



The Downey Patriot



New exhibit at space center
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Donation to scholarship fund
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Thursday, February 2, 2012

Vol. 10 No. 42

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

Water barrels to be given out Saturday

DOWNEY – Local residents can receive a free plastic barrel for emergency water storage at a distribution event this Saturday, Feb. 4, in front of the Columbia Memorial Space Center.

Residents must be in a vehicle to receive a barrel; walk-up visitors will not be accommodated.

Attendees should stay in their vehicle as they work their way through the line. There is a maximum of one barrel per vehicle.

The distribution will start at 8 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. or whenever the supply is exhausted, whichever comes first.

The barrels are donated by Coca-Cola Bottling Company and range in size from 15-55 gallons.

Barrel pumps (\$15), siphon hoses (\$5) and handles (\$8) can be purchased at the event. These items are not necessary for water storage but are helpful when dispensing or changing the water.

The storage of drinking water is typically the most important thing you can do to prepare for an emergency. Every year victims of disasters can be found standing in long lines, waiting for their daily ration of water. You can be better prepared for a disaster if you take the steps necessary to provide a suitable amount of water for your family.

Experts recommend that you set aside 3-7 gallons of water per person in every household. This action should provide water for 3-7 days after a disaster. This means a family of four should store 12-28 gallons of water, year-round.

The water storage options are numerous. Water can be purchased in plastic drinking bottles in sizes ranging from 12 ounces to one gallon (128 ounces). Most water bottlers recommend the water be used within one year of purchase. Water can also be stored in larger quantities by utilizing 5-55 gallon containers.

The city of Downey Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) and the Coca-Cola bottling plan in Downey have agreed to collaborate and provide free food-quality plastic drums in sizes ranging from 15 to 55 gallons..

Members of the EPC and Community Emergency Response Team will be preparing and distributing drums. Due to high demand, there is a limit of one per household.

Instructions on safe water storage will be handed out with the free drums, or posted on the barrels. There are numerous water storage articles available on the Internet.

If you have questions regarding this program, send them to Mark Gillaspie at ready@downeyca.org. –Contributed by Downey Fire Department

Jabari Ruffin signs with USC

■ Highly-recruited outside linebacker signed letter of intent with his “dream school” Wednesday.

BY JAMES WILLIAMS, CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – Downey High senior linebacker Jabari Ruffin signed his letter of intent to play football, beginning in the 2012 season, for the University of Southern California.

Ruffin signed his letter of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 1, which is known as National Signing Day across the country, a day in which many high school athletes sign a letter of intent to the school they plan to attend.

“For USC fans, be ready for the commitment that I’ll bring forth, the work ethic, and the hard work,” Ruffin said.

Since Ruffin verbally committed to USC on March 2, 2011, he has visited the USC campus with other recruits several times to look at some of the things the program has to offer and to get to know other incoming freshman and his future Trojan teammates.

Ruffin will be part of the first recruiting class to join the football team under program-imposed scholarship limitations due to NCAA sanctions.

Ruffin, who is ranked as the top outside linebacker in the country, feels he is ready to contribute to the Trojans as early as next season.

“I have no intentions to red shirt (while at USC), I am going to come in and make an impact right away,” Ruffin said.

Ruffin was also selected as a team captain for the West team in the U.S. Army All American Bowl that took place on Jan. 7, an all star game that involves many of the top high-school football players in the country.

“I did not expect to be a captain but they said I stood out as a leader with my performance,” Ruffin said. The captains for both the East and West teams were voted on by both players and coaches for their respective teams.

After the returning to California from Texas, where the All American game was held, he said he felt blessed to have participated in the game, with some of the country’s best athletes.

“I was blessed to have a starting spot, I came back excited, it was a very humbling experience,” Ruffin said.

Past participants in the game have been players such as Eagles quarterback Vince Young, Dolphins running back Reggie Bush, and Vikings running back Adrian Peterson.

Along with playing in the game itself, the players got to meet many current NFL players.

Ruffin said he was impacted by the words of Chiefs safety Eric Berry, who said to “separate yourself and be that guy. Be different.”

Ruffin has already begun to feel the warm welcome from his coach-



Photos courtesy Jabari Ruffin

es and by Trojan players, who are currently on the team, including wide receivers George Farmer and Robert Woods.

Despite the excitement of signing day, Ruffin had a heavy heart as his grandfather died a day earlier.

“He was a (huge) USC fan, and I plan to dedicate my first game at USC to him,” Ruffin said.

Ruffin said he is appreciative of the support he has received locally, both in football and at school.

“Thanks to my family and everyone in Downey for their support and a special thanks to (Downey High head football coach) Jack Williams,” Ruffin said.

New fire station to be built inside Building 1

■ City insisted \$4.4 million fire station be included within Tierra Luna Marketplace; it will replace Fire Station No. 2.

BY CHRISTIAN BROWN, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – As residents continue to debate the merits of the newly-approved Tierra Luna Marketplace, city officials this week are highlighting another aspect of the 77-acre development, a 8,000-sq.-ft. fire station, which will provide a much-needed upgrade to the city’s fire department while ultimately helping firefighters better serve the neighborhoods of south Downey.

Concerned about the strain Tierra Luna might place on the Downey Fire Department, the city negotiated with developer Manarino Realty and requested a new fire station be included inside the 1.5 million-sq.-ft. office and retail center, which will soon replace Downey Studios.

With the Downey Fire Department already at 100% capacity, Brian Saeki, the city’s community development director, said Tierra Luna Marketplace would inevitably stretch the department above and beyond its limits.

“After analyzing the development, we realized there could be some public safety difficulties that would draw on our fire department,” Saeki said. “We thought adding a fire station would be a viable solution to these public safety issues.”

As part of the development agreement, the developer is required to spend up to \$4.4 million on the design and construction of the facility, which will be stationed inside the historic Building 1, which once housed the offices of early industrialist E. M. Smith and later NASA’s Apollo space program.

Saeki said the fire station headquarters, which will span a minimum space of 8,000 sq. ft., must be completed within two years after the city requests its construction. City officials, however, have yet to submit a formal request to initiate the design and construction of the fire station.

Upon completion, the city will enter into a lease agreement paying back 5% of the total construction costs every year for 20 years after which the land and station will be owned by the city.

Fire Chief Lonnie Croom praised the new station, which he said has been a work in progress for nearly a decade.

“We’ve been trying for 10 years,” he said. “We’ve been looking to improve our locations for quite some time.”



Built decades ago, Croom acknowledged the current four stations are slowly wearing down.

Fire Station No. 2, located at 9556 Imperial Hwy, and Fire Station No. 3, at 9900 Paramount Blvd., were dedicated 54 years ago and have been in service ever since. Fire Station No. 4, which is located at 9349 Florence Ave., was dedicated in 1959 and Fire Station No. 1, which replaced the city’s original firehouse, was relocated to 12222 Paramount Blvd in 1974.

Croom believes the new fire station at Tierra Luna will take some pressure off the aging fire stations.

Once complete, the new fire station headquarters will in fact replace Fire Station No. 2, which, according to Croom, is a little too far southeast making it tough to answer calls in the adjacent neighborhoods of south Downey.

The firehouse will contain an engine company, paramedic squad, and truck company managed by about six to nine Downey firefighters. Croom said no additional staff will be hired, but current firefighters will be relocated to the new site.

“This is a great location, a great spot – I’m excited about it,” Croom said. “We tested the response times from that location and they were very positive.”

While the specifics of the new station are still forthcoming, Croom is hopeful the facility will provide the department will some upgrades in technology and safety including state-of-the-art rooms to clean emergency and protective gear and storage areas for reserve equipment and command vehicles.

The fire station design, which will be approved by the City Council, will be a joint venture between the developer and the city, said Saeki.

Croom is confident the firehouse will become a lasting symbol of Downey’s past and future, serving the community for years to come.

“The residents in south Downey will benefit from a state-of-the-art station in a historical building,” said Croom. “The history will remain in the firehouse forever. We’re taking a lot of pride in it. It’s going to be something the community will be proud of.”

DOWNEY GREEN

Saving water from your clothes washer & dishwasher

■ Appliances with the Energy Star label may save water and also your time.

BY LARS CLUTTERHAM, CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – In one sense, it's amazing how many public programs there are hoping to convince you to save water. They have catchy names, like "WaterSense," "Energy Star," "Bewaterwise," "SoCal Water Smart," "Shut Your Tap" (my personal favorite), and the City of Downey Department of Public Works Utilities Division. Okay, maybe that last one wasn't quite so catchy. But you get the idea.

On the other hand, these public agencies are acutely aware that the water supply is among our most precious resources. And in California in particular, these same public organizations recognize that constant care and vigilance are necessary to insure that our water supply is able to meet the needs of the population.

So we continue this week with our assessment of water conservation tips as provided by the aforementioned (not too catchy) Public Works Utilities Division. We are still seeking ways to conserve water indoors, and still more opportunities present themselves, specifically with clothes washers and dishwashers.

There's one simple no-(additional)cost rule for saving water and energy with these appliances: make sure you're always washing

full loads. Clearly the cycle will use the same amount of water, regardless of how many clothes or dishes there are in each load. So common sense dictates a full load every time. Both clothes washer and dishwasher will also undoubtedly have different cycle options, so it's a good idea to read the manual so you're familiar with the water and energy usage of each available cycle, and choose accordingly. (As far as energy use is concerned, you can, of course, save a bit more if you select an all-cold clothes washing cycle.)

Most other gains in water savings with these devices come from the technology, and once again, the EPA's websites are delighted to project what kind of water and energy savings are achievable. While the WaterSense site deals primarily with bathroom devices, EPA's Energy Star website lists standards and potential for clothes washers and dishwashers.

The Energy Star site estimates that "the average American family washes almost 300 loads of laundry each year." Further, Energy Star qualified clothes washers use "14 gallons of water per load, compared to the 27 gallons used by a standard machine"--a 50% reduction. The lifetime water savings of each of these new machines is therefore estimated to be 43,000 gallons. From another perspective, the Energy Star site declares ebulliently that, "if every clothes washer purchased in the U.S. this year earned the Energy Star, we would save...32 billion gallons of water."



Closer to home, the Metropolitan Water District water conservation site, bewaterwise.com, offers rebates to single-family residential customers through its SoCal Water Smart program on High-Efficiency Clothes Washers. Similarly, Central Basin Municipal Water District also offers a menu of rebates on "HECWs" (or HEWs), as they are sometimes called. CBMWD also sponsors the "Shut Your Tap" water conservation program.

To be clear, while the City of Downey participates as a member of both the CBMWD and the MWD, Downey supplies all its own water from local wells, so an interested party would need to consult directly with each agency to determine rebate eligibility.

Returning to dishwashers, Energy Star models use 5.8 gallons per cycle or less, whereas older machines use 10 or more additional gallons per cycle.

Two low-cost tips from the EPA Energy Star site (and you can trust them, because I've heard these guys do all their own dishes) are to scrape food rather than rinsing, and to use the dishwasher rather than washing dishes by hand. According to Energy Star, using qualified dishwashers will save 5,000 gallons of water annually over hand washing. More importantly, using an Energy Star qualified dishwasher, rather than washing by hand, will annually save you 230 hours of your time.

Giving you more free time to read *The Downey Patriot*.



Hometown Hardware and Garden is expected to open at the former Vons location on Paramount Boulevard as early as May. The hardware store is owned by three former executives with All-American Home Center.

Former All-American execs to open their own home improvement store

DOWNEY – After months of searching for an ideal location, the three senior executives who once managed All-American Home Center will soon open their own home improvement store in Downey near the corner of Paramount Boulevard and Florence Avenue.

Greg Fuller, Ray Brown and Rob Morck, who helped run All-American before its closure last month, announced Tuesday afternoon plans to launch Hometown Hardware and Garden inside the former Vons Market, which has been vacant since October 2010.

Earlier this month, Community Development Director Brian Saeki said the group was actively searching for a smaller site to open a home store in Downey similar to All-American.

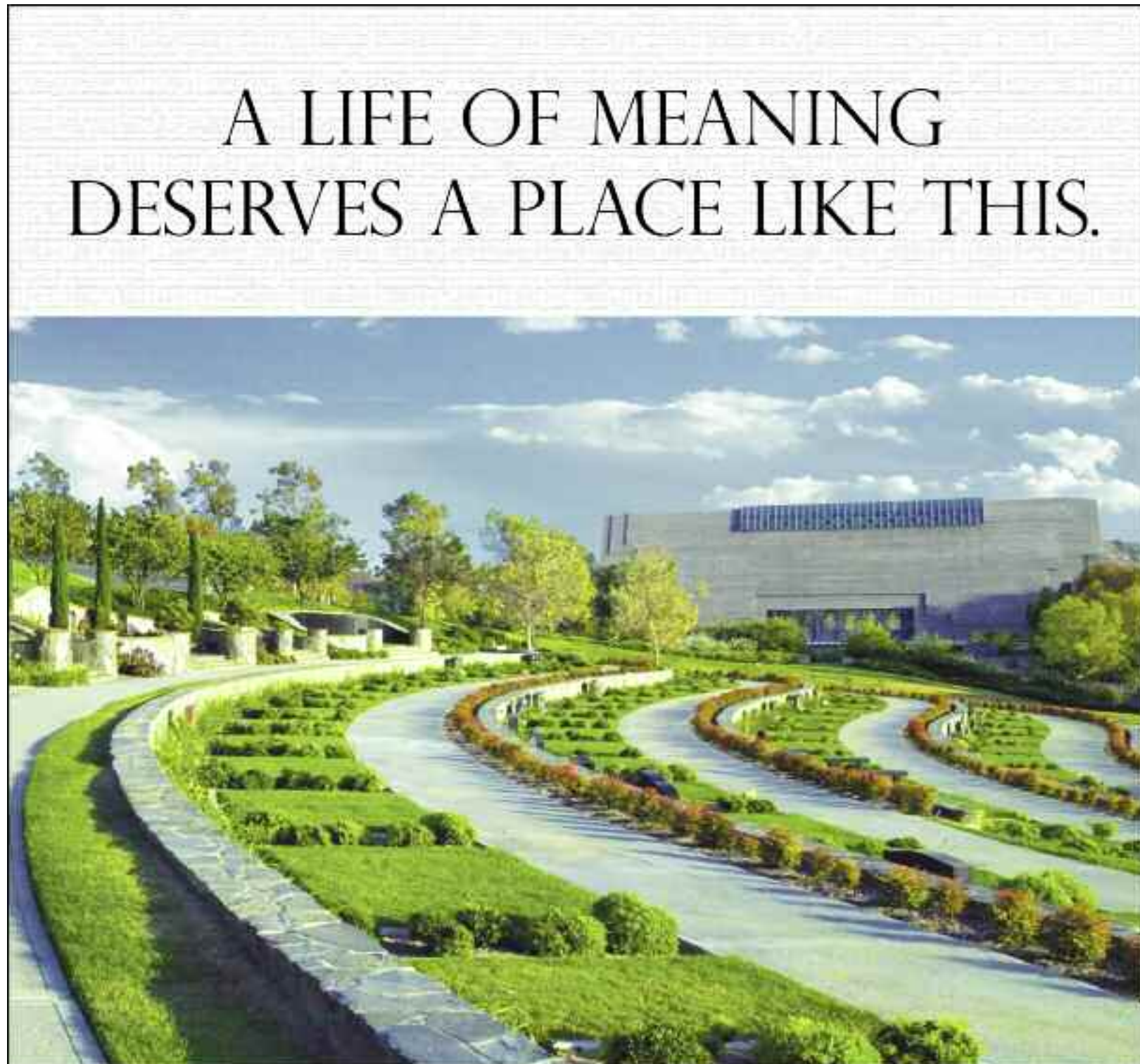
The 28,000-square-foot Vons location had been acquired by Vernobased grocery store chain Payless Foods, but the company seemingly abandoned the building after several construction and financial setbacks.

In a statement, Councilman Mario Guerra praised the new store owners, welcoming the forthcoming home store.

"Congrats to owners," said Guerra. "[I'm] glad that you believe in and are investing in Downey."

Hometown Hardware and Garden is expected to open this May.

—Christian Brown, staff writer



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Smithsonian exhibit opens at Downey space center

■ The Smithsonian's "Suited for Space" exhibit will be at the Columbia Memorial Space Center through April 22.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Coinciding with the ninth anniversary of the ill-fated Columbia space shuttle that carried a crew of seven and broke up during re-entry over a swath of Texas on Feb. 1, 2003, Downey's Columbia Memorial Space Center this week held the ribbon-cutting of its latest exhibit, "Suited for Space", which celebrates the vital role and evolution of what has been dubbed as the ultimate life support system, the spacesuit.

The exhibit formally opened to the public Feb. 2.

Developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the stop in Downey is part of a 13-city traveling exhibit that premiered in April 2011 at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago and doesn't end until October 2015 at an as yet undetermined venue. The stop in Downey is its third.

The national exhibition tour is generously supported by the conglomerate, DuPont, which was responsible for much of the protective material that went into the making of the spacesuit.

The Suited for Space exhibit, set up on the space center's second floor, features a collection of large information-rich images of the various spacesuits worn over the years

by NASA's spacefarers from the Mercury program to Apollo and Skylab, x-rays showing their seldom seen interior construction, spacesuit-associated objects and artifacts, a photo-op allowing one to take a photograph of oneself wearing an Apollo spacesuit, as well as walk in Buzz Aldrin's footsteps on moon soil.

Space center executive director Scott Pomrehn served as emcee at the grand opening, while Mayor Roger Brossmer gave the opening remarks.

Special guest Harold Closter, a 32-year careerist at Smithsonian and the director of Smithsonian Affiliations since 2004, pointed out the importance of keeping the narrative of space exploration alive. It was learned that it was he who was mainly responsible for facilitating the traveling exhibit's visit to Downey.

Closter in fact made it official: the Downey space center has been welcomed as a collaborative partner within the Smithsonian Affiliations family, meaning the Columbia Memorial Space Center will henceforth share in the institution's national outreach programs aimed at enriching communities with Smithsonian scholars, public programs, and professional development opportunities. Affiliates are to be found across the nation, he said, several of them in the state of California.

Closter further explained that the spacesuit exhibit is a marked departure from the usual run of space exhibits. He said the shift in emphasis to the seldom highlighted role of the spacesuit, which is designed to protect the astronaut from the hostile environment of space, is long overdue.

He said the marvelous innovative engineering and technological improvements that went into the spacesuit's construction is a testament to the creativity and brilliant ingenuity of the dedicated men and women who made it happen.

Meanwhile, Brossmer briefly traced the links to the space-related past some in the audience have and paid tribute to the significant strides the space center has made under the effective leadership of Pomrehn and his hardworking crew, as well as to the members of the hard-hitting city staff, without whose efforts "none of this would come to be."

Others in attendance were council members Mario Guerra and Fernando Vasquez, a few members of the city's officialdom, members of the board of the Columbia Memorial Space Center Foundation,



and assorted invited guests including officials of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, and space aficionados.

Tickets to the center are \$5 each, with discounts given to groups of 20 or more. For information, contact (562) 231-1200 or e-mail info@DowneySpaceCenter.org.

Kindle e-readers still available at the library

DOWNEY – Several new titles are available for the Kindle e-book readers offered at the Downey City Library.

The portable readers from Amazon come with a variety of best-selling and classic books pre-loaded on each device. Library patrons can check out a Kindle DX model for three weeks with no renewals.

"If you are considering the purchase of your own e-book reader, this is a great opportunity for you to try one of the most popular devices on the market," said Librarian Dan Rooker. "The Kindle DX is easy to read in any light and the font size is adjustable. We have added several new titles to the Kindles since the beginning of our pilot program last November.

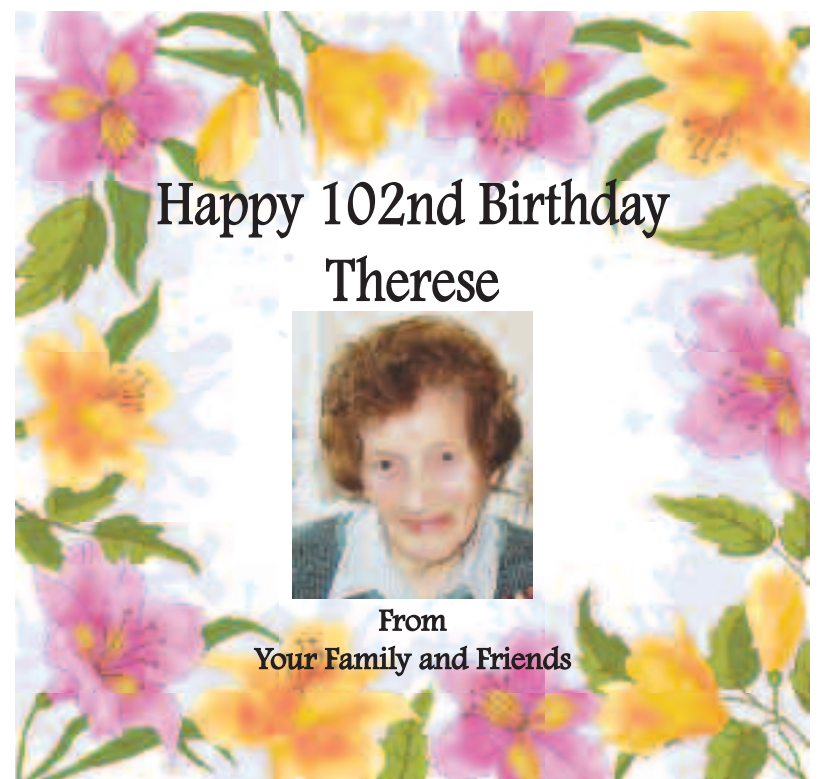
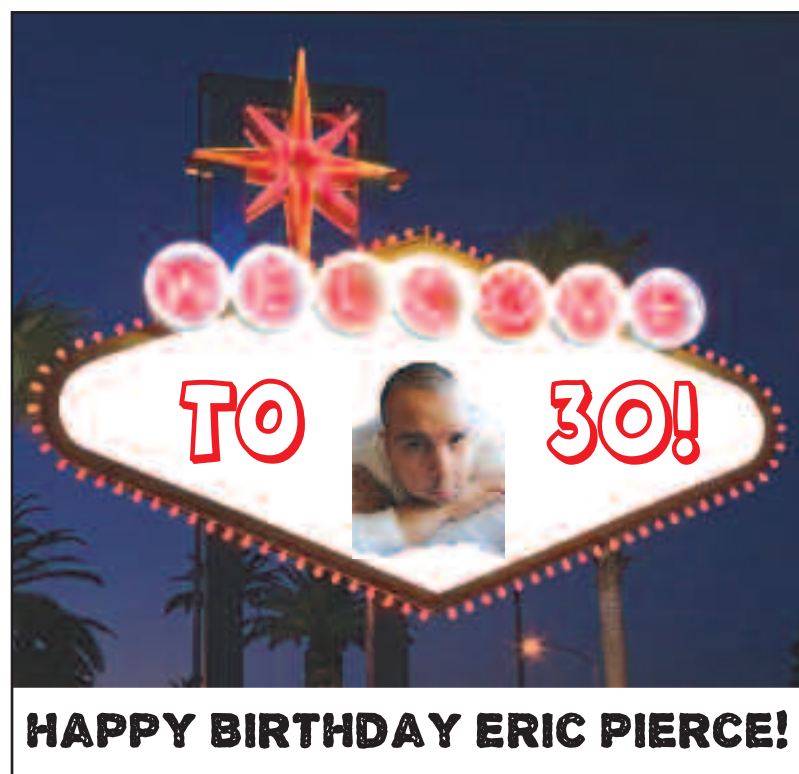
Approximately 60 titles are currently available on the Kindles, including "11/22/63" by Stephen King; "V is for Vengeance" by Sue

Grafton; "The Affair" by Lee Child; "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett; "The Fifth Witness" by Michael Connelly; "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins; "The Tiger's Wife" by Tea Obrecht; "The Twilight Saga" by Stephanie Meyer; "Dreams of Joy" by Lisa See; and more.

Classic titles include "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London; "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas; "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley; and "War of the Worlds" by H.G. Wells.

Each Kindle also includes popular biography and non-fiction titles such as "Bossypants" by Tina Fey; "Cleopatra: a Life" by Stacy Schiff; "The Steve Jobs Way" by Jay Elliot and William Simon; and "Unbroken: a World War II Story on Survival, Resilience and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand.

To reserve a Kindle, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.



SWEET DEALS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day on a Dime

Using a little imagination, you can make your Valentine's Day a little more fun and a lot less expensive. If you want to add a little personalized romance or if you don't have the time or money to buy all the pre-made things in the store, here are some ideas from LivingOnADime.com to help you make the day special.

For The Kids:

- My mom always made a great but inexpensive Valentine's Day treat for us. She would take construction paper and cut a big heart out of it. (About 8x10 inches) then she would staple the edges together and write our names and an "I love you" on the outside. Then she would fill the heart with candy, purchased on clearance after Christmas. It was very inexpensive but we loved it!
- Have a Valentine's Day treasure hunt. Leave little notes around with the last one leading back to the kitchen table with a heart full of candy.
- Make heart shaped Valentine cookies and cut the kids (or hubby's) sandwiches with a heart shaped cookie cutter to make heart sandwiches. Add a few Valentine's chocolates and put a note in red with big hearts on their napkins.
- Serve anything red for the day. Serve red Jello, red pudding, red apples, toast with strawberry jelly, tomato soup, red applesauce, red Kool-aid, strawberry milk, or red frosted cookies. Use powdered food coloring from the cake store to get the deepest shade of red. Leave sticks of red gum in their Valentine's Day cards.

- Make hearts out of chocolate chips in each of your pancakes.

Things To Do With Or For Your Honey:

- Make a treasure hunt for your spouse. Start by mailing or e-mailing him the first clue. Then leave clues all over the house, yard, car or his office telling him where to find the next clue. End the hunt by making a picnic in the back yard or going to a park for a picnic. Use your imagination and have fun. The simple things are the ones people remember.
- Go to a bookstore together, enjoy the silence and browse. Get a cup of coffee and make a date of it.
- Celebrate Valentine's Day AFTER Valentine's Day when everything is half off.
- Mail a love letter to your hubby's work.
- Send your spouse a sexy email message.

- Leave "Why I love you" message all over the house. Buy a package of the cheap Valentines. Leave a message on each one and hide them all over the house for your honey. They will get to enjoy the gift for months!

- Use lipstick to make hearts and love notes on the rear view mirror, car windows, bathroom mirror or windows of the house. Leave a kiss on his napkin for lunch or dinner.

- Make a bunch of hearts out of construction paper. Put a love note on each one. Paste them all over the front door or car before your hubby or kids come home from work.

- If you don't have money to go out, have a picnic on the floor. Use some candles and lay a soft blanket on the floor. Put on some soft music and have a romantic Valentine's dinner on the floor. Use some white Christmas lights for additional romantic lighting!

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Air Force Airman 1st Class Russell V. De Leon recently completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. De Leon completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. He is the son of Reynaldo and Maria De Leon, of Downey. He graduated from Warren High in 2005.



Air Force Airman Christopher R. Vega has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. Vega finished an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. He is the son of Downey residents Rey and Alejandria Vega. He graduated from Downey High School in 2007.

Local U.S. troops receive banners

DOWNEY – Family members of local U.S. troops currently away from home on active duty were honored by the City Council last week.

The city presented the families of Steven Jeffrey Mains, Angela Loya Ford, Marco Julio Barrera and Steven Marcos Yniguez, Jr. with personalized military banners that hung throughout the city. All were raised in Downey.

The military banner program was introduced in 2009 to express support and appreciation for Downey residents who are active in the U.S. military.

"I am honored to be able to recognize these great men and women who have given so much to protect our freedom and this is just a simple token of appreciation for all that they do for our country," said Mayor Roger Brossmer.

During the Jan. 24 ceremony, Brossmer honored each service member individually and thanked them for their service.

More banner presentations will be made throughout the year, Brossmer said.

For more information on the military banner program, or to make a donation, call (562) 904-1895 or go to downeyca.org.

Church to teach English

DOWNEY – Downey Memorial Christian Church has launched an English language class on Saturday mornings.

Bilingual teachers Manuel and Maria Dortha will lead the class titled "Ingles Rapido" (fast English) on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call (909) 658-4159.

Foot massage parlor gets OK

DOWNEY – A foot massage parlor received permission from the Planning Commission this week to open in a Telegraph Road strip mall.

In exchange for the approval, Relax Foot Spa at 9448 Telegraph Rd. consented to provisions that its massages be limited to the back, neck and shoulder and over customer clothing only.

The store is also required to keep an open floor plan with visibility through all windows. Customers are banned from a back storage area.

City staffers requested the provisions after admitting the city "has had problems with massage establishments conducting illegal activities."

"However, staff is not overly concerned about the proposed use. This lack of concern is due to the open nature of the floor plan," community development director Brian Saeki and associate planner Jessica Flores wrote in a staff report.

The store, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, will feature 11 massage stations. Customers are not required to disrobe and massages are done in view of other customers.

Relax Foot Spa is owned by Fan Qiao, of Rosemead.

Rummage sale at church

DOWNEY – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will hold its annual rummage sale and bake sale this weekend, Feb. 3-4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The church will be selling glassware, clothing, collectibles, antiques and baked goods.

The church is at 13200 Columbia Way.

Stray Rancho cats need homes

DOWNEY – Local animal lovers are searching for permanent homes for about 70 cats set to be displaced due to demolition work on the abandoned south campus of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

The property, owned by the County of Los Angeles, has been empty for years and is home to dozens of stray cats.

Volunteers have successfully relocated more than 60 cats, but another 60-70 felines remain.

To adopt a cat, or sponsor an un-adoptable cat to a permanent sanctuary, call Debbie at (818) 367-3205 or e-mail kittysaver99@earthlink.net.

Piano store owner is guest speaker

DOWNEY – Stephen Schroeder, owner of Schroeder's Pianos in Paramount and president of the non-profit Noble Purpose Inc., will be guest speaker when the Christian Business Men's Club meets Feb. 9 at the Sizzler in Downey.

Schroeder and his wife, Xinwei, established and oversee the work Noble Purpose does in China, saving and developing the lives of disabled children.

The meeting begins at noon.

The club also announced that starting in February it would begin meeting the first Thursday of each month instead of weekly.

The March guest is former radio program host Roscoe Turner.



Guerra donates to Christian school

DOWNEY – Downey Councilman Mario Guerra recently presented a \$5,000 donation to Calvary Chapel Christian School's Steve Anderson Athletic Fund, named after the former Calvary coach who died from cancer.

Anderson began his career at Calvary Chapel in 2002. Two years later he helped to lead the girls basketball team to their first CIF finals appearance in school history.

Anderson continued to instruct at Calvary Chapel for the next nine years, only stepping down due to the progression of his illness.

Guerra's donation will be dispersed by the Steve Anderson Athletic Fund and will give qualifying students the opportunity to participate in the various sports programs offered at the school. The fund is designed to assist students who would not otherwise have the financial means to participate.

Car dealer wants to hold auctions

DOWNEY – A Downey used car dealership's request to conduct weekly public auction has been continued to the Feb. 15 Planning Commission meeting.

The dealership, My Charity Auto Auction, is at 7345 Firestone Blvd. in a building previously utilized by a new car dealer. The property is owned by Jerry Andrews.

According to its permit application, My Charity Auto Auction is proposing to use the existing showroom as office space and conduct Saturday auctions in a vehicle display area. The dealership would operate as a regular used car dealership during the week.

During auctions, customers will be seated in the former repair building and vehicles will be pulled to the front for showcasing, according to a staff report.

The Planning Commission heard testimony Wednesday but put off a decision until later this month. City staff recommended the auction's approval on several conditions, including limiting the delivery of vehicles, requiring the auction remain open to the public, requiring submissions of weekly inventories and limiting amplified noise.

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Letters to the Editor:

More on Tierra Luna

Dear Editor:
 [Last week's] *Downey Patriot* contained a few letters to the editor from citizens raging against the proposed Tierra Luna project and the snake-oil salespeople who pose as our City Council members.

I imagine a lot of their outbursts were in response to Councilman Mario Guerra's article wherein he identified the various retailers the city would like to see as occupants in the Tierra project. The list was all-inclusive, that's for certain, and I took it as a general invitation to retailers to take a look at the project and see if it fits their business model. If it does, Guerra's subtext was "Let's talk."

While a lot of the outraged letters shared the view that the Tierra Luna project will be bad for Downey, none of them seemed at all aware that one of the basic issues driving the Tierra project is that Downey is losing sales tax dollars to malls and businesses outside of the city. I seem to remember Guerra's article mentioning this, but maybe he was too subtle. There are two Target stores on Firestone Boulevard, both easily accessible to Downey shoppers. Neither Target is within Downey so if Downey shoppers go to either Target, those sales tax dollars are lost.

Just examining the list of proposed retailers and restaurants should tell you that what the City Council is trying to do is to keep those sales tax dollars within Downey to benefit the citizens of Downey. Instead of our shoppers going to Lakewood, for example, they'll go to Tierra Luna.

What's so hard to understand about that?

-- Muriel Schuerman, Downey

Dear Editor:

As stated in other articles I have written and posted in this paper, I have lived in the same house in this city since 1977 and observed the many changes this city has undergone. My opinion as stated before, the majority of these changes have not been for the better.

Now comes along the Tierra Luna project. Something must happen to the logic of those elected to the council once they take office.

Many years ago and as strange as it may seem, where the old court-houses used to stand, the council members said it was in the best interest of the city to sell the property to the owners of the Krikorian Theaters for \$1 with the theory the city would make up the loss in property value by the taxes that would be generated by the incoming revenue of the theater. What a deal! Needless to say, this outraged our residents and that portion of the deal never happened.

As time passed, the council at the time was all excited over building the Downey Landing and having a Downey movie studio. They predicted at the time, the Downey Studios would create approximately \$5 million a year in new revenue. The council informed the public the need for all of this was necessary and it happened.

As time passed, the council said the need to renovate the downtown area was very important to the future of this city and so work began and is still in progress.

The bottom fell out from the studio deal and the council was in a rush to get this property back in service and to generate revenue. The council, in their forward thinking, began courting Tesla Motors and did just about everything except giving them the kitchen sink. I don't suspect they ever thought they were being played by Tesla in order to get Toyota to work with them at Tesla.

So now the council has plans of grandeur for a Tierra Luna project to replace the studio project. Just for those keeping score, currently we have the downtown project under construction; the city still has Stonewood Mall, we still have the Downey Landing, and for some unknown reason, the council believes this city has the potential to support yet one more mall.

My backward and old age thinking is that if this city could not support two home improvement centers, why in the world would this council think this city could support another mall?

By the way, this council says this new construction when completed could produce approximately \$4.2 million in additional revenue per year. The projected \$5 million in expected revenue per year Downey Studios never happened but this Tierra Luna will produce the anticipated revenue the movie studio was supposed to create.

As you know eating cotton candy is always so good but you have to remember it is only made with sugar and a lot of hot air.

This might be a good time for council members to sit back, take a deep breath and reconsider before entering into another boondoggle.

-- David Abney, Downey

Dear Editor:

When I first read about the Tierra Luna project in *The Downey Patriot*, I was glad to read that a Barnes & Noble may be possible.

But the name "Tierra Luna" has got to go! We should have a contest for a better name, and then vote on it.

How about something in English? This is America, right?

-- Mike Sandoval, 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.

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TEL (562) 904-3668 FAX (562) 904-3124 Hours Monday-Friday 9a.m. - 3p.m. 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 www.thedowneypatriot.com Adjudication # BS124251	
The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens. Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.	

Working dog

Dear Editor:

Several months ago I witnessed an exchange. A woman was handing over what appeared to be a small, gorgeous white dog to a panhandler. The pink halter and leash indicated the dog was a female.

My heart went out to this little defenseless poodle, and I thought about the fate that awaited her. The light changed and I had to go.

The following day or so, at the same location, I saw the same bearded panhandler clutching the poodle under his arm and asking for money. Just as I suspected, the dog was a prop.

I saw this little dog turn into a dirty, knotted, grey street dog. I felt hopeless and thought she may have a rightful owner. At times I would come home from work and tell my husband, "I saw the poodle working tonight." And my heart would just sink.

I agonized over this defenseless little dog and often thought about how I could rescue her. I just hoped he loved her and took good care of her.

Well, the answer to my riddle became apparent when one night as I was coming home from work I witnessed a couple walking together at a fast pace with a little grey dog in tow. It finally hit me that this woman was the same woman that handed the poodle over to the same man. I watched in horror (at a stop light near McKenna's cars) that a small poodle was being ignored and practically dragged as she tried to keep up with the couple who were rushing. At one point, the poodle attempted to stop and sniff, or possibly relieve herself, but was quickly yanked by the leash and dragged away.

If you lost a dog some time last year and fits the description, the "working dog" is under the freeway, between Downey and Norwalk. Also on Studebaker Road in Norwalk. Please help find the rightful owner.

-- Molly Lapin, Downey

Low-flow comes up short

Dear Editor:

Re: "Don't Flush Your Money Down the Toilet," (1/19/12) We live in a country that has modern sanitary plumbing. The systems are installed by trained professionals. Plumbing systems are designed to keep the potable water safe and to eliminate waste.

The toilets of the 1940's used six gallons per flush, then went to five gallons per flush. In the 80s we went to 3.5 gallons per flush; in the 90s the U.S. government mandated that we flush with 1.6 gallons.

Toilet makers had no choice but to comply with the law. Western Pottery made toilets in South Gate. Testing was done in a laboratory with 15 1-inch Styrofoam balls to replicate waste, and nice clean glass waste pipe. They flushed to see how far 1.6 gallons of water will carry the waste in the pipe, not exactly real world conditions.

The job of the toilet is to effectively eliminate human waste in one flush, clean the bowl and refill for the next use. Also to carry the waste to the sewer in the street. By reducing the volume of water to 1.2 gallons per flush we are greatly reducing the effectiveness of what the toilet was meant to do.

Saving water is a wonderful goal, but not at the risk of germs, disease or worse. When Europe suffered the black plague, it was mostly due to a lack of sanitation and 1/3 of the population died. We take for granted that the plumbing system is doing its job. It is very subtle; only after we get sick do we realize the cause. Legionnaires disease and SARS are two examples.

I am keeping my 3.5 gallon toilets.

-- Mike Borzi, Downey

Abortion alarmism

Dear Editor:

I simply must respond to Mr. Guido's pro-abortion alarmist nonsense. ("Stop the Blame," Letters to the Editor, 1/26/12) He may be tired of hearing attacks against Planned Parenthood, but I'm tired of hearing that abortion equals "women's healthcare."

Having an abortion significantly increases a woman's risk of getting breast and cervical cancer, not to mention the nasty little secret that some abortions do end in death for the mother – yes, even those highly regulated ones performed by men in white coats! And while mental health issues may or may not affect women after an abortion (the pro-choice camp says absolutely not, the pro-life camp says absolutely yes), I happen to know a few who have serious regrets. Even the infamous Jane Roe, a pseudonym for Norma McCorvey, laments her participation in the landmark Supreme Court case striking down most legal restrictions on abortion, dedicating her life to overturning it.

Mr. Rivero claims that these now 50 million aborted children were unwanted, but when American couples have to go outside of the country to adopt babies that aren't available here in the states (like all those unwanted girls in China), his statement rings completely false.

And then there's the population alarmism. Do we really have a problem with too many people in the United States? Hello, unfunded Social Security mandate for the Baby Boomers! I sure hope he isn't suggesting that we follow China's lead and force women to have abortions because that would be, well, unconstitutional not to mention morally reprehensible. Wasn't Planned Parenthood founder, Margaret Sanger, a follower of eugenics? You know, that movement designed to wipe out all "human flaws" like, oh, dark skin, low IQ, physical handicaps?

Unfortunately for Mr. Rivero, this debate will never end. Both sides are stuck with the cold, hard facts that abortion is an ugly but legal industry. I'd be willing to stop harping on the issue of when life begins (it's conception, by the way, and I'm pretty sure scientists would agree) if we could just agree that the federal government should not be in the business of funding abortions – especially since Planned Parenthood is a billion dollar a year industry that is doing just fine on its own – that young girls seeking abortions must get parental permission, and that killing babies that are viable outside the womb is indeed murder.

And considering that more people have lost their lives to abortion than in fighting wars for this country, by about 49 million, I would think these compromises would be acceptable for those in the pro-abortion camp.

-- Alaina Neimann, Downey



Downey water

Dear Editor:

Public Works director John Oskoui is to be commended for proceeding with the much-needed upgrading of Downey's water well systems (pumps, motors, etc.). Our system is 60 to 70 years old and it's long overdue for upgrading. In the years to come our population will increase and the need for this upgraded system will be necessary.

Downey is fortunate to have a high quality, clean, safe water supply. It's of such high quality that chlorination is unnecessary since chlorine is effective against many pathogenic bacteria; it doesn't need treatment or disinfecting. State and federal governments require water supplies to be biological safe, free from disease causing organisms.

Our city water is tested once a week. Around town there are 25 testing stations where there is a pipe that the technicians runs off a few gallons of water then test samples are taken. These test samples are checked for many minerals and pathogenic bacteria. State and federal government keep close tabs on these test samples. Bottled water is not under such careful testing as it is largely done by the individual bottled water companies.

It is interesting we have excellent quality water just by turning the tap but many people feel the need to use expensive bottled water. It's sort of like bottling air and selling it for an enormous profit. Bottled water is a multi-billion dollar business in the USA.

Some people who may find our water not to their liking can try placing a bottle in the fridge for cooling, icing it, or run it through a carbon filter at the tap; these methods will make water more palatable. Years ago this author frequently took several giant plastic water bottles and filled them at commercial water sale shops. These heavy 40-pound bottles were then placed in our water cooler. This technique was boring, tiresome, hard on the spine, not inexpensive and took valuable time.

Bottled and tap water come from essentially the same sources: lakes, springs, aquifers; bottled water isn't any safer or purer than tap water.

In south Downey the giant Coca-Cola Bottling Company uses millions of gallons of Downey water each week. Be assured this highly successful company uses only the best materials, including pure, relatively inexpensive water in their products. If it is good enough for them, why shouldn't it be good enough for personal use?

Try it – you'll learn to like it and think of the money you will save!

-- Byron Dillon, Downey

Operation Christmas Child

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the generous efforts of Long Beach-area residents, thousands of hurting children worldwide had the opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas.

Residents joined Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, to pack 1,671 shoe boxes with toys, school supplies and necessity items. These gift-filled shoe boxes are making their way – or have already made their way – into the hands of needy children in 100 receiving countries.

On behalf of our community, I would like to thank the volunteers at local collection sites and everyone who packed an Operation Christmas Child shoe box gift. For many of the children receiving these boxes, the simple shoe box will be the first gift they have ever received.

Although the Long Beach drop-off location is closed until November 2012, gifts are received throughout the year at Samaritan's Purse, 801 Bamboo Rd., Boone, N.C., 28607. If you would like to get involved year-round in helping children in need through Operation Christmas Child, go online to samaritanspurse.org/occ or call (714) 432-7030.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this project. A simple gift, packed with love, can communicate hope and transform the lives of children worldwide!

-- Jennifer Trevithick, West Coast Regional Director Operation Christmas Child

Thankful for help

Dear Editor:

Recently, my wife, upon exiting from our automobile along the curb, at Paramount and 5th Street, lost her balance and fell hitting the curb and falling into the gutter.

When I got to her and was trying to lift her up, all of a sudden two young men were by my side helping me get her out of the gutter. When the accident happened there wasn't anybody around. To my amazement, these two young men appeared and helped me.

After we got her on the grass out of the gutter they were no longer there.

I don't know who they were and did not get to thank them properly. I wish to thank them now and hope they get to read this.

Someone told me later, "You must have guardian angels!"

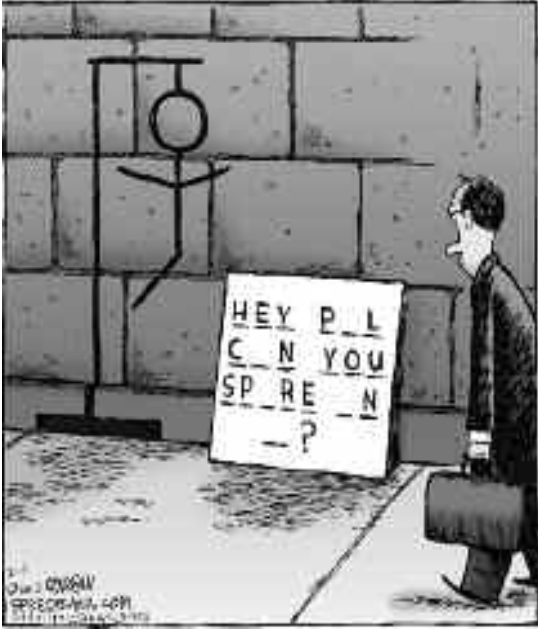
I wonder. God bless them both.

-- Robert J. Buckley, Downey

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For February

Sat. Feb. 4: **Water barrel giveaway**, Columbia Memorial Space Center, 8 a.m.
Sun. Feb. 5: **Food drive**, Downey First Christian Church, 9 a.m.
Sun. Feb. 5: **"Funk junk" art show**, Number 34 Barbershop, 5 p.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesday, 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 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.: **Emergency Preparedness Committee**, at Fire Station No. 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd.
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.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church.
3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post #270**, at Rio Hondo Event Center, for more info. call (626) 445-2582.
4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for information call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information e-mail Diane Davis at ddavis87@me.com.
6 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call John McAllister 869-0928.
6:15 p.m.: **Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo**, at 11231 Rives, for info call 923-1932.
7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
1st Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Gangs Out of Downey**, at City Hall training room.
2nd Tues., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7117.
2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Cafe 'N Stuff, for information call 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.
Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at 7850 Quill Drive, for info. call John Fiorenza 652-4399.

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 7850 Quill Drive, for information call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
7 p.m.: **Out Post 132 Royal Rangers**, at Desert Reign Church, for info call 928-8000.
1st Weds., 11 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
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., 11:30 a.m.: **Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, call Anita 861-3414.
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 Pearl Koday 633-4355.
2nd & 4th Weds., 5:30 p.m.: **Lions Club**, at Sunrise Realty, for information call 577-1104.
3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club**, at Apollo Park, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
3rd Weds., 10 a.m.: **Los Angeles County Quilters Guild**, at Women's Club, for information call 426-2418.
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 Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
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.
3rd Thurs., 4 p.m.: **Public Works Committee**, at City Hall Training Room.
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. 622-3785.

Saturdays

9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call 904-7246.
2nd Sat., 12:30 p.m.: **AAUW**, Los Amigos Country Club.

On This Day...

Feb. 2, 1653: New Amsterdam - now New York City - was incorporated.
1848: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican War.
1979: Punk rock musician Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols died of a drug overdose at age 21.
2007: The world's leading climate scientists said global warming has begun, is "very likely" caused by humans and will be unstoppable for centuries.
Birthdays: Comedian Tom Smothers (75), bouncer hunter and reality TV star Duane Chapman (59), model Christie Brinkley (58) and singer Shakira (35).

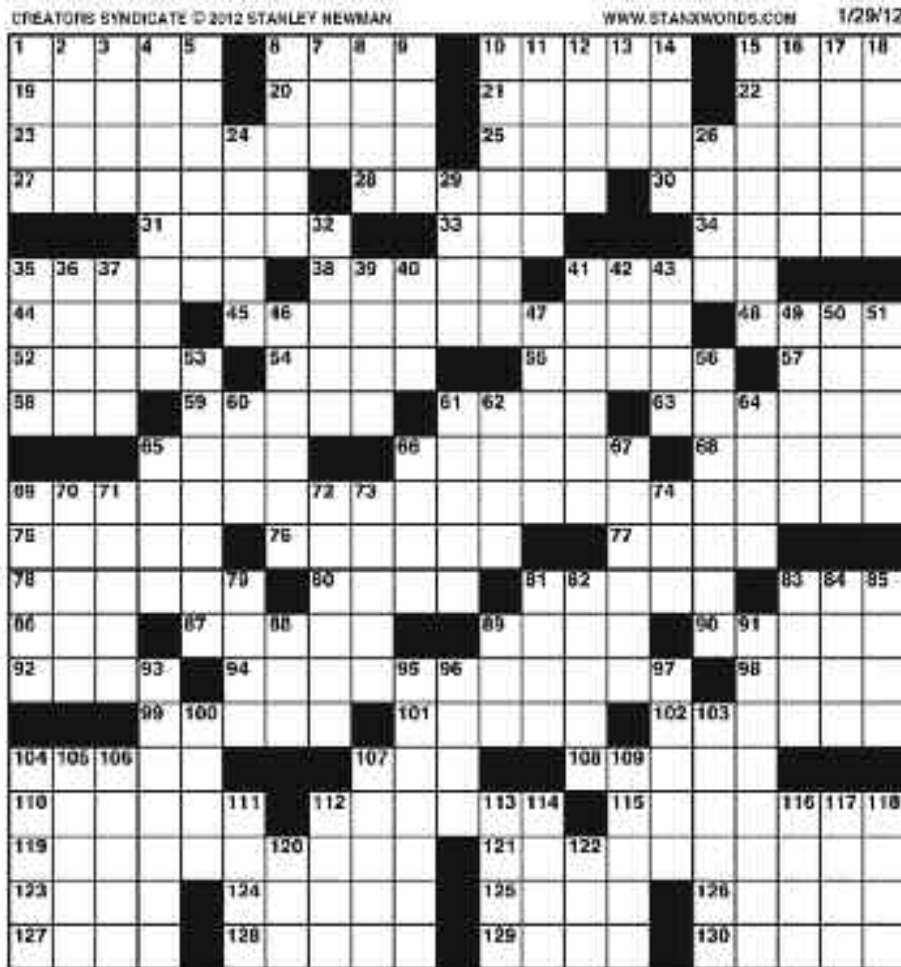
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

WATCH THIS SPACE: With some words from our sponsor by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS
- 1 Direct elsewhere
 - 5 Campus building
 - 10 Manly
 - 15 Pool-table surface
 - 19 Rust, for one
 - 20 Natural balm
 - 21 Acquired relative
 - 22 At all times
 - 23 Architectural supplementation?
 - 25 The old maxim about moss gathering?
 - 27 Increase the slope of
 - 28 Played 18
 - 30 Heavy hammer
 - 31 Author Eudora KING
 - 34 Victimizes, with "on"
 - 35 Encouraging words
 - 38 Candidate's concern
 - 41 Reverend Jackson
 - 44 Hertz alternative
 - 45 When a kettle starts boiling?
 - 46 Carnival attraction
 - 52 Looked intently
 - 54 Connecticut collegians
 - 58 "The program is starting"
 - 57 U.S. Pat. Off.
 - 58 Recipe phrase
 - 59 Some lab work, for short
 - 61 In things
 - 63 Nervous activity
 - 65 Frond bearer
 - 66 Corpse
 - 68 Spoonful, say
 - 69 Successful gate-crasher's boast?
 - 75 Regains one's composure
 - 76 Large quantity
 - 77 Chess piece
 - 78 Moundsman
 - 80 In a draw
 - 81 Of birds
 - 83 Yes, in Yokohama
 - 85 U-turn from WNW
 - 87 Picnic drinks
 - 89 Ballet bend
 - 90 Catapulted
 - 92 Supermarket department
 - 94 Arrest record?
 - 96 Pafo __, CA
 - 99 Drink slowly
 - 101 Ear-related
 - 102 Star in Aquila
 - 104 HS jrs.' exams
 - 107 NBC series since '75
 - 108 Photographer Leibovitz
 - 110 "Ditto!"
 - 112 Make tea from leaves
 - 115 Ballroom dance
 - 119 Tanning consultant?
 - 121 Use too much glue?
 - 123 Did great on
 - 124 Amazed one's comment
 - 125 "I'm game"
 - 126 Rich cake
 - 127 Big Board letters
 - 128 Rental document
 - 129 Long ago
 - 130 Dog-tag datum
- DOWN
- 1 Column crossers
 - 2 Theater sign
 - 3 Collectible condition
 - 4 Word often following "word in"
 - 5 Farm machine
 - 6 Wish one __ (regret)
 - 7 Azzadin prince
 - 8 Pants specification
 - 9 Big name in the brick business
 - 10 Copier problem
 - 11 Chipped in
 - 12 Blockhead
 - 13 Star Wars hero
 - 14 Has a debt
 - 15 Swiss 46 Down star
 - 16 Give the slip to
 - 17 Flamingolike
 - 18 Beeches and birches
 - 24 Secluded valleys
 - 26 Sound of Music backdrop
 - 29 Women's links org.
 - 32 Triangular traffic sign
 - 35 Pop-music superstar, for short
 - 36 Track shape
 - 37 Great Pyramid locale
 - 39 Motel employee
 - 40 Mornings, for short
 - 41 Flotsam partner
 - 42 USNA grad
 - 43 "Cut that out!"
 - 46 Court sport
 - 47 DVD rental
 - 49 People from Waterford
 - 50 Al (pasta order)
 - 51 Encouraged, with "on"
 - 53 Makeup of some fall lines
 - 56 Olympics invitees
 - 60 Start of MGM's motto
 - 61 Stood up to
 - 62 Basics
 - 64 Wine holder
 - 65 Occupy to capacity
 - 66 "March" animal of fiction
 - 67 Comparatively nimble
 - 69 Needed a rubdown
 - 70 Extinguish
 - 71 Gourmet mushroom
 - 72 From C to C
 - 73 Pollution source
 - 74 Mauna __
 - 79 Hearty laugh
 - 81 __ Romeo (imported auto)
 - 82 String quartet member
 - 83 Lusu entertainment
 - 84 Prefix for body
 - 85 Composer Stravinsky
 - 86 Driller's degree
 - 89 Each
 - 91 Night owl's viewing
 - 93 Without cash changing hands
 - 95 Was unrestrained
 - 96 Star Trek helmsman
 - 97 Divine nourishment
 - 100 Put to work
 - 103 Deceived
 - 104 Galileo, by birth
 - 105 Impertinent
 - 108 "The Eve of St. __" (Keats poem)
 - 107 Holy-toity group
 - 109 Language "Viking" came from
 - 111 Diabolical
 - 112 Cuba, por ejemplo
 - 113 Without help
 - 114 In a draw
 - 116 Gull cousin
 - 117 Art Deco artist
 - 118 Jury member
 - 120 Ending for percent
 - 122 Common list ender

Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com



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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.

Author Eudora WELTY (31 Across) received a 1973 Pulitzer Prize for her novel The Optimist's Daughter. Like most of the names of well-known stars, ALVAIN (102 Across) is derived from the Arabic. Specifically, ELISAM (41 Down) refers to goods cast overboard deliberately, while "flotsam" is a floating on water.



Crime Report

Thursday, Jan. 26

At 6:30 p.m., a male entered the Tri City Liquor at 13421 Lakewood, brandished a handgun, and robbed the store clerk before running away. Detectives are investigating.

At 7:30 p.m., a Downey man was arrested for Hit & Run and Drunk Driving after he was involved in a traffic collision at the intersection of Brookshire and Imperial. Officers located the suspect at Brookshire Park and found him to be intoxicated.

Friday, Jan. 27

At 5:30 p.m., a juvenile walking near Florence & Rives was robbed at knife-point of his cell phone. The robber ran to a nearby getaway car being driven by an accomplice. A Good Samaritan witnessed the crime and followed the suspects, alerting police. Officers arrested the suspects for armed robbery.

At 10:00 p.m., officers arrested a 32-year-old man, following a short pursuit through city streets. The suspect had been seen speeding and driving recklessly in the 12400 block of Rose. The suspect refused to yield, but eventually pulled over; he was arrested for drunk driving and evading police.

Saturday, Jan. 28

At 12:00 p.m., about 100 people protesting on behalf of Michael Nida marched from Paramount and Imperial to the Downey Police Station. There was minimal traffic disruption and no reports of violence, injury, or damage.

At 6:00 p.m., a female entered the Rite-Aid at 7859 Firestone Boulevard and stole some pills. The store clerk attempted to detain the woman outside, but the suspects' accomplices threatened to shoot the clerk if he continued to intervene. The suspects are facing robbery charges when caught. Detectives are investigating.

Sunday, Jan. 29

At 1:00 p.m., officers were notified that unknown suspects had spray painted multiple buildings, uprooted trees, and placed trash receptacles on the roof at Warren High causing an estimated \$2,000 in damages. Detectives are investigating.

At 9:45 p.m., two males attempted to steal alcohol from Downey Liquor in the 7600 block of Firestone but were stopped from doing so by the store clerk. The suspects assaulted the clerk, but he was not seriously injured. The suspects are facing robbery and assault charges when caught.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

A robbery occurred at a liquor store in the 9000 block of Imperial at approximately 4:20 p.m. when four individuals entered the store to purchase beer. One of the suspects attempted to run out of the store with the beer, but the clerk blocked his path. The suspect pointed a handgun at the clerk and fled the store with the beer. Downey Detectives quickly developed leads to the suspect's location and arrested 18-year old Jose Rueda from Pico Rivera. Rueda was charged with armed robbery and transported to the Los Angeles County jail. Detectives are still searching for the three remaining suspects.

Information provided by Downey Police Department.

Buying a car? Avoid these wrong turns

Buying a car is like an epic adventure. There are heroes (you), sidekicks (your wingmen who accompany you to the dealership), foes (the sales manager who just won't give up on the undercarriage rust-proofing) and even a prize at the end (your shiny new vehicle). And like any journey, buying a car can be fraught with perils and wrong turns.

Fortunately, a few simple steps can help ensure your car buying experience is a great adventure that doesn't turn into a detour to financial disaster. Here are some common wrong turns and how to avoid them:

1. Failing to check your credit before going to the dealership. Unless you're paying cash - something many people cannot afford to do - you'll be financing your vehicle purchase. You need to know what's on your credit report and how strong your credit score is before you apply for financing. This will give you an idea of what loan terms you might qualify for. Websites like creditreport.com can

help you understand your credit. A membership to CreditReport.com includes daily monitoring of your credit report to help you manage your credit, know your score, and catch potential fraud quickly.

2. Not having financing lined up before you shop. Once you have a handle on your credit, it's important to explore your financing options before you ever set foot on a car lot. Yes, virtually every dealer can help you with financing, but there's no guarantee they will be able to offer you the best terms. You may be able to qualify for a lower interest rate through your bank. Having checked a couple financing options before you shop ensures you know exactly how much you can spend, and gives you more bargaining power at the dealership.

3. Not knowing what the actual price of the car should be. There's the price the dealer puts on the car - the sticker price - and then there's the price you should actually pay. Most automotive experts agree, you should start your negoti-

ations based on the invoice price, which is what the dealer paid for the vehicle, and pay only a few percentage points over that price. Fortunately, online resources like Edmunds.com and KBB.com can help provide an idea of what you can expect to pay for any vehicle you're thinking of purchasing.

4. Looking at the monthly payment, rather than the actual price. When you're car shopping, it's easy to take the wrong turn and focus on how the monthly payment fits into your budget. But that doesn't give you an accurate picture of the true price of the car you're financing. You may think you're getting a good deal on the sale price, but if you're paying thousands in interest over the life of the loan, that deal may not be as good as you think. For example, if you finance a \$25,000 vehicle with no money down and no trade at 7.5 percent interest over six years, you'll pay nearly \$6,200 in interest, according to onlinecalculator.org. That means you haven't bought a \$25,000 car, you've bought one that

actually costs you more than \$31,500.

5. Buying costly add-ons or features that you don't need. Remember the sales manager who just won't take "no" for an answer when it comes to the rust-proofing? Add-ons - services or products that the dealership tries to sell you after you've chosen your vehicle - are a significant revenue stream for car sellers. Often, however, the items are ones you really don't need. For example, if you're buying a new car, do you really need the extended warranty plan? In most cases, the manufacturer's warranty should be sufficient. Be sure to read all the fine print on your sales contract before signing anything. If the dealer has included add-ons you don't want or need, ask to have them - and their costs - removed. If the dealer balks, threaten to walk; there are just too many car dealers out there to settle for less than the best deal possible.

ARA Content

Fixing your bad credit is doable

If you find yourself with less-than-good credit, you are not alone. Business Insider, an online business news website, reports that one in 50 households owes more than \$20,000 in credit card debt. Coinciding with this alarming figure, the site further states that more than 2 million Americans look to credit counselors each year to avoid bankruptcy.

Before your finances fall into the bankruptcy category, you can take steps to help turn your bad credit around. Just ask James Cheslek, dean of academic affairs at Brown Mackie College - Albuquerque.

Step one: Request a free copy of your credit report.

Every American is entitled to a

free copy of their credit report under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). To order your free copy, visit annualcreditreport.com, or call (877) 322-8228.

Step two: Read your credit report carefully for inaccuracies.

Step three: Dispute inaccuracies. To dispute an item, notify the reporting agency of the inaccurate information.

Step four: Request verification of debt.

Step five: Once your credit is fixed, keep it fixed.

Cheslek offers the following rules

of thumb to follow in the interest of keeping a good credit score:

- Pay bills on time. Late payments add fees to the balance owed.
- Change the payment due date if the current one is inconvenient.
- Pay more than the minimum due, even if just a little.
- Do not skip any payments.

Skipped payments lead to bad credit.

• Do not close old accounts. Creditors look at how long you've had credit.

• Keep one account with no balance.

• Do not apply for loans you don't need.

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No. 1-ranked Warren on cusp of league championship

■ Bears travel to No. 2-ranked Paramount on Friday in a game likely to determine SGVL champions.

By MARK FETTER, CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – The Warren High School boys' soccer team currently holds a 15-2-1 overall record and a 6-0-1 league record.

Warren is currently ranked No. 1 in Division III and have been for the past two weeks.

The league tie was at the hands of defending C.I.F. Division III champion Paramount (currently ranked No. 2). In this game, the Bears were up 2-1 and controlled the possession and pace of the game. Unfortunately, the Bears allowed the tying goal in extra time and settled for the tie at 2-2.

The Bears have defeated Downey twice, 4-1 and 1-0, and Gahr, 4-0, respectively. The Bears also defeated Lynwood and Dominguez in other first round league competition.

The Bears played Dominguez on Wednesday and earned a 4-0 victory.

Coach Pena is very pleased

with the play of Ramiro Santana and goalkeeper Anthony Zavala. Both players are playing at high levels and are a big reason why Warren is playing so well. Coach Pena maintains that Santana has improved greatly and is pleased with his progress.

Coach Pena also believes his squad's ability to control and keep possession of the ball has been a key to their success. While Coach Pena is pleased with his team's effort thus far, he insists that "it is not enough." The Warren players see this as their year as well and truly believe anything short of the Division III championship is unacceptable.

ceptable.

As I observed at practice on Tuesday evening at Justice Stadium, I saw many players wearing their "Ponch Ornelas" shirts. There is no doubt the Bears are playing with extra focus and passion as they have dedicated their season to their assistant coach who was tragically killed in a car accident last year in Utah.

The rematch with the Pirates will be Friday at Paramount and will likely determine the San Gabriel Valley League champion as well as the No. 1 seed in the C.I.F. Division III playoffs.

Physician to discuss PAD

CERRITOS – Dr. Randall Harada of Pioneer Medical Group will discuss peripheral arterial disease at a workshop Feb. 29 at the Cerritos Senior Center.

The workshop is free for adults ages 50 and older.

Peripheral arterial disease, also known as PAD, is a common yet serious disease that develops when arteries in the legs become clogged with plaque. People suffering from the disease are 4-5 times more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke than the average person.

Harada will discuss the signs, symptoms and current treatment options of PAD.

For more information, call the senior center at (562) 916-8550.

At 2-4, Warren keeping it close in league

DOWNEY – The Warren High School boys' basketball team currently has a 16-7 overall record and a league record of 2-4.

The Bears fell to defeat last Friday at Downey, 52-42. The Bears played host to Dominguez on Wednesday, Feb. 1 (score unavailable at press time) and will travel to Lynwood on Friday.

Assistant coach Justin Muller sees improved play from standout sophomore Luis Medearis. Interestingly, Warren Bear players John Ohakamnu, "Big Joe" Estrada and Sean Cook also say that Medearis is playing well and has elevated his game the past few weeks.

Coach Muller also stated that Mike Onyebalu and John Elam are playing at a high level for the Bears and is very pleased with their performances.

The Bears are competing in a very competitive San Gabriel Valley League where defending league champion Downey stands at 5-1, Dominguez at 4-2 and the Bears are three games back at 2-4. Lynwood and Gahr are also still in the race with each squad holding 3-3 records.

The second round of league play is certainly shaping up to be a dogfight. Assistant coach Muller maintains that Warren has been "in" all four league losses in the fourth quarter but have come up short. He also believes that his sophomores are getting valuable experience right now and will only learn from these losses.

This certainly is a good sign for the Bears next year.

—Mark Fetter, contributor

Gamboa's six goals leads Downey to win

DOWNEY – Venezia Gamboa scored six goals to help lead Downey High School's girls' water polo team to victory against Paramount on Jan. 26.

Following her six-point lead was Alex Perez, who put in five goals of her own.

The game started with Downey goalkeeper Candace Potvin blocking a difficult shot by Paramount. After struggling to regain the ball, Paramount swam to Potvin once again only to have Downey catch up and steal the ball.

With an assist by Lady Viking Meghan Nevarez, Perez scored the first goal. Nevarez put in another goal along soon after, along with two more from Perez. The Vikings enjoyed a two point lead to end the first quarter 4-2.

As the second quarter began, Downey's Norma Flores took the first possession of the ball. Paramount intervened and swam the ball down to Potvin who blocked their attempt at a goal. The Vikings stayed aggressive against their opponents, and swam quickly with the ball as well.

Paramount, attempting to keep the game close, brought out a new play involving their goalkeeper shooting from the half distance line. Although surprised, Potvin slapped the ball away from the goal.

Paramount's goalie, however, was not dismayed and continued her attempts, putting in two goals. Gamboa put in two goals of her own, throwing the ball right over the goalkeeper's arms. At the end of the second quarter, the lady Pirates remained two points behind, 6-4.

The lady Vikings put Paramount even further behind in the third quarter. Potvin was able to block more than seven of Paramount's attempts.

Gamboa missed her first shot, and both teams swam to take the rebound. She was able to save and pass it to teammate Janel Madrigal. After the lady Pirates swam towards Madrigal, she passed it back to Gamboa who scored the ball from the right. Gamboa made another close shot as some lady Pirates bombarded her with defense, pulling the lady Vikings farther ahead.

Potvin blocked the lady Pirate goalkeeper's shot attempted from the half-distance line, followed by an easy goal made by Madrigal. The lady Vikings were up six, 11-5.

The game ended fast for the lady Pirates. Potvin remained strong in defending her post, the lady Vikings controlled the ball, and Paramount missed many chances at a goal.

Paramount ended the game with a steal from Perez and making a final goal, making the final score 15-7.

—Marilyn Ramirez, contributor

Downey girls have trouble scoring in loss

DOWNEY – Anticipating a challenging game, the Lady Vikings struggled to keep up as they played at their home court against Paramount on Jan. 25, losing 46-22.

Downey only scored five points in the first quarter: Rayana Villalpando's foul shots and a three pointer made by Kaylan Lane. Paramount was able to score by running down a defenseless key, leading the first quarter 10-5.

After Downey missed rebounds from their own missed shots, Villalpando was given another chance to shoot. Making two of two shots helped their efforts but not by much.

Paramount moved outside the three-point line and through the Vikings defense. With 4:00 left in the quarter, Downey continued to leave gaps in their plays. Paramount took their rebounds with players that were constantly open.

Villalpando tried to quicken her team's pace, but a pass to Lisa Segura beneath the hoop slipped past her fingers and allowed Paramount to take the ball. They made a lay up followed by a swift three-pointer.

Later in the quarter, Villalpando dribbled the ball to the corner where she was heavily defended. She passed it to another teammate, got the ball back and took it down the middle where she was fouled. She made one of her foul shots, ending the half at 28-12.

As the third quarter began, Villalpando took first possession of the ball and passed it to Segura, who was called for traveling. Villalpando took possession of the ball once more and with help from her teammates was able to attempt another shot. The shot missed and both teams fought furiously for the ball, but Paramount was able to take the rebound.

With 4:48 on the clock, the Lady Vikings continued to struggle for shots. With their outspread arms and defense tactics, Paramount was able to block them just as heavily and score. Paramount led after the third quarter 35-14.

Downey pushed to catch up in the fourth quarter. Lady Viking Kaylan Lane put in an effortless three, along with teammate Tiffany Gilmore who shot from behind a Lady Pirate. But Paramount took many of the rebounds and made shots from the gaps in Downey's defense.

Lady Viking Olubukola Adefeso put in the last shot of the game, but Downey still lost 46-22.

—Marilyn Ramirez, contributor



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Homer Lee Ellison III

Homer Lee Ellison III, beloved Husband, Dad, and Grandpa "Papa"... Homer Lee Ellison, 59 passed away January 24, 2012, with his Family at his side. He was born in Odessa, TX in 1952 and moved to Artesia, Ca in the early 1960's. He graduated from Gahr High school in 1970. He was a Supervisor for the City of Downey for 26 years before retiring due to his health. He is survived by his wife Tina, 3 sons Homer IV "Bush", Shane, Justin, and 1 daughter Ashley, 6 grandchildren; Homer V " Bonks", MacKenzie, Travis, Nolan, Kaila, and Maddux, 1 sister Sonya Adams. He leaves them with many wonderful memories and hearts full of love. He is preceded in death by his Parents Mary Lee Bryant and Homer Ellison Jr. and his brother Tommy Bryant. Memorial Services will be held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday February 4, at Praise Chapel 1200 W. Alvarez Avenue Orange, Ca 92868.

Charlotte McCollum passes away

DOWNEY – Charlotte Day McCollum, born to Ora and Harley Day on Dec. 27, 1919 in Danville, Ill., passed at away on Jan. 14 in Downey at her home she shared with her daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Ralph Amadio, for the past 34 years.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; sisters, Marie Osborn and Kate Zimmerman; brothers, Gus, Darrell and Pauley Day; daughter, Cindy Morris; son, Ed McCollum; and granddaughter, Kathy McCollum (Belanger).

She is survived by her brother, Tommy Lee Day; daughter, Paula (Ralph) Amadio; son, Bill (Cheryl) McCollum; son, Dennis (Maryann) McCollum; son, Phil (Bonnie) McCollum; and 20 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

More than 250 people attended services at First Baptist Church of Downey. She was interred at Rose Hills on Jan. 19.

Library's 'Grandma Trude' has died

DOWNEY – Trude Koll, best known as "Grandma Trude" by patrons and staff at the Downey City Library where she volunteered for more than 20 years, passed away on Jan. 30.

Born July 13, 1919 in Germany, she loved children and books, and devoted countless Saturdays reading to children through the library's Read-to-Me program.

Koll entertained the children – along with parents and staff – with her stories every Saturday, rain or shine, even if it meant scheduling a Dial-a-Ride.

As Koll began to lose her eyesight, she memorized many of her favorite stories, turning them into live performances. One eye gave her particular problems with vision, so she would put a ladybug or butterfly sticker on her eyeglasses to let children know she wasn't able to see out of that eye.

Due to health issues, Koll stopped reading at the library five years ago but still stopped by on occasion to say hello.

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Volunteers to work at shelter for show tickets

DOWNEY – Volunteers will be at the county animal shelter in Downey this Saturday as part of their pledge to complete two hours of community service in exchange for two tickets to a Russell Brand and Sarah Silverman comedy show.

Volunteers will hand-make decorations and wearable art to bring greater attention to shelter animals in need of permanent homes.

In exchange, they will receive tickets to the comedy show "Love X-Change."

The decorating event is from 10 a.m. to noon and will feature a Valentine's Day-themed adoption event.

The county animal shelter is at 11258 S. Garfield Ave. in Downey.

Paramount art shows in March

PARAMOUNT – The 31st annual Panorama Traditional Art Show and 14th annual Student Art Show will be presented March 10 at the Progress Park West Plaza in Paramount.

The art shows are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A "noted artist" will give a demonstration of their work during the show.

For information on the show, including details on how to participate, call John Nowlin at (562) 925-9134.

Food bank in need of donations

DOWNEY – One of Downey's busiest food banks – FoodHelp at Downey First Christian Church – is hosting a food drive this Sunday in an effort to stock its depleted shelves with non-perishable food items.

Last year's food drive brought in more than 2,800 pounds of non-perishable food.

FoodHelp currently serves up to 85 families each week with some sort of free food assistance. The food bank receives regular produce and pastry donations from Fresh & Easy market and Porto's Bakery; however, non-perishable items such as canned food and bottled drinks are always in high demand and low supply.

Donations can be dropped off at the church this Sunday from 3-7 p.m. Donors can then stay to watch the Super Bowl on a big screen TV during the church's Super Bowl party.

Donations can also be dropped off at the church during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Downey First Christian Church is at 10909 New St., one block north of the Krikorian Theater.

Time Life records for sale

DOWNEY – A Time Life Records package, "The Story of Great Music – Age of Revolution", a set of 13 records recorded at 33 1/2 RPMs, is available for purchase inside the Friends Store at the Downey City Library.

Visit the store for details. Proceeds benefit the library.



Downey resident Yolanda Adele visited Graceland for what would have been Elvis Presley's 77th birthday. Adele, whose story about being kissed by Elvis at this 1969 Las Vegas opening at the International Hilton was published in the Patriot a couple years ago, was interviewed by Elvis Radio/Sirius Radio where she told them of that memorable time. "I mentioned that *The Downey Patriot* published my story, and they sent out kudos over the airways to *The Downey Patriot* from Memphis, Tenn.," said Adele. "I thought you'd like to know."

Miss Cerritos contest March 13

CERRITOS – The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the 2012 Miss Cerritos contest on March 13 at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

Miss Cerritos is not a pageant, organizers said, but a "professional development opportunity for young women."

"We are looking for professional, outgoing, responsible, articulate young women to represent the Chamber as an ambassador throughout the year," Chamber officials said in a press release.

Women must be a high school graduate or equivalent, no older than 27, and live, work or go to school in Cerritos, or work for a business that is a member of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Women interested in participating in the Miss Cerritos contest should call the chamber by Feb. 23 at (562) 467-0800. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

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Money and Taxes 2012

DON'T WAIT SIX WEEKS! GO ONLINE TODAY

By Essie Landry, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in West Los Angeles

Soon, the world's most famous groundhog will be getting a lot of attention. On Groundhog Day, the world's furriest weather reporter, Punxsutawney Phil, will pop out of his home to forecast one of two possibilities: an early spring or six more weeks of winter.

Regardless of what Punxsutawney Phil predicts, there's no reason for you to wait six weeks to do business with Social Security. Whatever the weather, you can visit our online office from the convenience and comfort of your warm and cozy home or office. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

You can do so many things online. And it's so easy, even a groundhog could do it ... if eligible. Below are a few of the things you can do at www.socialsecurity.gov.

- Get an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits with the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator;
- Apply for Social Security retirement, spouse's, or disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline;
- Apply for Medicare at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly;
- Request a replacement Medicare card at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicarecard/;
- Learn about Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp, where you can find a link to apply; and

Punxsutawney Phil has called for six more weeks of winter 87 percent of the time. We suspect that's because he just likes to stay in his comfortable home. You can too, on Groundhog Day or any day, by going online.

Whatever the weather, learn all about the things you can do online at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices.

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Christie Brinkley to star in 'Chicago' at Pantages

HOLLYWOOD – "Chicago," winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, will return to Los Angeles at the Pantages Theatre for a limited two-week engagement May 15-27.

After her critically-acclaimed debut as Roxie Hart on Broadway and in London's West End, Christie Brinkley, one of the world's most successful supermodels, will make her Los Angeles debut this spring as she reprises her killer role in the award-winning musical.

"We are thrilled to welcome Christie and her incredible dedication, focus and determination that she exhibits," said producer Barry Weissler. "I'm excited to share with audiences the stellar performance that she delivers."

Throughout her career as one of the country's most successful and recognizable supermodels, Brinkley has appeared on more than 500 magazine covers worldwide. But more than that, she also excels as an artist, writer, photographer, designer, actress, philanthropist, environmentalist and political activist.

She recently launched a line of natural skin care products as part of her new company, Christie Brinkley Beauty.

A Ford model for over 30 years, she was discovered by a photographer in Paris at the age of 18. Since then, she has become the first model to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated for three consecutive years, and appeared in the publication's annual swimsuit issues and television specials for years to follow.

In 1976, CoverGirl gave Christie her first "big break" in modeling with a contract, which launched the start of a 20-year partnership that marks the longest-running cosmetics contract of any model in history.

On the big screen, she made her acting debut in 1983 opposite Chevy Chase in the hit feature film "National Lampoon's Vacation" and its 1997 sequel, "Vegas Vacation." She has also appeared in Billy Joel's classic music videos "Uptown Girl," "Keeping the Faith," and "All About Soul," as well as Mick Jones' music video "Just Wanna Hold."

Tickets for "Chicago" start at \$25 and can be purchased online at broadwayla.org or by phone at (800) 982-2787.

Set amidst the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s, "Chicago" is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her on-the-side lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid conviction, she dupes the public, the media and her rival cellmate, Velma Kelly, by hiring Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines, the likes of which might just as easily be ripped from today's tabloids.

The performance schedule for "Chicago" is Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Charlotte Carpenter is returning to star in the Downey Civic Light Opera's production of "Cole," playing at the Downey Theatre from Feb. 16 to March 4. Carpenter's previous roles included Lena Lamont in "Singin' in the Rain," Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady," Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" and Nancy in "Oliver." "Cole" features the music of Cole Porter. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. The DCLO box office is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-5 p.m.

Bulldog beauty contest in Long Beach

LONG BEACH – The eighth annual Bulldog Beauty Contest will be the featured event at the Haute Dog Pageants taking place Feb. 11 at Marine Stadium in Long Beach.

Other events include a pit bull pageant, ugly dog contest, senior dog contest and "National Mutt Show." There will also be pageants for French bulldogs, pugs and chihuahuas, and contests for cute dogs, small dogs, large dogs and all-encompassing Best in Show.

Dogs will parade down a grassy runway that includes a 100-ft. red carpet, with a panel of real-life beauty queen judges. Judging for each contest will be based on charm, first impression, face, figure and personality.

Costumes and talent are optional. Last year, more than 250 bulldogs participated.

Contestants ranging in age from four months to 17 years are expected to participate, with some traveling from as far away as Oklahoma and Montana.

The event, produced by Justin Rudd, is free to attend. Seating along the runway is \$5 per chair. The event also includes a pet vendor fair and adoption booths.

Marine Stadium is at 5225 E. Paoli Way, near Belmont Shore. For more information, go to bulldogbeauty.com.

Fundraiser to benefit symphony

DOWNEY – February, the month of Valentine's Day – the month of love.

One special kind of love the Downey Symphony Guild expresses is love for our magnificent symphony orchestra – now and forever!

They manifest that love in varied ways, but one of their most ambitious is the one special gala each year. This year the festivities fall on Friday, Feb. 10, very close to that loving day.

The Embassy Suites hotel in Downey is the setting at 6:30 p.m. when a very special menu is planned. The Embassy always does a fine job for us.

Along with meeting old and new friends, fine dining and the always popular silent and live auctions of useful, beautiful and surprising treasures, it will be one way of showing support for our fine orchestra and the valuable Music in the Schools program.

Reservations at \$65 per adult should be received by Feb. 3. Please mail to: Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, CA 90240.

For more information, please call (562) 861-8507.

--Rosalie Sciortino, Downey Symphony Guild

REVIEW

'String Spectacular' displays symphony's strengths

■ Antonín Dvorák's first Serenade for Strings last Saturday was concert's pièce de résistance.

By LARS CLUTTERHAM, CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – The Downey Symphony regaled an intimate and enthusiastic audience at its first concert of the new year this past Saturday night with a program that was superbly chosen to display its strengths as a string ensemble.

A longstanding concert tradition of musical program selection was also in evidence, with works embodying Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods. In fact, the life spans of the composers represented almost, though not quite, fit neatly into 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th century time frames as well.

The evening's first offering was the Sinfonia Alla Rustica by Antonio Vivaldi, who, along with his contemporaries Bach and Handel, represent the Big Three of Baroque era composers. Taking just under four minutes to perform, the sinfonia is really a miniature, including the fast-slow-fast structure of its three brief movements, which mirror the shape of its big brother, the concerto.

As a tool for program selection, in addition to representation from the major musical epochs, it's often quite useful to think of a classical music performance as being a bit like a multi-course dinner.

This too is an apt description of Saturday's concert.

Using this simile, Vivaldi's Sinfonia could also be described as a light, delectable appetizer. Written for strings and basso continuo (which, for you jazz buffs, is like a bass line with chord changes), the cellos and basses double each other throughout in octaves, leaving a transparently light texture above from violins and violas.

The concert's second selection can also be thought of as an appetizer—two short string arrangements of Irish folk songs by the Australian-American composer, Percy Grainger. Yet what a contrast in musical vocabulary compared to the Vivaldi! The Grainger arrangements provided a striking twentieth-century filmic approach to harmonic and orchestral texture. Specifically, low cellos pre-

sented the opening melody in the first tune, which we Americans know as "Danny Boy," over a bed of lush low-voiced harmony. The second piece, a combination of two Irish reels, or dance tunes, again began with a playful cello melody, this time accompanied by pizzicato, "plucked," strings, and continued with additional melodic writing in the lower range of the cellos.

The third piece on the program, Mozart's fourth Violin Concerto, could be described as a "main dish," with a more expansive architecture than the first two selections, and displaying fully developed structural aspects only hinted at in the Vivaldi, yet characteristic of the Classical period. It is fitting that the artist was sixteen-year-old Youjin Lee, as Mozart himself was only nineteen when he wrote the piece. Miss Jin performed with a technical mastery and a musical maturity well beyond her years.

In the trumpet-like fanfare of the opening of the first movement, the violin made its first entrance high in its upper register, loud, clear and self-assured. Likewise, the cadenzas—improvisatory-sounding solo sections where the orchestra lays out—were confidently and musically rendered. Still another thematic tie-in to the other selections in the concert is that Mozart in the third movement incorporated tunes familiar to the audiences of his day. So—from the "Alla Rustica" in the Vivaldi title, through the Grainger folk song arrangements, to the popular song references of the Mozart Concerto—listeners heard music with a folksy, rustic feel.

Finally, the program's pièce de résistance was Antonín Dvorák's first Serenade for Strings. Here the audience experienced the full flowering sensibility of the 19th-century Romantic era, which unfolded in five movements occupying the entire second half of the program. As concertgoers know, most symphonies contain four movements. The first movement typically appears in the "sonata-allegro form" perfected by Mozart and his contemporaries during the Classical era. In this Serenade, however, Dvorák reserves that formal structure for the fifth and final movement, after forays into the lilting rhythms of waltz and scherzo, as well as a lovely slow movement immediately prior to the work's Finale.

In sum, as an evening's experience for the Downey music lover, this concert fully measured up to its title: "Strings Spectacular."

Lars Clutterham is a classically trained pianist and composer, who has worked his entire professional life in the field of music.

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• THE DESCENDANTS (R) Thu 11:11 AM, 1:33 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:15 PM
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Who's winning?

Andrew Wahlquist, Downey Arts Coalition: I'm rooting for my college buddy Kevin Willson, who made a low-budget spec Doritos commercial "Sling Baby," which is a finalist in their "Crash The Superbowl" contest. The way he finds out if he won is if his spot airs during the game, and that's the only victory that matters to me. Also, for anyone who wants an alternative Super Bowl party, come out at 5-9 p.m. to the Number 34 Barbershop (9029 Florence Ave.). Roy Anthony Shabla and others are hosting an electronics/mechanized/"funk-junk" art show in the parking lot there, and of course the game will be on inside. I guarantee it will be the most unique bowl party you've been to.

Roger Brossmer, mayor: My son loves the Patriots so we are rooting for them but I think the Giants will win.

Fernando Vasquez, councilman: Rooting for the Giants!

David Gafin, councilman: I'll have to go with the Patriots.

Mario Guerra, councilman: New England has too many offensive weapons and will probably win. But since Tom Brady hurt my fantasy team so much all year long it will be hard to cheer for him. Ha. Really, the best part of any super bowl is being with friends and eating lots of great stuff. And this year will be no different.

Lonnie Croom, fire chief: Chargers!!! I wish.. I'll go with the Giants.

Louis Morales, Downey Razorbacks: While it is difficult to bet against Tom Brady who has been a proven winner, I think the Giants' defense who is now healthy will be the difference and will put Eli Manning in position

to lead the Giants to victory, so I am picking the Giants in close game.

Rick Esteves, police chief: Pats! 37-28. Captain Carl Charles predicts Giants over Patriots, 37-34.

Kirk Cartozian, former mayor: Patriots get revenge on the Giants from four years ago.

Suzanne Marques, TV newscaster & Downey High alum: Giants over patriots by 10! I'll be cooking lots of goodies & may break into the Super Bowl shuffle too if my team wins.

Restaurant Spotlight:

Philly's Best Downey

Philly's Best is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2012 as the first location opened in Fountain Valley, CA in January 1992. All 22 locations are commemorating the 20th Anniversary and this includes the Philly's Best located in the Downey Landing Shopping Center at 12008 Lakewood Boulevard in Downey.

Philly's Best uses only the freshest ingredients to prepare their authentic cheesesteaks and hoagies, including the soft Italian style Amoroso® roll shipped directly from Philadelphia. As true Philadelphians know, the key to a great cheesesteak or hoagie is the roll, and the Amoroso® roll is the authentic ingredient that others cannot copy.

The menu is filled with fabulous Philly delicacies including cheesesteaks and hoagies. Cheesesteaks can be served plain or with onions, and you can add peppers and mushrooms. Chicken cheesesteaks are prepared like the steaks, and include barbecue chicken and buffalo chicken for those looking for something spicier.

Philly's Best hoagies are prepared using fresh Boar's Head® meats and varieties include the Italian, Ham and Cheese,

American, Tuna and Turkey. Hoagies can be ordered dry or with oil/vinegar or mayo. Hot peppers are available to add to your sandwich and hoagies are a great alternative to a Philly cheesesteak.

Side orders include french fries, cheese fries, cheesesteak fries, pizza fries and our famous onion rings. Other Philly favorites served include Frank's® Black Cherry Wishniak or Pennsylvania Dutch® Birch Beer sodas. Add a bag of Wise® barbeque chips and finish off your meal with Philly's own TastyKakes® and then you'll clearly understand why others may try but only Philly's Best Downey can deliver an authentic Philadelphia cheesesteak sandwich.

The Downey location has been in operation for the past 6 years and is owned and operated by Philly's Best Franchise partner, John Shehata. Philly's Best Downey is currently offering cheesesteak hoagies for only \$5 every day through February. And to add some Philly to your "Big Game" party this weekend, you can now take \$10 off a cheesesteak buffet or \$5 off any size hoagie tray. Just let us know that you saw us mentioned in the Downey Patriot this week when you place your order.



It's not too late! Let Philly's Best Downey take the worry out of your Super Bowl Party menu. We'll prepare a hot cheesesteak buffet with all the trimmings or a delicious hoagie tray – both to interject some real Philly "Addytod" to the party!

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March 24, 2012

A one or three mile Walk to raise funds for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

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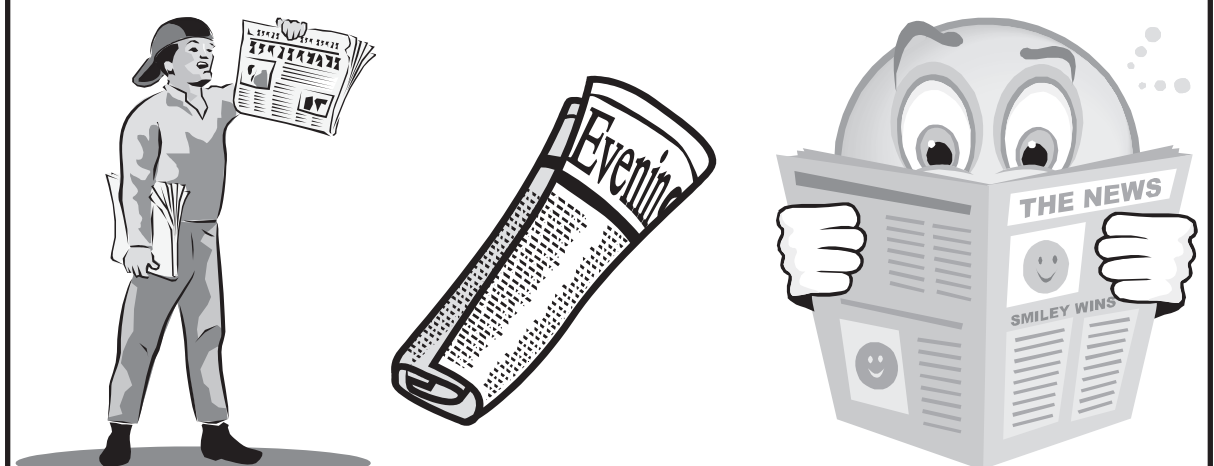
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Arc is a private non-profit organization serving over 400 people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities every day in 14 different programs.

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Downey barber Ronnie Contreras hosted the first in a series of poetry readings at his business, Number 34 Barbershop on Florence Avenue, last Friday. The inaugural event of Hair Club For Poets included an "open mic" for the public, and featured Gerald Locklin, author of more than 100 books of poetry and professor emeritus at Cal State Long Beach. Locklin has also published a memoir of his close friendship with writer Charles Bukowski and was a mentor to Grammy-winning musician and songwriter Dave Alvin. Pictured, left to right: Ronnie Contreras, curator Roy Shabla, Gerald Locklin, poet John Blakley, and curator and Mt. SAC professor John Brantingham.

Risks when refinancing your home

If you are a homeowner who was lucky enough to buy when mortgage rates were low, you may have no interest in refinancing your present loan. However, if you bought your home when rates were higher, or perhaps you have an adjustable rate loan and would like to refinance, be cautious.

The number one thing most people consider when buying out their current mortgage and financing a new loan are the costs associated with the refinancing. Costs can include prepayment penalties, application fees, credit report fees, appraisal and legal fees, as well as the potential for private mortgage insurance and additional life insurance coverage.

However, one more important aspect to consider when refinancing that most people overlook but that could have disastrous consequence is the waiver of the anti-deficiency. These provisions of section 580b of the California Code of Civil Procedure protects the consumer from the lender institution from coming back and making the consumer pay for any losses associated with the failure to pay their mortgage after they have been foreclosed on.

Section 580b prevents a lender from holding a borrower personally liable for a balance on the mortgage when a person's house is foreclosed on by the bank. To qualify for this protection, the law states that "a mortgage or deed of trust on a dwelling for not more than four families given to a lender to secure repayment of a loan which was in fact used to pay all or a part of the purchase price of that dwelling occupied, entirely or in part, by the

purchaser." In regular English this means that you used all the money the bank lends you to buy the property (i.e. you didn't use some of the money to buy a car or remodeled your home). This is called a "purchased money" mortgage.

If an owner refinances a purchase money mortgage, which is protected by § 580b, does the immunity from a deficiency judgment continue? The question is particularly relevant when the owner is a homeowner who has § 580b protection refinances with a different bank or lender. The answer depends on whether the original mortgagee is paid off, or new security is substituted.

Several courts have held that for the case where the original loan is paid off, the § 580b immunity will be lost. The court reasoned that the pay-off of a purchase money mortgage was a transaction not covered under § 580b protection. The California Civil Code requires an initial disclosure of the anti-deficiency protection to purchase-money mortgage borrowers, but it does not require disclosure of the potential loss of that protection during refinancing.

The absence of an enforceable duty to disclose anti-deficiency protection or the conditions of its loss means that many borrowers which are typical homeowners who are without legal representation are vulnerable to losing the protection of § 580b without notice or recourse or even knowing that it existed in the first place.

Refinancing dramatically changes the risk allocation between lender and borrower of overvaluation of the collateral – the home – by shifting it overwhelmingly to the borrower. The true cost of refinancing, then, can only be known if the loss of § 580b anti-deficiency protections is factored into the equation when making the decision to refinance.

With that said, do your research well and seek legal advice on the interpretation of your loan before your consider refinancing. 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

STEVE LOPEZ
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Homeownership options for low-income families discussed

LOS ANGELES – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles will host a homeownership resource fair this Saturday, Feb. 4, at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Information will be provided on a variety of options for low-income families interested in affordable homeownership and home repair services.

The fair will be offered in two sessions: from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1-4 p.m. It is open to the public.

There is no charge to attend but advance registration is required by calling (424) 246-3651 or online at habitatla.org/homeownershipfair.

The fair will offer workshops on the following topics: How to Purchase a Zero-Interest HFH GLA Home; What is Mortgage Assistance and Can I Qualify?; Habitat for Heroes Program for Veterans; How to Improve Credit Scores, Avoiding Pitfalls in the Property Tax Process; Neighborhood Watch Programs; and more.

The Cal State Dominguez Hills campus is located at 1000 E. Victoria St. in Carson.

Preschool science classes at space center

DOWNEY – The Columbia Memorial Space Center is hosting "Preschool Adventures in Science" classes on Thursdays and Saturdays for 3-5 year olds.

The schedule appears below:
Volcanoes - Feb. 2 and 4, 9-10 a.m.

Water Cycle/Oceans - Feb. 9 and 11, 9-10 a.m.

Recycle, Reduce, Reuse - Feb. 16 and 18, 9-10 a.m.

Fee is \$10 per class with a maximum 20 students per class.

To register or for more information, call (562) 231-1200.

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FEATURED PROPERTY

JUST LISTED

WOW!!!
This newly remodeled 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom property sits on over an acre of land. It features fresh interior and exterior paint, new hickory wood flooring and remodeled bathrooms. The large kitchen has quartz counter tops and stainless steel appliances. This is a must see!

TOP PRODUCERS

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Bring Your Tools!
This cute 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom property needs some work but has great potential. The home is located in a desirable area and is close to freeways, transportation and shopping. This is a great opportunity to break into the housing market. Best of all it is priced at an amazing \$216,000.

Fantastic Northeast Downey Home!
This beautiful home features 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with a large master bedroom. It has 1,180 sq.ft. of living space and is located on a large 8,032 lot. This property backs up to Wilderness Park and is perfect for entertaining. This is a must see at \$395,000.

Excellent West Downey Home
This is a very clean property! This cute and cozy Downey home features a formal dining room for entertaining, fresh interior paint and central air & heat. The updated bathroom has a separate shower and tub. This home also includes copper plumbing, new carpet in the bedrooms and dual pane windows. Priced to sell at \$329,000.

Downey Delight
This is a nice home located in North Downey. It features 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and formal dining room with french doors leading to the large backyard with a pool. This property has had some recent remodeling done and is turnkey. Priced to sell at \$405,000.

REDUCED

Spectacular!
This spacious condo features 2 large bedrooms with plantation shutters, 1 full bath and 1 half bath with granite counter tops. This property also has a comfortable living room and a light filled kitchen with an attached private patio. This is a must see at \$405,000.

A Must See!
You don't want to miss this one. This home has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hardwood floors and a cozy brick fireplace in the living room. This property also features a large backyard with fruit trees. This is a must see at \$300,000.

Downey Charmer
This is an adorable North Downey home! The property features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1700 sq.ft of living space, and a large family room. Relax by the fireplace in the formal living room or step outside and enjoy it's nearly 6000 sq.ft. lot. Put this one at the top of your list because it's priced to sell at \$380,000.

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