Jam session**, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 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-Bear 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 2nd Weds., 7 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. 18, 1865:** The Constitution's 13th Amendment goes into effect, ending slavery in the United States.
- 1892:** Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite" makes its premiere in Russia.
- 1944:** The Supreme Court upholds the wartime relocation of Japanese Americans.
- 1997:** Comedian Chris Farley dies after an overdose of morphine and cocaine. He was 33.
- Birthdays:** Director Steven Spielberg (63), movie critic Leonard Maltin (59), actor Ray Liotta (54), actor Brad Pitt (46), rapper DMX (39), actress Katie Holmes (31) and singer Christina Aguilera (29).

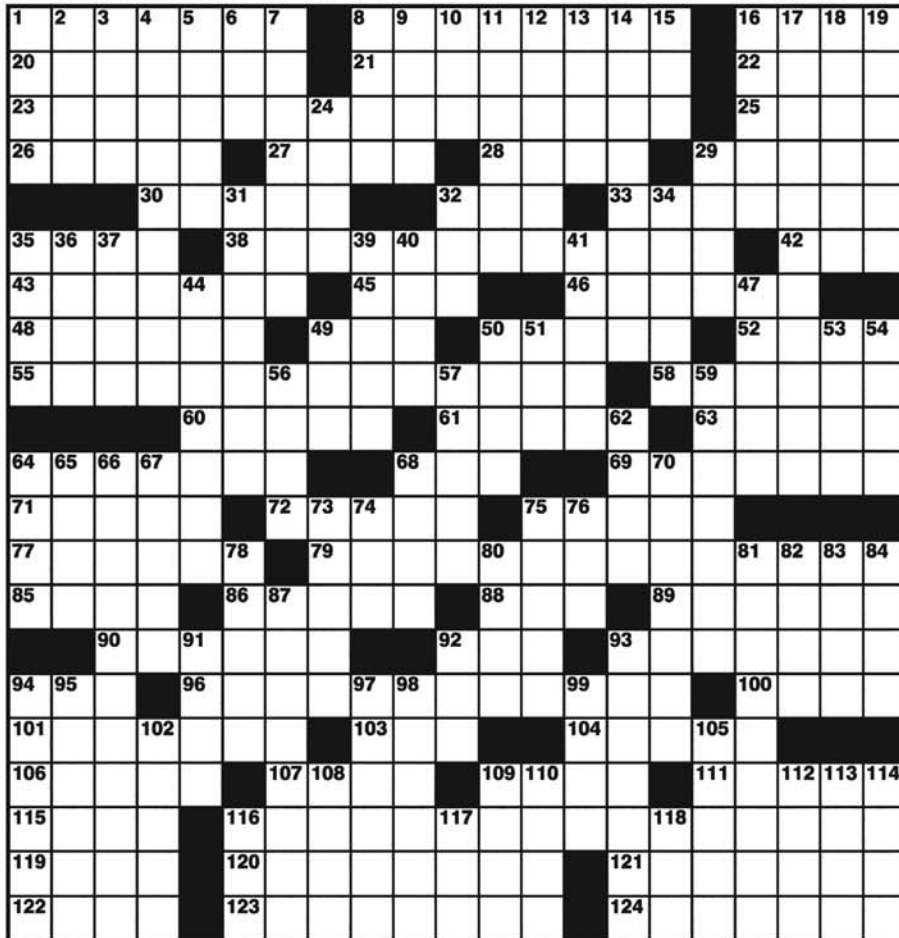
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

TOPSY-TURVY: Some odd opposites
by Merle Baker

- ACROSS**
- 1 Foot-operated vehicle
- 8 High-muck-a-muck
- 16 Word sung on New Year's Day
- 20 Author France
- 21 Entered formally
- 22 Oft-skinned area
- 23 Briefly?
- 25 Pop star
- 26 Catch on
- 27 Door-sign word
- 28 Jar tops
- 29 Spinner of *Star Trek: TNG*
- 30 "... who lived in ..."
- 32 Shade
- 33 Many tanks
- 35 Left on a map
- 38 Well-known?
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- 43 9mm, for the Sten gun
- 45 Org. with downloadable forms
- 46 Pants measure
- 48 Small potatoes
- 49 Fort Worth coll.
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- 52 Do followers
- 55 Comprehended by?
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- 61 Thurber's daydreamer
- 63 See 8 Down
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- 75 Give a talking-to
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- 79 Feeling great?
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- 89 Stir to action
- 90 Taskmaster
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- 94 Volcano emission
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- 100 Conveyed
- 101 Make spotless
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- 104 "What...thou?"
- 106 Monks' hoods
- 107 "Mamma Mia!" group
- 109 Inside view
- 111 Detroit pro team
- 115 Gibe at
- 116 Completely sober?
- 119 Cruel emperor
- 120 Taking in
- 121 Crew member
- 122 Emotional verses
- 123 Internal airways
- 124 Lineups
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- 2 Feminine suffix
- 3 Baby talk
- 4 Repetitious
- 5 Treats meats, maybe
- 6 PC key
- 7 Make sense for
- 8 With 63 Across, golfer's dream
- 9 Get... the ground floor
- 10 Directional suffix
- 11 Stick again
- 12 More sore
- 13 Map line
- 14 One with a cause
- 15 "Good" cholesterol: Abbr.
- 16 Director Kurosawa
- 17 Quite sensible?
- 18 Former Soviet leader Brezhnev
- 19 The Mekong and Nile have them
- 24 Fencing blade
- 29 Small town
- 31 Cap'n Crunch's first name
- 32 Cabinet dept.
- 34 Press-conference format
- 35 Pro-Prohibition org.
- 36 Bring in
- 37 Fell gradually
- 39 Nouveau
- 40 Exam choice
- 41 In flight
- 44 Sank a putt, perhaps
- 47 Singer Lopez
- 49 Gymnast's top score
- 50 Letters on a bank window
- 51 Tiny amount
- 53 Supplies with personnel
- 54 "Got it!"
- 56 Mandlikova of tennis
- 57 With 68 Down, microbrewery offerings
- 59 Fictional physician
- 62 Cry of pain
- 64 Online periodical
- 65 NYC cultural venue
- 66 Not quite on time?
- 67 Like a honky-tonk piano
- 68 See 57 Down
- 70 Beyond question
- 73 *The Count of ... Cristo*
- 74 Ryan's rank: Abbr.
- 75 "Put a lid on it!"
- 76 Animation collectible
- 78 Does a cashier's job
- 80 Category
- 81 Most pleasantly warm
- 82 Scottish philosopher
- 83 *Baseball Tonight* channel
- 84 Musical sign
- 87 Concerted attempt
- 91 Isn't colorfast
- 92 TV band
- 93 Sign with, as a team
- 94 Invoice fig.
- 95 Put on the brakes
- 97 Protocol
- 98 Colonial roofing material
- 99 "This ... advertisement"
- 102 Choir voices
- 105 Insults
- 108 Alpha follower
- 109 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 110 Semis
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- 113 Neighbor of Tenn.
- 114 DC VIPs
- 116 Thunder Bay's loc.
- 117 Lose no time
- 118 Language of Indochina

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

The reference to the Sten gun (43 Across), used by British soldiers in WWII, was meant to hint at the British spelling of CALIBRE. Besides Scandinavia, countries with FJORDS (50 Across) include Iceland, Spain and Chile. The full name of the cereal-box "Cap'n Crunch" is HORATIO Magellan.





Students undergo first ever Challenger Center space mission

By Deborah Won, Intern

Bestowed with a truly exciting opportunity, 21 honors Biology students from Warren were given the chance to be the absolute first to test out the new Challenger Center Space Mission Simulator on Dec. 9.

The Challenger Center Space Mission Simulator, a part of the Challenger Learning Center at the two-month old Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey, will not be open for regular missions until January. However, Jeff Orlinsky, a science teacher at Warren, had certain connections with those in the space center, and grasped the opportunity to be the "trainer of the trainers." Thus, the group of Warren students acted as a test run for those at the Space Center that were training to run the program.

"I think this is a great opportunity for our students to get another aspect of the city," said Orlinsky. "It allows us to be a part of something new here at Downey."

The Challenger Center Space Mission Simulator is yet another method in which the Columbia Memorial Space Center fulfills their mission and purpose.

"We are trying to help the youth make decisions for careers in technology and engineering, and continue through college," said Jon Betthausen, the executive director of the space center. "There are so many interesting careers in aerospace, but you have to imagine going to space before you actually do so, or start working on it in reality."

The students also recognized it as a thrilling experience, and anticipated the occasion with high expectations, expectations that were not unappealed by the end of the trip.

"I'm very excited for this trip because I'm excited to work with professionals and learn about



space," said student Emilia Halasz. This mission simulator basically transforms students into "astronauts", as they undergo similar situations that an authentic astronaut in space would face. Facilitated by approximately 10 trainees, who went through the simulator themselves during their own training, the run-through of the space mission simulator went smoothly and efficiently.

The students were at first split into different teams, such as Navigation, Data, and Communication, with different specific jobs for each group. These teams were further separated into two, where one group went into the Missions Control Room, while the other went into the space craft. Even within these groups, the stu-

dents learned how to work together as one cohesive unit to solve various life-threatening emergencies and hardships in order to accomplish their goal, and successfully land on the moon to establish a permanent moon base.

The operation was executed as authentically as possible, as the spacecraft astronauts even had their own space suits to put on before entering their space craft. Television screens also displayed from time to time the results of their work, as images of the earth and the moon captured the students' attentions. Every student was either on a computer, machine, or intercom, and was responsible for certain tasks. In addition, the students received little help in their tasks, as they were encouraged to

act independently to complete the challenge.

The students completed their goal at the end of the challenge as they efficiently landed on the moon, and a round of applause erupted from both students and the facilitators. After the end of the program, the students merged again into one body, and discussed what they had thought about their experience and what they had learned. Positive feedback and various remarks about teamwork and communication emerged during the discussion.

"This place is awesome," said freshman Matt Pacheco. "The simulator was really interesting."

"I was excited to do this program, and I was looking forward to it," said sophomore Elida Zaragoza. "It was cool to be able to look through the cameras and watch people in the spacecrafts."

Many students had similar reactions to that of Pacheco and Zaragoza. However, some students realized the program was more difficult than they had anticipated.

"It was harder than I thought," said freshman Vanessa Chacom. "It was confusing at first, but at the end with some help of the facilitators, things got easier."

Overall, the first-ever Challenger mission was a success, as both the students and the space center trainees benefited through this experience. In addition, several students were interested in volunteering at the space center, as Betthausen notified the students of the newly available volunteering opportunities.

"Student volunteers are an essential part of operating this science center, particularly in the robotics lab," said Betthausen, as he encourages those students who are interested in volunteering.

Sorry, Team Edward: 'New Moon' is bad

By Joanna Quintana, Intern



Twilight Saga's 'New Moon' must have gained its fame from being a "fad" rather than being a great movie as actors and actresses with little acting talent attempted to make up for the movie's flaws with their appearances.

The start of New Moon is meant for all the Team Edward fans as Edward Cullen, played by Robert Pattinson, struts onto a plain of grass, quite dazzling in all his glitter and sparkles, to meet his most beloved, and aging, Bella. He continues to strut, maintaining consistency, from nicely positioned and advertised vehicles to right out of Bella's life, bringing intense sadness to both Bella and his fans.

Luckily for the audience, Bella does not discriminate when it comes to attractive monsters. Jacob Black's appearance, played by Taylor Lautner, created quite a wave of hormonal reactions, as seen from the noted gasps echoing throughout the movie theater when Jacob slips off his shirt to wipe blood spilling from Bella's head. Team Jacob—go ahead and smile. However, Jacob did not get as much "playing time" in New Moon as one would expect from the

book—Edward is never too far away, lest people should lose interest when the famous vampire vanishes. That might infuriate the many parts of the business world who have not missed their opportunity to make a huge profit off a generation eager to be lost in the romance of a relationship with an attractive vampire, as well as a werewolf. Therefore, don't forget to buy your Twilight t-shirt.

The one flaw that lies blatant to anyone with eyes is the lack of ability for one specific, and terribly significant, actress to act. Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella, seems to have an incredibly difficult time doing her job in New Moon, though her acting deficiencies were much more apparent in The Twilight Saga's first movie, Twilight. As described in Stephanie Meyer's novels, the character of Bella is indeed supposed to be awkward. However, Kristen Stewart succeeds in making the entire Twilight movie awkward, adding a whole new level of discomfort in every scene that she appears in. Someone must have given her acting lessons after her first performance in Twilight because the scenes in New Moon were not as horrible, to the relief of the audience members actually there to watch the movie.

Tickets continued to sell out in movie theaters as people, non-readers and diligent fans, loyally wore their nice little buttons and shirts claiming "Team Edward" or "Team Jacob". Perhaps everyone is so swept away by the appearances of the characters in New Moon that it enabled them to overlook the fact that the movie was not good at all. But, of course, everyone had to absolutely adore New Moon. Didn't you hear? It's the new, cool "thing".

Downey counselors reach out to freshmen early on

By Gabriela Coya, Intern

In an attempt to connect with the students more efficiently, the counselors at Downey have developed a new program to inform students early on while they are freshmen about resources available for advice.

This past October, counselors Terri Curiel, Adair Lima, and Joanne Loyarte came up with a four-year plan to help this year's freshmen familiarize with their counselors. The counselors reached out to the students by visiting and talking to health classes, which are mostly composed of freshmen. There, they informed the students that counselors are available at any time for guidance with bullying, time management and study skills, and graduating.

"As a department, we were having the same conferences over and over again," said Loyarte. "We needed to reach them more efficiently because some of the information was lacking among the freshmen."

When they first visited the health classes, the counselors gave students a diagnostic test to figure

out what they did and did not know. Their scores improved dramatically after the meetings and more students began recognizing their counselors.

"They remembered our faces and now know how many credits it takes to graduate and are coming up [to our offices]," said Lima. "Before, they didn't know the right people to approach for help on campus."

With the increase in students visiting their offices, the counselors are also now able to keep track of the amount of times and the reasons students visit with a computer system called Zangle.

"Our new computer system Zangle provides us data and let's us see how many freshman we see and how often from here on onward," said Curiel.

As part of their long time goals, the counselors hope not only reach out to freshmen—but also other grade levels—and attain state recognition.

"We're trying to come up with lessons that are appropriate for each grade level," said Curiel.

"We're looking at helping older grade levels with stuff like college preparation."

"Long term as a department, we want to attain some sort of recognition with RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) through the ASCA (American School Counseling Association)," said Loyarte.

So far, the RAMP certification through ASCA has only been given to only one school in California, but the counselors are intent on getting it.

"These are long term goals," said Lima. "This way of thinking turned upside down our normal way of thinking."

With their innovative program, the counselors just want to reassure the students at Downey High School can ask for any type help from their counselors just about any day of the week.

"We have an open-door policy where students can come in any time," said Curiel. "We work really well in our department."

PIQE program a success at Warren High

By Deborah Won, Intern

Eager parents swarmed the Warren library to attend the Parent Institute for Quality Education graduation on Wednesday, Dec. 12, with the satisfaction of knowing that their completion of this 9-week PIQE course meant conditional acceptance to any Cal State University for all their children.

During the graduation ceremony, every name of the parent graduates was read, and each received a certificate of graduation signed by Chancellor Charles B. Reed of the Cal State University System. In addition, both Principal John Harris and Assistant Principal Don Rounds of Warren attended the ceremony and congratulated each graduate for their completion.

"I am expecting 200 plus parents at the meeting," said Rounds when asked before the first introduction session what his attendance prediction was.

Surpassing all expectations, approximately 400 parents attended the first of nine meetings back in Sept. 24. However, the biggest surprise emerged in the 2009 PIQE graduation, where a total of 399

Downey families were represented and recognized for completing the 9-week process.

"We've never had such a strong turnout of parents at any school we have presented this program at," said Martha Adams, the executive director of PIQE.

The greatest motive that attracted parents to the PIQE program was the incentive of obtaining conditional acceptance to any school in the CSU system for their children, especially when the only requirement was to attend a total of nine meetings. To add to the list of benefits, PIQE also provides free child care on the day of the meeting. PIQE, a nine-session crash course for any and all parents, focuses on teaching parents the key to understanding student success, hoping to establish a school to parent to student relationship in order to best facilitate the student's learning progression.

"PIQE is a spotlight on things to consider for students' success, for the high school experience," said Rounds. "And absolutely, I encourage this program."

Within the nine sessions, PIQE covers the essential key points to

student success and balance, from topics that include but are not limited to the high school system, the importance of grades, financial aid, etc. After the completion of the program, a graduation ceremony takes place, where the parents receive the invaluable certificate that includes the names of all their children whom now may receive conditional acceptance to all Cal State Universities. No matter how many children, or what the age of the child is, as long as the name is on the certificate, conditional admission into the university is granted. Conditional acceptance, in this case, means that the student will be given priority acceptance into the Cal State University of his or her choice, as long as the student meets the standard requirements to be eligible to enter the CSU, such as the A-G requirements, GPA, and likewise.

The current success of the program has encouraged Warren to continue on with the PIQE system in order to make this phenomenal opportunity more available for parents who are interested, and there is a high possibility that the window to join will be reopened next fall.

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Sluggish start dooms Downey comeback

BY SCOTT COBOS,
STAFF WRITER

CHINO – Even a furious last-quarter rally wasn't enough for Downey's boys basketball team as they let one slip against Don Lugo 61-58 last Friday on the road.

A 24-point fourth quarter was a little too late for the Vikings who didn't start off too hot in a game that they probably should have won. Whether it was the rain, the long drive to Chino, or fatigue, the well ran dry when it came to scoring points in the first two quarters of the game.

In the first quarter, Downey scored only eight points, and in their second quarter they scored only 11. Downey struggled offensively and also were unable to keep Don Lugo in check. The Conquistadores averaged just over 15 points per quarter, with their biggest quarter being in the second where they scored 18.

At the half, Downey scored just one more point than their opposition did in the entire second quarter and were down 31-19.

Their third quarter saw the Vikings finally start to figure things out offensively and they tied Don Lugo scoring 15 points a piece.

Things finally started to come together offensively in the final quarter of the game, but it was little too late as the Vikings had dug themselves a hole that was too deep to climb out of, even with a 24-point rush.

The game puts the Vikings at 3-3 for the season and it won't get much easier for them as they had to travel Monday and Tuesday to Santa Margarita and Ayala. Downey's next home game will be next Tuesday versus Lakewood.

Norwalk

Defense was the name of the game as Downey's boys' basketball team defeated Norwalk 45-39.

Downey's defense really clamped down on Norwalk allowing them to shoot only 28 percent from the field all game. The zone defense from Downey forced Norwalk into taking many mid to long range jump shots, types that the Lancers were not able to knock down all night.

The Lancers became 3-point shot happy towards the end of the game, but all in all, the desperation was not enough to catch the



PHOTOS BY CARLOS ONTIVEROS

Downey forward Dami Adefeso (11) drives against a Norwalk defender in a Dec. 10 game versus Norwalk. The Vikings won, 45-39.

Vikings who after the game were one game over .500.

Norwalk's two top scorers Anthony Holliday and Manuel Castaneda while scoring the major-

ity of the points for their team were still only held to 38 percent shooting combined and only made one 3-point shot.

Warren (4-3) still improving

■ Bears are impressive in recent tournament.

BY JOSEPH APODACA,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The Warren boys' basketball team continues to improve as their season progresses, taking home three out of five victories in last week's Blue Pride Classics tournament.

The Bears won 66-31 against Firebaugh High from Lynwood, 61-50 against Sierra Vista High from Baldwin Park, and 51-42 against South High from Torrance. They lost two games in the tournament, one to North High from Riverside at 49-58 and another to Narbonne High from Harbor City at 35-38. The Bears are now 4-3 for their overall season effort.

In the Firebaugh game, Eddie

Romero scored the most points of the evening with 12 while Devin Garner followed closely behind with nine. Garner also scored the most points off the rebound with six followed by Moises Benitez with four. The Bears stayed ahead of Firebaugh consistently throughout the game, putting themselves ahead in the score by at least 10 points at the end of every quarter.

Benitez went on to score the most points in the Sierra Vista game last week, scoring 14 in total. Cejay Anderson and Javan Polk followed Benitez closely with 11 points each while Garner rounded out the top with six points. Benitez scored the most points off the rebound with six by the game's end. Sierra Vista posed a challenge for the Bears, who were down in the first and third quarter but were up big in the second quarter and even bigger in the fourth, closing

with 23-6 points by game's end.

The Bears continue to improve on both offense and defense. Paying close attention to the shot clock and moving the ball down the court effectively has put the Bears ahead in their game as they move on into their San Gabriel Valley League conference games following the holiday break.

So far this season, junior Cejay Anderson has scored the most points out of any other player, bringing his total to 44 points. Senior Moises Benitez follows closely behind Anderson with 41 points for the season while senior Eddie Romero rounds out the top three with 22 points for the season.

Romero has also scored the most points off of a rebound with 17 for the season while Tremaine Gibson follows with 14 points off rebounds for the season.

Downey tops Whittier teams

BY ALYSSA WYNNE,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Last week, Downey High's varsity girls' basketball team defeated La Serna High School on Tuesday, 46-32 and California High School on Friday, 67-40.

On Tuesday, in their first away game of the preseason, the Vikings were able to trump La Serna. Katie Marifian played an amazing game

with 17 points, five assists, and 13 steals. Brie Hatter and Krystal Walker brought seven points each to the team. Demetria Love came down hard on La Serna with her nine rebounds, as did Hatter with six rebounds.

Thursday's game against Cal High was successful due to a well-balanced team effort said head coach Nathan Harris. The team definitely had a home court comfort, which helped aid their success. Debra Lovell scored 12 points and had four assists and five

steals. On her heels was teammate Andrea Acosta who also helped to lead the lady Vikes with 12 points. Love had a vicious game with 10 points and 17 rebounds. Marifian added 10 points and 8 assists and Amanda Mazon added 9 points to their lead.

After these games Downey's season record 3-3 and played their next game against Arcadia High school on Tuesday, but results were unavailable at press time.

Vikings off to strong start

BY ALYSSA WYNNE,
SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – Last Tuesday afternoon, the Downey girls' soccer team had its second match of their preseason against Lakewood High School and won 2-1.

The first goal was scored in the first half of the game by forward Stephanie Juanillo. Juanillo was assisted in this goal by fellow forward Brandi Neilan. Briana Bobadilla made the second goal in the second half of the game after being assisted by Vanessa

Calvillo.

Downey goalkeeper, Lorena Ruiz continues to live up to the legacy set before her after making seven saves. The defense played well after being able to keep the ball away from their side of the playfield after 11 shots on the goal.

The offense was stronger in this game as well, and it shows in the number of attempted shots Downey made against Lakewood, five. Though Downey committed six fouls and it's opponent only four, these small slips did not benefit the other team.

Obviously, the Downey coach-

es have drilled the idea of "offside" into the minds of their players considering the ladies only had one marked against them and Lakewood had five. Offside is a rule, which limits how an opposing player may be when involved in play. This rule was created so that one team cannot gain an advantage by waiting for the ball near the other team's goal.

Downey had a game against California High on Tuesday and El Rancho High on Thursday but results were unavailable at press time.

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The Downey AYSO boys 12U Manchester United team became regional champions last Saturday. Pictured above are Alexandro Castillo, Kevin Chavez, Andres Esparza, Daniel Gaytan, Oscar Raymundo, Daniel Romero, Luis Ruiz, Ethan Torres, Peter Torres, Phillip Caro and Coach Felipe Caro.

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SCOTT COBOS

Tiger Woods still sells

The fallout of the Tiger Woods scandal will probably not end until a few more sponsors drop Tiger all together. Earlier this week, Accenture had announced that they would cut ties with the No. 1 golfer in the world because he no longer fit the model they want as a spokesperson for the company.

Proctor and Gamble, owners of Gillette has announced that it will scale back the involvement of Tiger in their television and print ads and Tag Heuer, the Swiss watch maker released a statement on Monday saying that it will take the next few weeks to assess its relationship with the golfer.

But who hasn't pulled their sponsorship status from Woods? Nike. And trust me, this was the smartest business move that Nike could do with the situation.

Nike chairman Phil Knight said on Monday that his company and its relationship with Tiger remains unchanged and that they are committed to him. Knight continued to say that the scandal around Woods is "part of the game" when it comes to endorsement deals with athletes.

He also went on to say that before signing Woods to the endorsement deal that a background check was run on the golfer and that he came out clean. Knight said that background checks can't always be completely correct and that "there's always a risk."

But through the risk, through the turmoil that still lays ahead of Woods, Nike will stand by their man and in the end will come out on top. Why? Well, there are many reasons.

Woods' image has been completely tarnished and now he is considered a womanizer. There probably isn't a female on this earth that would buy Nike equipment but from a marketing point of view, this isn't important.

What saved Woods from losing his biggest endorsement deal has nothing to do with what he does off the course. In fact, it's quite the opposite. It has everything to do with what he does on the course.

When looking at Woods' involvement with Nike and looking at his advertisements, one will notice if watching closely that the products he's endorsing has nothing to do with lifestyle. It has more to do with performance equipment that he uses on the course.

Whether it be his blade irons, golf balls, or shirts, it all pertains to equipment that he uses while he's playing.

Nike's advertisements are geared to selling you a specific Tiger Woods: the No. 1 golfer in the world. Their advertisements are trying to say if you use their equipment you will play as well as the best golfer on earth. If you use his golf balls, you will control your



The Downey Ballers were named champions of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Southern Section Fourth Grade Division for football. Top row, left to right: Kevin Meza, Jahveon Medearis, Abdul Butt, Christopher Steele and Steven George. Bottom row: Coach Lovel Johnson, William Lucas, Julian Heredia, Johnny Beeks, Joshua Orellana, Alec Durane and Coach Thomas Lucas. Not pictured is Manny Ramos.

Downey's shining moment

By BILL O'NEILL

Through the years, Downey's high schools have produced many star athletes and some memorable teams. But the great, shining moment in the city's sports history took place on Dec. 14, 1956, when undefeated football teams representing Downey and Anaheim met in a CIF championship game in the Los Angeles Coliseum that is still talked about, 53 years later.

The buildup to that game drew national attention and was like nothing Southern California has seen, before or since. It was front page news, drawing more notice and stirring more attention and debate than the area's college or professional teams. Each team featured a running back (Randy Meadows, of Downey; and Mickey Flynn, of Anaheim) with staggering statistics and personal charisma to match. Meadows averaged 15 yards each time he touched the ball during the regular season and the playoffs, while Flynn, a quirky runner who could change directions in the blink of an eye, was virtually unstoppable.

The game itself took place on a cool, eerie night, with fog so thick spectators couldn't see across the field. The official paid attendance was 41,383; but with all of the printed tickets sold and thousands of people still lined up at the turnstiles fifteen minutes after the game was due to start, officials threw open the gates and welcomed them in. Unofficially, the crowd probably totaled upward of 60,000; and thousands more might have shown up, had the night been less foggy.

The two star running backs lived up to their press clippings: Flynn scored on a 62-yard run in the first quarter, and Meadows answered with a 68-yard dash two minutes later. The teams battled on even terms, up and down the Coliseum turf, with the game ending, quite fittingly, in a 13-13 tie.

Fifty-three years later, the game is still remembered by many as "The Greatest High School Football Game Ever Played"—and, to followers of Viking athletics over the years, as Downey's Great, Shining Moment. Bill O'Neill graduated from Downey High School in 1952.

Not perfect, but very close

By JOSEPH APODACA, SPORTS INTERN

DOWNEY – The Downey varsity girls' water polo team continues to impress in their new season as they took home four victories last week against Lakewood, Millikan, Santa Fe, and San Marino. The girls are now 8-1 for their overall season record, which includes non-San Gabriel Valley League games and tournaments.

In their game against Lakewood, the girls dominated over the Knights on the offense, winning 14-4. The Vikings continued to press hard on their offensive strategies against the Santa Fe Chiefs, bringing their final score to 8-1 by the end of the fourth period.

The girls also defeated the San Marino Titans, however, the score for the game was unavailable at press time. The team was undoubtedly excited to continue their season's winning streak, especially in their close game

against Millikan.

"We beat Millikan 13-12 in the last five seconds of the game," said senior Dominique Diaz.

The girls stayed neck-and-neck with the Millikan Rams throughout the entire pursuit, tying up the score multiple times throughout the game. The Rams would put themselves ahead of the Vikings at times, but seniors Diaz and Brenda Rosero continuously made plays for the goal and brought up their score.

"Last year Millikan beat us 16-4 and Warren just recently lost to Millikan so it was a huge win for us," said Diaz.

Returning players Diaz, Rosero, Sarah Aguayo, Felicia Aguirre, and Jessica Badalamenti continue to be impressed by their newest member Meghan Nevarez, who was the only new starter for all four games.

The girls continue to prove themselves in the water, showing a strong offense in every single game and a well planned defense, with

six-on-five strategies working in favor of the Vikings every time. Nevarez continues to shine as the newest sprinter, winning sprints consecutively throughout the start of every period.

"Everyone is just really playing well and contributing a lot to the game," said Diaz.

The girls' new found success has no doubt impressed many of their competitive rival teams. Coaches from Cerritos High School were seen at the Millikan game filming the Downey squad. The girls enter into the San Gabriel Valley conference games after the holiday break.

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shots better. If you use his driver, you will hit the ball farther. If you use his clothing, you will feel more comfortable.

They are not selling Woods off the course. They're not selling his former clean record, nor are they selling you the loyal family man that he was once known to be. To Nike, what Woods does in his personal life doesn't matter. Performance on the course is what counts to this brand.

Arguments can be said that endorsing Woods is a bad move because they'll lose on sales with things that are attached to him. USA Today has Woods' popularity

down 55 percent (as high as 88 percent).

But because of Nike's ability to market him as a golfer rather than someone off the course, they'll still have one of the most marketable golfers in the world.

Let's face it. America is a forgiving country and his image, while it may not be completely repaired, will rebound. Yes, Woods won't be playing golf for a while which might hurt the PGA but he'll be back. And guess what? When he comes back, he will still be the No. 1 golfer in the world. And Nike knows that.

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Christon: Lifetime of travel grants unique insights.

Continued from page 1

Its 150 color photographs include images of before-they-were-stars Joe Pantoliano, Ed Harris, Elizabeth McGovern, Dennis Franz and Tom Hulce. Christon is currently at work on a second novel. (You can sample his writing on a variety of subjects under his name in the internet).

In the course of his reportorial work, and on his own, Christon has traveled widely around the world. He has visited and stayed in

a number of the other "great cities," among them Paris, London, Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Beijing and Moscow.

It is from the insights gained over this lifetime of reporting and travel that Christon offers a few observations about Downey. For instance, Christon asked this question of downtown Downey in a recent Letter to the Editor: "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?"

He continues: "[A] mythic observer from Mars will see in Downey retrograde traffic congestion, no vibrant center, no cultural scene, no night life, no buzz."

"What distinguishes the [great places I've seen] is culture," he goes on, "and a municipal plan-

ning scheme that provides for convenient mass transit and plenty of opportunity for people to walk where they need to go."

There it is, his magic word: walk.

So, "What can we do to revitalize Downey?" he asks. "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."

Christmas play at local church

DOWNEY – A 45-member choir will lend its voice to a Christmas play this weekend at First Baptist Church of Downey.

"One Special Christmas" follows the frantic Christmas Eve escapades of a contemporary family that finally slows down long enough to find Christmas in a place they had forgotten to look: a manger.

The choir will participate in a traditional Christmas Eve candle-light service, focusing on the Biblical account of Jesus' birth.

The play is free and begins at 7 p.m., Dec. 18-20. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Downey is at 8348 3rd St.

Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber

COSTA MESA – Musical excerpts from the greatest works by Andrew Lloyd Webber will be featured at the Orange County Performing Arts Center for a one-week engagement beginning Feb. 16.

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Tickets to see "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" start at \$20 and are available online at www.ocpag.org or by calling (714) 556-2787.

Speedee McDonalds



About Us:

Right up the street on Lakewood Boulevard in Downey sits the oldest operating McDonald's in the world. A relic of 55 years, it is one of the most important historic links to the global conglomerate we've come to recognize as the golden arches. This McDonald's, and its owner Ron Piazza, both share a celebration-worthy past. It is the only one of the original restaurants Richard and Maurice founded still open. This McDonald's was around before Ray Kroc purchased the franchise and created the McDonald's Corporation. It's easy to spot: neon lights, 'Speedee' the Hamburger- McDonald's original mascot, and one giant arch, not two (the double arches didn't make an appearance until the 60's. The Speedee McDonald's is a historical monument to the American Dream and the opportunistic business man. This was the third store opened and the second to be franchised. It had no indoor seating or drive thru. Ron Piazza started working at McDonald's when he was 15 years old making fries and milkshakes in Lakewood as the lowest level employee. This nearly coincided with the 15 year anniversary of the Speedee McDonald's. Ron worked his way up the ranks from manager to supervisor before ultimately owning his first McDonald's in 1979. In the 1990's The McDonald's Corporation bought back Downey Speedee McDonald's location, opting to maintain its historic relevance and design. A few short years later, the Northridge Earthquake. The corporation thought about closing it down, but the Long Beach and Downey communities fought to bring it back. As a result, the Speedee McDonald's was repaired and modernized while keeping its historical integrity and vintage design. The Piazza Family purchased Speedee McDonald's in 1997 and have run it ever since. They have recently added more variety to their gift shop and it will now be open for limited hours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 AM to 2 PM.

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Counsel's Corner: When facing foreclosure, bankruptcy may help

By Steve Lopez,
Law Offices of Steve Lopez

If you are facing foreclosure and cannot work out a loan modification with the lender, bankruptcy may help.



If you get behind on your mortgage payments, a lender may take steps to foreclose. That is, enforce the terms of the loan by selling the house at a public auction and taking payment of your loan out of the auction without having to go to court.

The foreclosure process typically starts after you fall behind on your payments for at least three to four months. That gives you time to try some alternate measures, such as loan forbearance, a short sale, or a deed in lieu of foreclosure. But if you've already tried and failed with these measures, now is a good time to consider bankruptcy as a possibility for avoiding or stalling foreclosure. Here are some ways that filing for bankruptcy can help you.

When you file either a Chapter 13 or Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the court automatically issues an order known as the "automatic stay." The automatic stay directs your creditors to cease their collection activities immediately. If your home is scheduled for a foreclosure sale, the sale will be legally postponed while the bankruptcy is pending—typically for three to four months. However, there are exceptions to this general rule.

One is that the lender can hire an attorney to go to bankruptcy court and obtain the bankruptcy court's permission to proceed with the sale by filing a "motion to lift the stay." This means that the lender is asking the court to exclude the home from the automatic stay order. Therefore, you may not get the full three to four months. But even then, the bankruptcy will typically postpone the sale by at least two months, or even more if the lender is slow in pursuing the motion to lift the automatic stay.

If you want to keep your home but cannot afford to pay for it, Chapter 13 bankruptcy lets you pay off the "arrearage" (late, unpaid payments) over the length of a repayment plan you propose—five years in some cases. But you'll need enough income to at least meet your current mortgage payment at the same time you're paying off the arrearage. Assuming you make all the required payments up to the end of the repayment plan, you'll avoid foreclosure

and keep your home.

Chapter 13 may also help you eliminate the payments on your second or third mortgages. That's because if your first mortgage is secured by the entire value of your home (which is possible if the home has dropped in value), you may no longer have any equity with which to secure the later mortgages. That allows the Chapter 13 court to "strip off" the second and third mortgages and re-categorize them as unsecured debt which, under Chapter 13, takes last priority and often does not have to be paid back if at all.

If you do not want to keep your home but need more time to find a new place to live and need to get rid of all your debt, Chapter 7 bankruptcy is for you. In that case, filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy will at least stall the sale and give you two or three more months to work things out with your lender. It will also help you save up some money during the process and cancel debt secured by your home.

During a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, you can live in your home for free during at least some of the months while your bankruptcy is pending and perhaps several more after your case is closed. You can then use that money to help secure new shelter. Chapter 7 bankruptcy will also cancel all the debt that is secured by your home, including the mortgage, as well as any second mortgages and home equity loans.

With all this debt being cancelled, you may be wondering why the foreclosure on your home won't be cancelled too. This is so because when you bought your home you probably signed two documents: a promissory note to repay the mortgage loan and a security agreement called a Deed of Trust that could be recorded as a lien to enforce performance on the promissory note.

Chapter 7 bankruptcy gets rid of your personal liability under the promissory note, but it doesn't remove the lien. That's the way Chapter 7 works. It gets rid of debt but not liens. You'll still probably have to give up the house under the lien since that's what provided collateral for the loan. Therefore, this is why you would not be able to keep your home when you file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Not everyone can or should file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. You could lose property you want to keep. Chapter 7 might cause you to lose property you don't want to give up. In addition, even if

Chapter 7 bankruptcy is what you wish to do, you may not be eligible. Under the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, you are not eligible if your average gross income for the six-month period preceding the bankruptcy filing exceeds the state median income for the same size household. Nor are you eligible if your current income provides enough excess over your living expenses to fund a reasonable Chapter 13 repayment plan.

You must also consider that both bankruptcy and foreclosure will damage your credit score. However, sometimes bankruptcy is the preferable option when trying to rebuild credit. And here's why: a foreclosure will damage your credit score for many years, will not get rid of your other debt, and is particularly harmful when you begin house shopping again.

In contrast, discharging your debts in bankruptcy will harm your credit score, but can help you rebuild your score quicker than that of a foreclosure. This is because bankruptcy will leave you solvent and debt free and therefore able to start rebuilding good credit sooner.

So what's the point to all this? Preserve the little cash you do have. Filing for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy (if you don't qualify for Chapter 13) will provide a temporary delay from the foreclosure and allow you to preserve the cash to find alternative housing.

The long term advantage is that this may be the best way to start over by allowing you to get rid of all your debts such as credit cards, utility bills, medical bills, etc and allow for you to start rebuilding your credit score.

The purpose of this column is to provide general information on the law, which is subject to change. It is not legal advice. Consult a lawyer if you have a specific legal problem.

New Titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- **"Daughters of the Stone"** by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa. A lyrical debut novel about a family of Afro-Puerto Rican women, detailing their physical and spiritual journey from the Old World to the New.
- **"A Quilter's Holiday"** by Jennifer Chiaverini. For the Elm Creek Quilters, the day after Thanksgiving marks the start of the quilting season, a time to stitch special gifts for loved ones.
- **"Rainwater"** by Sandra Brown. During a time of drought and economic depression in 1934, Ella Barron runs her boardinghouse in Texas while caring for her son, Solly.
- **"The Signal"** by Ron Carlson. A rancher and his wife face a conflict over his actions to save the family land. What was planned as a final trip together causes them to see their marriage in a new light.
- **"Under the Mistletoe"** by Linda Howard and Stephanie Bond. Love stories with a holiday theme from two popular contemporary writers.

Non-Fiction

- **"The Brown Fat Revolution: Trigger Your Body's Good Fat to Lose Weight and Be Healthier"** by James R. Lyons. A physician explains how certain types of fat can help you maintain a more healthy body.
- **"E is for Ethics: How to Talk to Kids about Morals, Values, and What Matters Most"** by Ian James Corlett. Advice for parents on how to instill a sense of morality and fair play in children.
- **"Shoptimism: Why the American Consumer Will Keep on Buying No Matter What"** by Lee Eisenberg. A provocative and entertaining look at America's love affair with shopping, a pursuit that, even in hard times, remains a kind of national pastime.
- **"Stones into Schools: Promoting Books, not Bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan"** by Greg Mortenson. The author of "Three Cups of Tea" recounts his ongoing efforts to build schools while establishing communication with Islamic clerics, militia commanders and tribal leaders.
- **"Thank Heaven: a memoir"** by Leslie Caron. The celebrated star of Gigi traces her childhood in occupied France, her personal struggles and successful film career.

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

Genealogy and the courts

WHITTIER – The Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) will meet Jan. 16 at the Whittier Masonic Lodge.

Professional genealogical lecturer Anita Cheek Milner will be guest speaker. Her topic will be "Probate and Divorce Records."

Milner will provide a general outline of our court system and discuss the relevance or probate and divorce records to genealogical research.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Joyce Biby at (562) 296-6372.

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Musical fundraiser at church

NORWALK – The musical trio, The Time Machine, will perform inside the recreation hall at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Norwalk this Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

A buffet lunch will be available during intermission.

The event is a fundraiser and a donation of \$10 is suggested. The church is at 12700 Paddison Ave. in Norwalk.

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★ **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

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

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

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

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Local projects land federal funding

■ SCRS, Downey-based disability group, approved for \$100K.

DOWNEY — Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) announced last week final House passage of a spending measure that includes millions of dollars in federal funds for major programs and projects that she championed throughout the year for her district and the community at large.

A member of the Appropriations Committee, the congresswoman was appointed by House leadership to serve on the conference committee tasked with negotiating the final Omnibus spending agreement.

“The Omnibus Appropriations for FY 2010 makes targeted investments in areas that will rebuild our economy,” said Roybal-Allard. “The legislation funds infrastructure, health, and education initiatives to immediately create jobs while making long-term investments in our local workforce and communities. This spending measure strengthens our economy, creating an estimated 1.5 million jobs by investing \$41.8 billion in highway infrastructure.”

The Fiscal Year 2010 Omnibus Appropriations measure (HR 3288) includes appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Veterans Affairs,

Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, as well as foreign assistance programs and the District of Columbia.

The legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 10 by a vote of 221 to 202. The measure awaits expected passage in the U.S. Senate before being sent to the President.

The measure also includes funding for a wide-variety of projects in communities throughout the 34th Congressional District.

“I am pleased my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and in Congress supported my efforts during this very challenging budget year to fund these critical local projects in the 34th District,” Roybal-Allard said. “This measure

includes federal funding for vital health care efforts to address diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease in our communities. It provides funding for needed road, infrastructure and emergency services’ improvements. In addition, the legislation funds critical workforce training programs that provide job seekers with the skills needed to secure employment in today’s tough job market as well as after-school educational programs to keep at-risk youth on the right track.”

Among the projects that received funding under the measure:

Crime Reduction and At-Risk Youth
\$250,000 for the Hollenbeck

Police Activities League Youth Crime Prevention Program to expand crime prevention training and leadership development programs for youth ages 9-18 and their parents in the communities of Boyle Heights;

\$375,000 for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program for Infants and Toddlers to recruit, train and supervise court appointed special advocates to address the needs of infants and toddlers in the Los Angeles foster care system;

\$500,000 for the City of Los Angeles’ Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program to decrease gang-related crime in the Boyle Heights community of Los Angeles;

\$200,000 for the U.S. Soccer Foundation’s Champions of Change: Youth Soccer Gang Prevention Initiative to fund a pilot program in the Pico Union neighborhood of the 34th Congressional District that uses soccer as a tool for keeping at-risk children and teenagers from joining gangs.

Health
\$800,000 for the Phoenix House Strengthening Family and Mental Health Services for Underserved Youth in Los Angeles County to expand substance abuse recovery management services;

\$500,000 to White Memorial Medical Center in Boyle Heights for the Diabetes and Chronic Disease Prevention Project;

\$250,000 to Lupus L.A. for the Lupus Cooperative of Los Angeles Demonstration Project;

\$400,000 to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downtown Los Angeles to upgrade and renovate its Peripheral Vascular Disease Lab;

\$250,000 to Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) for Camp CHLA, a pipeline health careers program;

\$500,000 on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the National Association of Hispanic Nurses’ mentorship program.

Education and Job Training
\$100,000 to Southern California Rehabilitation Services (SCRS) in Downey for a Computer Resource and Rehabilitation Room to assist disabled clients;

\$150,000 to the East L.A. Classic Theater for the School-Based Literacy Program “Language in Play.”

\$500,000 for the Chrysalis Ex-Offender and Homeless Job Training Initiative for a training program to help ex-offenders re-enter the workforce;

\$300,000 to Homeboy Industries for a Solar Panel Training Program for former gang members;

\$200,000 to the City of Bell for the At-Risk-Youth Technology Intervention Program;

\$250,000 to the Filipino-American Service Group in Historic Filipinotown for case management and job training for homeless adults.

Transportation/Infrastructure
\$9.6 million for the final federal payment for construction of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, which opened in November;

\$500,000 for the City of Bellflower to provide bus shelters to protect riders from the elements and to promote the use of public transportation;

\$300,000 for the Trail Development Project in the City of Huntington Park to construct a 3/4-mile walking/running trail around the perimeter of Salt Lake Park ;

\$500,000 for Garfield Avenue Improvements in the City of Commerce;

\$500,000 for Atlantic Boulevard South improvements in the City of Maywood;

\$487,000 for Positive Train Control technology capable of preventing train-to-train collisions for the Metrolink commuter rail service;

\$50 million for the development of technologies to prevent train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, and other unauthorized movements by a train.

DUSD: Last meeting until the New Year.

Continued from page 1

School as well as \$30,000 worth of culinary arts equipment at Warren High—both from the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation; and substantial donations from Michael Berdelis of Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate as well as the Downey Rotary Club;

•Ratified/approved the following: the payment of convention and conference attendance expenses; the general agreements with various agencies; the payments for special education placements; the purchase orders by the Purchasing Department; the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime,

and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School and Food Service, through November 2009; B warrants; the renewal, award or change order of certain bids; the transfer of one fund from the Unrestricted to the Restricted General Fund; routine Personnel items until board subsequent action; the establishment of a limited-term position, for Gallatin Elementary; the changes in positions providing support services for students with special needs; the Memorandum of Understanding between the DEA and DUSD regarding the PAR (Peer Assistance Review) Panel stipends for the 2009-10 school year, as well as that

regarding high school counselors; and the proposed revisions to MAR 4141,

Administrative, Psychologist, Program Specialist salary schedule A, effective Feb. 1, 2010 (the revisions reflect a 5-step salary structure which rewards certificated personnel with most credits and seniority and provides those with less with 2 percent salary increase gradations);

•Accepted as complete the electrical, fencing, backhoe services, plaster, acoustical ceiling, paving, concrete, as well as the bid packages for the WHS modernization program;

•Acknowledged the receipt and denial of a claim submitted by

Shannon Moore on behalf of Bryce Landon Moore, a minor, in compliance with Government Code Section 911-15 and 945;

•Received the 2009-10 First Period Interim Financial Report as of Oct. 31, 2009, and approved the positive certification that DUSD can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2009-10 fiscal year (even as it draws down on its reserves); and

•Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on all student cases, considered in closed session.

The next regular public meeting of the board will be at 5 p.m. on Jan. 19 at the Gallegos Administration Center.

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Downey Association of Realtors®
2009 President Anthony Mendez and 2010 President Sossi Gabriel present Patty Lee (on right) Habitat for Humanity a check for \$4,300. Money was raised by the DAOR Realtors® throughout 2009.



David Llamas, owner of Mambo Grill and a member of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, was recently honored by the Downey Police Officers' Association for his support of the police department. From left to right: Officer Tim Lau, Officer Justin Prentis, Llamas, Officer Jason Klevos and Sgt. Chris Kurtz.



B's Dance Place in Downey partnered with the Downey Police Department to host a toy drive for needy families. On Dec. 9, Officer Jose Gomez picked up the toys and, with the help of B's dancers, loaded his police cruiser to capacity. "It was a nice sight to see the toy drive boxes inside of the dance studio slowly but surely fill up as the days went by," a representative from B's Dance Place said. "This is proof that when a community comes together we can all make a difference." The toy drive will become an annual event at the dance studio.

Musical to premiere at Downey Theatre

DOWNEY – "Bring It On," a new production by Cheryle Productions and Musical Theatre, will premiere Jan. 16 at the Downey Theatre. "Bring It On" tells the story of a plumber who suddenly falls ill and is unable to speak for himself. His wife, Regina, is confronted unexpectedly with the woes and foes of her children's illegitimate children, his loyal Christian friends and a decision to be happy "expressed in a hidden surprise."

Tickets to the show are \$10 and available by calling (310) 502-4574.

Santa will visit Del Taco

DOWNEY – Santa Claus will be at Del Taco, 8028 Firestone Blvd., tomorrow from 1 to 5 p.m. for free photos with children. There will be free treats and giveaways, including the grand prize of a 5-ft. stocking. The community is invited.

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Early Deadlines for 12-25-09 & 1-1-10 Editions

Advertising Space for 12-25-09 edition will be Friday Dec. 18, 2009 @ 3:00 PM

Classifieds for 12-25-09 edition will be Tuesday Dec. 22, 2009 @ 11:00 AM for 1-1-10 edition will be Tuesday Dec. 29, 2009 @ 11:00 AM

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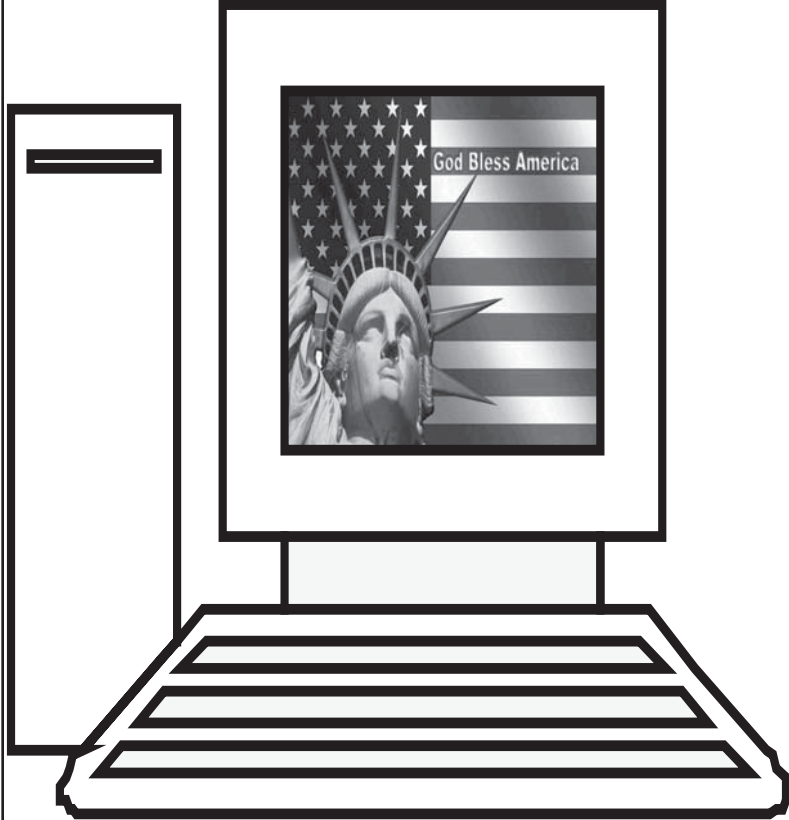
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Although The Downey Patriot is adjudicated in the County of Los Angeles, it's limited on the types of legal notices it is able to publish. Our goal is to become adjudicated in the City of Downey in order to run all types of legal notices. In order 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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Students from Downey Adult School's Dental Assisting and Pharmacy Technicians programs received their diplomas in a graduation ceremony last week.

Students earn vocational diplomas

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School held its fall graduation ceremony on Dec. 8 for its Dental Assisting Vocational program and Pharmacy Technician Vocational program graduates.

Nancy Garcia was named valedictorian for the dental assistant graduating class while Zumara Esquer was salutatorian.

For the pharmacy technician program, Dora Latino was named valedictorian while both Rodjana Polachart and Marife Talosig were salutatorians.

The ceremony was attended by family, friends and members of the community, and included a slideshow of the graduates' work in achieving their diplomas.

"Downey Adult School congratulates all graduates of the Dental Assisting and Pharmacy Technician programs, and wishes everyone success in their chosen paths and endeavors," the school said in a statement.

Auto building nears completion

NORWALK – Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe presented a check for \$100,000 to Cerritos College last month to support a new automotive building scheduled for completion in February.

The new \$6 million building will house the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies.

"This is a visionary kind of project," Knabe said. "This will play a large roll in filling the ever-changing, highly-skilled employment needs of the auto industry. I'm glad to be part of this great project."

CSULB leads in undergrad applications

LONG BEACH – Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) has received a record number of applications from potential undergraduate students for the fall 2010 semester, according to CSULB President F. King Alexander, who reported a preliminary count of more than 69,000 freshman and transfer student applications received.

While the CSU Chancellor's Office reported receiving more than 609,000 undergraduate applications system-wide, shattering all previous records, Cal State Long Beach received more applications from potential first-time freshman and transfer students than any of the other 22 campuses in the system.

The application period for undergraduate students interested in attending any CSU campus next fall ended on Monday (Nov. 30), and the number of electronic applications submitted for enrollment at CSULB was 69,656, an increase of more than 9,000 applications over the previous year's 60,519. With the inclusion of international student applications, CSULB received more than 71,000 applications in all, breaking the 70,000 mark for the first time in its history.

"With the entire California State University system receiving more applications for next year than ever before, it speaks well of the quality of education and student life that Cal State Long Beach leads every other system campus in terms of students applying for freshman status as well as those applying as transfer students," said

CSULB President F. King Alexander.

"While these numbers point to excellence in quality and recognition of our campus' reputation," he added, "what's unfortunate for most of these applicants is that due to continuing reductions to CSULB's budget, only 5,500 will actually enroll as students in the fall."

On Monday, the last day to submit applications, the CSU system received more than 73,000 applications alone (compared to 33,000 on the last day of the filing period a year ago). Of those last submitted applications, more than 8,000 were for enrollment at CSULB.

CSULB led the CSU system in first-time freshman applications with 47,683 received. That num-

ber is nearly 2,000 more than last year's 45,734 first-time freshman total. The campus also received the largest number of transfer student applications with 21,973 received, a whopping 48.6 percent increase over last year's 14,785.

In fact, over the last two years, transfer student applications have risen a staggering 84.9 percent (11,883 for fall 2008 to 21,973 for fall 2010), primarily due to the campus closing admissions to transfer students during its spring semester the last two years.

The high demand for enrollment at CSULB and other sister campuses comes at a time when the CSU system is expected to reduce its enrollment by some 40,000 students over two years as a result of the \$564 million budget cut from the state of California.

CSULB cut its enrollment this year by about 2,300 students and is targeting a reduction of 3,044 FTE (full-time equivalent) students for the 2010-11 academic year.

"Cal State Long Beach consistently ranks among the top universities in the nation in the number of applications it receives from undergraduates students, especially those students who are going to be first-time freshmen," Alexander pointed out.

"In an environment where outcomes are often difficult to measure, it is reassuring to know that our university continues to be among the most desirable institutions in the country for high school seniors."

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Brian Ellis
November 1, 1978 - November 20, 2009

Our beloved son Brian Christian Ellis "Linares" passed away November 20, 2009. He was born November 1, 1978 and had just turned 31 years of age. He resided in Downey, CA, with his parents, George and Diane Linares and his younger brother Daniel Linares. He was a client of the Easter Seal program of Downey and eagerly enjoyed participating in their daily activities. Those through-out the Stonewood Shopping Center, the local YMCA and the Downey and Norwalk Libraries may well remember his smiling face and kind words. He made friends easily and once a person met him, he was not easily forgotten. His celebration of life, his gentle spirit, and the loving joy he brought to his family and friends will always be remembered. Because his family believed it would be Brian's wish, his organs were donated through OneLegacy, a donate life organization. Preliminary reports are that a 12 year old girl received his heart and a 17 year old girl received his liver and both of his lungs. Within a few months our family will hear the success of these transplants. It is our hope that someday those families will know the wonderful young man who gave them these gifts, this holiday season. Along with his parents and younger brother, Brian is survived by his father Steven Ellis of West Virginia, his sister Monica Montenegro, brother Army Medic, SPC George M. Linares [currently stationed in Afghanistan], brother-in-law Junior Montenegro, and nephew Cash Montenegro. He is also remembered by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins and deeply cherished friends. We love you Brian, and will miss you tremendously each and every day.

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Regular Sale
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Tesla Motors, through the City of Downey, donated 100 Tesla Roadster remote-controlled cars toys to local charities this week. The toys arrived at City Hall on Wednesday and will be distributed to the TLC Family Resource Center, PTA HELPS, Angel Tree, the Downey Police Officers' Association and the Downey Firemen's Association. "We are extremely thankful and appreciate Tesla's generosity," Mayor Anne Bayer said in a statement. "Our local needy children will have one more reason to smile about this holiday season."



Stonewood Center hosted representatives from three local schools last week in a competition for a \$500 gift card to benefit their school. The representatives, Bonnie Cuttress of East Middle School, Yolanda Corniar of Unsworth Elementary and Pete Ramos of St. Matthias High School, competed for the card by unwrapping 50 gifts as fast as they could to find the \$500 card hidden in one of the boxes. After about five minutes, Ramos discovered the card. The other schools received \$50 gift cards as consolation prizes.



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.