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Friday, December 10, 2004

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11525 DOWNEY AVE., SUITE A, DOWNEY, CA 90241

Rain dampens Holiday Parade

By John Adams

DOWNEY—Nearly half of the entries in the annual Downey Holiday Lane Parade opted not to march due to the chill rain that dampened the parade route Sunday, March 5, but for those who did march with their heads up and their backs straight and proud it was a challenge well-met.

And it took some real grit on the part of those who navigated the puddles and chill rain the length of the parade route. It was also a challenge to the many spectators who showed up for a colorful event. The weatherman had promised them bad weather and Mother Nature then delivered a heavenly deluge.

Umbrellas were noted all along the parade route.

Warren Band

The Warren High School Band chose to appear and stepped out bravely. The city officials put the tops up on their convertibles or raised umbrellas and several older residents recalled the old adage made popular in drier years that "It never rains on Downey's parade." Well, almost never!

Among those who navigated the parade route and stayed on at the disbanding area at Civic Center Drive to bolster the spirits of the remaining participants was Councilman Meredith Perkins, whose smile lit up the otherwise cold and chill day.

Darrell Jackson, Parade Grand Marshal, rode the parade standing tall against the weather. And The Sounders brought their high-stepping rhythms to cheer those all along the parade route.

The Lady Elks

Other impressions included the Lady Elks singing bravely from the back of a truck, turned into an open float.

The only ones who appeared to enjoy the wetness at times were the aquatic dogs among the canine parade groups. And they weren't too sure about the wisdom of their handlers, either.



THE WARREN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND—Stepped out bravely in the rain which drenched the annual Holiday Lane Parade in Downey Sunday, Dec. 5.



THE DOWNEY ELKS—The Elks' ladies cheered and sang the length of the parade route despite the weather Sunday, Dec. 5.



DOWNEY CHAMBER PRESIDENT—Jerry Brady had a smile and a wave despite the chill weather and rain that caused nearly half of the parade participants to drop out Sunday, Dec. 5.



THE COCA-COLA FLOAT—Navigated a very wet intersection during the Holiday Lane Parade.

Across the board 2.41 percent wage hike for schools

DUSD Successor Agreement

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The Board of the Downey Unified School District has approved a 2.41 percent wage hike by agreeing to a series of successor labor agreements covering almost all the employees in the District.

The action at Tuesday's regular board meeting included a successor to the Master Agreement with the DEA/CTA/NEA effective Sept. 1, 2004 through Aug. 31, 2006; approval of a Master Agreement with the CSEA Chapter 248 effective Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2007; and approval of a successor agreement to the Master Agreement with employees of CSEA Chapter 746 effective Oct. 1, 2003 through Sept. 30, 2005, including a 2.41 pay hike effective July 1, 2004.

All the above actions at Tuesday's regular Board meeting are contingent on union approval and approval by the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

See RAISE, page 5

Comments range from Jazz Band to pool

By John Adams

DOWNEY—Comments by members of the Board of the Downey Unified School District Tuesday ranged from applause for a recent concert by the Sussman Middle School Jazz Band to appreciation of a recent breakfast hosted by Cerritos College complete with presentation of programs at the college.

And the Board faced criticism by a speaker over problems with the Warren High swimming pool.

The Board's Mark Morris was the first to express admiration for the talented young musicians in the middle school jazz band, and Morris also thanked other members of the board for making his year as Board President a smooth one. He then turned the gavel over to new President Barbara Samperi.

Ferraro

The Board's Betty Ferraro said she also attended the Cerritos Breakfast, and appreciated the presentations offered there. She also thanked the Board for understanding of her absence from two recent meetings.

See COMMENT, page 5

58 earn AP Scholar honors at Downey

DOWNEY—Fifty-eight students at Downey High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar bestowed by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college level courses while in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 17 percent of the more than one million high school students in about 15,000 secondary schools world wide who took the AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

May 2004 results

Students took the exams in May 2004 after completing college level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on student's performances on AP Exams at Downey High School.

Two students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a 5 point scale on all exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. They were Micah Cratty and Zachary Hocking.

Sixteen qualified for AP Scholar with Distinction Awards by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students were Timothy Bradley, Leeda Bunnell, Hanna Choe, Micah Cratty, Jessica Durham, Andrew Fuenmayor, Kirstie Genzel, Karina Gonzalez, Stephanie Graf, Zachary Hocking, Kenneth Leon, Jorge Llamas, Brian McClain, Thuy Nguyen, Jose Ramirez, and Luis Salazar.

Eight students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Awards by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students were Amy Becker, Sara Binns, Diana Diaz, Natalie Estrada, Jaclyn Fiktarz, Anna Kim, Adam Mansell, and Nereida Melgaerejo.

See SCHOLARS, page 5



DOWNEY MAYOR ELECT ANNE BAYER—Waved an American Flag from her car as it navigated the length of the parade route Sunday.

Anne Bayer sworn in as new mayor

By Henry Veneracion

DOWNEY—An SRO crowd witnessed another changing of the guard at City Hall Tuesday, as Anne Bayer was sworn in as new Mayor, replacing the youthful but definitely wizened Kirk Cartozian. Also sworn in were newest Councilmember Dave Gafin, erstwhile planning commission member and a relative political greenhorn, who will represent District 1; two-term Rick Trejo, who won re-election in District 3; and Cartozian, re-elected in District 5. Old pro Meredith Perkins will serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

Gone is Keith McCarthy who was termed out, but not before he received a heaping of accolades from former colleagues and the County Board of Supervisors for his "significant impact" on city and county matters. Cartozian received a "room"-ful of certificates and plaques praising his contributions as mayor in the past year.

Noting how his Council colleagues all had the pleasure of presenting their family members to the swarm of dignitaries, community leaders, city officials and staff, and sundry well-wishers that invaded the Council chambers, Trejo said he felt practically bereft at not having even a single member of his—a rare miss—attend such an auspicious event (his family was in Apollo Park, engaged in their individual DJAA sports activity).

Cartozian summary...

Offering his summation of his experience as mayor in his final address, Cartozian divides the mayor's role into three parts: one is the routine "PR"

See MAYOR, page 5



THE VAGABONDS—Entertain once again at the popular OASIS Program held in the Downey Adult School Auditorium Dec. 13.

'The Vagabonds' perform at OASIS

DOWNEY—The "sparkling" group of entertainers, The Vagabonds, are once again the featured attraction at the OASIS Program Monday, Dec. 13 held in the Downey Adult School Cafetorium, 12340 Woodruff Ave. at 4 p.m. The song-and-dance group's repertoire at this OASIS "Christmas Fantasy" Show includes a combination of tap, jazz and soft-shoe, with a blues number or two and a touch of comedy throw in.

The OASIS Program is open to the public. It consists of a social hour from 3-4 p.m., the program at 4 p.m., followed by a healthy full-course dinner at 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Downey Adult School, 940-6200.

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Mr. Downey/Little Mr. Downey crowned

DOWNEY—Seventeen-year-old Josh Minero, a student at Columbus High School, is the 2005 Mr. Downey, while the new Little Mr. Downey is 6-year old Mark Anthony Garcia from Gauldin Elementary, it was announced by the Downey Rose Float Association, sponsor of the competition held last Saturday. A total of 20 contestants competed in categories such as interviews, sportswear, formal wear and onstage questions.

1st Runner Up, Mr. Downey is Daniel Abarca (16, Warren High School) and 2nd Runner Up, Mr. Downey is Justin Laurer (17, also from Warren). 1st Runner Up, Little Mr. Downey is 5-year old Zackary Luna from Nazarene Elementary. All were multiple winners, racking up other titles with corresponding scholarships which in all totaled \$4,200.

Abarca and Garcia, for instance, each received \$500 in scholarships for being the Audience Choices. These scholarships were donated by Carol Pearce of CPA #1 International Real Estate.

Winners won in various categories: Laurer, "Mr. Athletic"; Minero, "Mr. Photogenic," and Garcia, "Little Mr. Photogenic"; Volunteer Award in the Mr. category - Michael Wattenberg (16, St. John Bosco); Entrepreneur in the Mr. category, Elias Zepeda (17, Long Beach City College); Academic in the Mr. category, Ben Gutierrez (16, Warren); Sportswear in the Mr. category, Angel Martinez (17, Warren), Sportswear in the Little category, Garcia; Formal Wear in the Mr. category, Abarca, and Formal Wear in the Little category, Garcia; Directors Choice in the Mr. category, Martinez, and Directors Choice in the Little, Andrew Chere; "Mr. Public Relations," Gutierrez; "Mr. Congeniality," Abarca, and "Little Mr. Congeniality," Garcia.

As their first official duty, the winners rode on the Downey Rose Float in the Holiday Lane Parade last Sunday, and stoically waved holiday greetings to the crowd even as rail fell on the parade.



TITLE OF 2005 MR. DOWNEY—Was won by Josh Minero, seen here at center, back row, flanked on the left by 2nd Runner Up Justin Laurer and 1st Runner Up Daniel Abarca. In foreground are Little Mr. Downey Mark Anthony Garcia, left, and 1st Runner Up Zackary Luna.

St. Matthias student dies in car crash

DOWNEY—Danielle Roa, a popular 14-year old freshman at St. Matthias High School, was killed Wednesday morning when the Honda Accord her mom was driving hit a utility pole after being struck by a Ford Explorer that ran through a stop sign.

The accident happened a few minutes before 8 a.m. at the intersection of Platt and Harris avenues in Lynwood, according to police reports. A sister was also in the car. Danielle's mom and sister were taken to nearby hospitals. Their condition remains unknown.

Danielle was a member of the student council and the writing club at the girls' school. Besides festooning her locker with posters and letters, fellow students have set up an altar in the chapel in her honor.

The school has requested that donations be sent to St. Matthias, Attn.: Fund for Danielle Roa, 7851 Gardendale St., Downey, CA 91242.

Have Santa Claus call your children

DOWNEY - The City of Downey is offering an opportunity for children ages 4-8 to have a chat with Santa Claus.

Through the city's "North Pole is Calling You" program, Santa will have a brief telephone conversation with children Dec. 14-15. The program is free.

To participate, parents or guardians should fill out a card from the Community Services Department with information on their child: name, pronunciation, school, wish list, etc. Santa Claus will call the children Dec. 14 and 15, between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Downey Community Services Department at 904-7238.

Basketball registration extended

DOWNEY - The Downey Junior Athletic Association has extended the registration period for its 2005 basketball season to Dec. 14.

Sign-ups will be taken tomorrow, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Dec. 13 and 14, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., at Apollo Park. Teams will be formed on Dec. 15.

Report illegally dumped garbage

DOWNEY - Illegally discarded items may be reported for pickup by calling 904-1161. If you have items of your own to be picked up, call Calmet at 869-0901.

To all the Contestants of the Little/Big Mr. Downey program - Congratulations! I made so many new friends and will treasure the good times we had - Thank you to my friends Anthony Demarco for your support and encouragement. A special thank you to Ms. Susan, Ms. Lucy, Ms. Danielle and Mr. Gary DeRemer for all thier time and dedication.

Love and Frinedship
Zackary Luna

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ENGAGED — Mr. and Mrs. James DeKay announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Scott Givens, son of Gary and Pat Givens. Jennifer, a former Downey Princess, is a promotions manager for DIRECTV and business manager for the Downey Patriot. Scott owns his own company, SSI Accountancy Service. Both are longtime residents of Downey. An October wedding is planned.

Pay your library fines with canned food

DOWNEY—The Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave., is accepting canned and packaged staple goods as payment for overdue fines on returned library materials during the whole month of December through the 30th.

In fact, even if you don't owe library fines, the library urges library patrons to bring in food items to help local needy families during the holidays. Donated value of each item will be 50 cents. Downey PTA H.E.L.P.S volunteers, who distribute the goods, have this message: "There are many families in need at this time. We are so pleased by the generosity of those who donate each year."

For more information, contact the library Circulation desk at 904-7360, Ext. 28.



SANTA SHARES BOOKS—And Christmas wishes with, front row, from left: Miranda and Joseph Sanchez; Juan, Dulce and Ashley Arias; standing: Alyson and Rosaura Sanchez, Marisa and Maria Robinson, and Cande and Jillian Garcia.

Christmas dinner/dance for seniors

DOWNEY—The City of Downey Community Services Department is holding a Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive, on Thursday, Dec. 16 from 5-7 p.m. for adults, 50 years of age and older. The fee is \$5 per person.

A roast beef dinner will be served with entertainment provided by the Highway 91 Band and Carpenter Elementary School 4th and 5th graders who will be singing Christmas Carols.

For more information, call 904-7223.

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“Word on the Street” playing at First Baptist

DOWNEY—The First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 East Third St. in Downey, will present a musical, “Word on the Street,” Friday-Sunday, Dec. 10-12, 7:30 p.m. nightly with Friday and Saturday matinees at 4 p.m., about the love story between a Mary and Joseph of the 21st century, and the choices and challenges that would face them today.

It is a retelling in musical terms of the story of the first Christmas as it may occur in the Los Angeles area. It includes original drama, dances and special effects, with a setting that evokes many of the cities in Southern California. It features a cast of over 100 voices, dancers and musicians.

Doors open 60 minutes prior to each performance for pre-show, including Christmas karaoke and other interactive events.

Complimentary tickets can be ordered by calling 923-1261, Ext. 276 or by e-mail, info@fbcdowney.org.

Boutique at St. George tomorrow

DOWNEY – The Ladies Philoptochos Society, a women’s philanthropic organization based out of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, invites the community to attend their Christmas Boutique and Benefit Luncheon, tomorrow, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Saint George Parish Hall, 10830 Downey Ave.

The boutique will run throughout the day, while the luncheon will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendor booths will be selling holiday gifts, including home-baked Greek sweets. Raffle tickets are also being sold for a chance to win prizes.

Reservations are mandatory for the luncheon. To reserve a spot, or for more information, call Georgia Covell at (818) 790-3433.

Santa to visit Preschool Storytime

DOWNEY—Children ages 3-5 will have a chance to meet Santa Claus in person at the Downey City Library Tuesday, Dec. 21 when Santa comes to visit Preschool Storytime in the Cormack Room. They may share their wish list with him or their favorite book, as Santa is an avid reader himself.

Senior Librarian Jan Palen also says, “This is a perfect photo opportunity. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their cameras for a holiday picture.” Storytime is from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave. For more information, contact Children’s Services at 904-7360, Ext. 27.

Living Hope Christmas program Sunday

DOWNEY—“A Kid’s Christmas Faantasy,” a Christmas program led by Georgia Waggoner, will be featured at the 10 a.m. worship services at Living Hope Church of Downey on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Rev. Glenn Coons is pastor of the congregation located at 10335 Paramount Blvd. For information, call 928-8651.



DELTA KAPPA GAMMA—An organization for women educators, recently made a donation to TLC (True Lasting Connections). TLC provides health care, among other things, for Downey’s neediest students. Photo shows, from left, Delta Kappa Gamma members Sue Carter, Sue Gilhooly and Kathy Bazarian, who all teach at E.W. Ward Elementary, presenting check to TLC coordinator Lucy Perez, extreme right.

Phone number for shopping cart retrieval

DOWNEY – Abandoned shopping carts may be reported for pickup by calling (800) 252-4613. When calling, have the street name and cross streets available.

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09290404-CVP (11/04)

And the rains came!

By John Adams

Sunday will be long remembered in Downey as the day that put an end to the myth that "It never rains on Downey's parade!"

Not only did it rain, but it rained exceedingly cold. The chill was terrific. It is hard to fault the participants who opted out at the last minute when the full impact of the weather became evident.

And we can't say enough about the grit shown by those who opted to brave the rain and chill and travel down Downey Avenue to the applause and cheers of the hardy souls who still came out to watch the free show.

Personally, we want to thank Herold Tseklenis, who came out of the crowd to hold his umbrella high over our heads allowing this cameraman to take his pictures while remaining relatively dry. Thank's again, Harold. A friend when I was in true need.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Smoke at Penney's

To The Editor:

I was browsing in the J.C. Penney store at Stonewood before 10 a.m. Monday (Dec. 6) when the announcement came over the PA system, in English and then in Spanish: everyone was to leave the building, now, through the catalog department doors. Calm instructions, but very firm.

We began to gather on the sidewalk, some of us customers, but primarily store employees, as the first of nine Fire Department vehicles pulled up and the firemen went to work.

We milled around asking each other questions. What had happened? When could we get back in? The store's lights were off. Security stood watchfully at all the doors. Firemen strode in and out, using an entrance at the rear of the store.

We heard there was a fire in the escalators, and believed it when clouds of black smoke billowed out the door. We waited. Assistant Store Manager Nancy Gutzmer, assigned to cover our area, was receiving information from inside the building via the walky-talky glued to her ear. A powerful Fire Department blower kept smoke from entering the mall area.

Two early customers of the beauty salon, wet gray hair already in rollers, huddled in the cold wind under a few salon towels. Their stylists slipped back into the salon for more towels and plastic capes to keep the ladies warm, and rolled out swivel chairs for them.

Nancy Gutzmer had many concerns to address, but she must have read questions on my face because, with all she had to deal with, she still paused and asked if she could be of any help to me.

Finally she had answers for the 50 of us still waiting. Employees should stay in the Food Court for an hour, after which they would be permitted to go back inside for their belongings, and then go home for the day. Penney's would try to reopen the store at 5 p.m. My hair stylist immediately began to reschedule her people for Tuesday, which is her day off.

By now TV helicopters were circling, but there was no sense of alarm or even awareness that I could discern throughout the rest of the mall. It was a classy, low-key operation.

Tuesday, 8 a.m. A smiling reassuring presence stood at the catalog department doors, Store Manager Gary Boyle. "We're all OK," he said. "The escalators aren't working and we have some yellow tape around, but we're OK."

I don't know what the firemen faced down inside Penney's, and I don't know what scurrying was necessary to get the store ready for shoppers again, but I do want to commend publicly the work of our Fire Department and of Penney's management and staff. I am grateful to have such people working for our community.

—Joyce Sherwin,

Downey

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Fire Department confirmed that the problem was with the escalator. Exact cause is still being sought. The matter was handled well and professionally.

Rose Float needs help decorating

DOWNEY – It's that time of year again. The Downey Rose Float Association is seeking the community's help in decorating Downey's 2005 Rose Float, "Together With Nature," designed by Jared Sweeney.

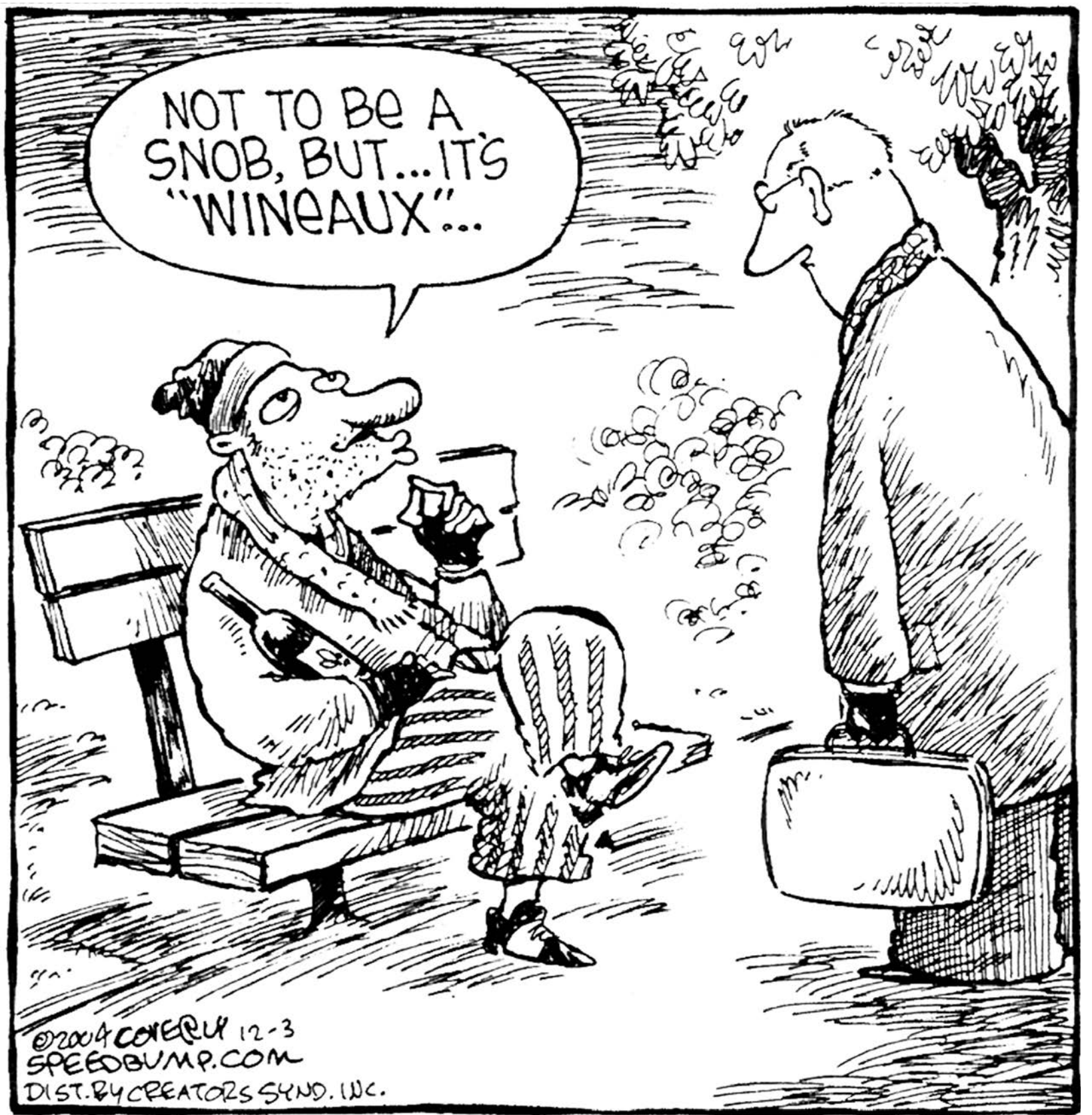
You can help daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dress warm and wear old clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Lunch and dinner will be served.

The float is at 13030 Erickson Ave. in Downey. For more information call 803-5992 or Gary DeRemer, Rose Float President, at 260-8503. For big groups, call Pam at 861-2135.

Chamber's holiday open house Dec. 16

DOWNEY—Visitors to the Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave., Thursday, Dec. 16 can expect "food, fun and frolic" as it holds its annual Holiday Open House from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

For information, call the Chamber office, 923-2191, or fax 869-0461.



Job outlook positive in and around Downey

DOWNEY – The City of Downey's unemployment rate is below the State of California average, and the rate is expected to drop even lower in the coming months.

The finding was included in statistics released earlier this week by the Employment Development Department.

Downey holds a 4.4 percent unemployment rate, according to the 12-month survey. That beats the state average of 5.7 percent but trails cities such as Cerritos and Lakewood, which boast 3.0 and 3.5 percents, respectively.

Statewide, more than 14.6 million people held paying jobs last year, according to the survey, which did not include farm workers and the self-employed. 43,500 jobs were added in October alone.

"This is good news for California and especially for the city of Downey," said Jerry Brady, president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. "Hopefully, this is a significant sign that the economy is finally headed in the right direction."

More than 1 million people were unemployed and actively seeking work in October, down 154,000 from a year ago.

Locally, Compton held the highest unemployment rate at 11.8 percent, followed by Paramount at 8.1.

A recent announcement by San Pedro ports to hire up to 5,000 new workers to work the docks provided a cheery outlook for the local job market. Also, Boeing in Long Beach made public plans to add 11,000 to its workforce.

Cerritos College offering online court reporting

NORWALK – Cerritos College's court reporting program announced this week that it now offers online classes to help students prepare for the Certified Shorthand Reporter Examination and the Registered Professional Reporter Examination, making Cerritos the only community college in California to offer such classes.

The program will also reinstate evening classes for beginning court-reporting students during the 2005 spring semester.

"There is a current shortage of court reporters and captioners in California and across the nation," explained Vycki Morgan, court reporting instructor at Cerritos College. "Through reinstating our night program in spring 2005 for beginning court reporting students and our online test-prep courses, our program is providing students a way into an industry that is in dire need of their skills."

The California Court Reporters Board offers the Certified Shorthand Examination three times a year, which grants licenses to court reporters to work in court and deposition jobs in California. The National Court Reporters Association offers the Registered Professional Examination twice a year, which is a broader certification that is accepted in many states across the U.S.

Exam-prep classes are for students who have completed or are almost done with the court reporting program courses. Others institutions that offer court reporting also offer test-prep classes on site, but Cerritos is the only community college to offer the course online.

A high school diploma and basic knowledge of the English language is necessary to enroll in the program. The class, in which students progress at their own rate, can be found online at www.cerritos.edu/busc.

College hosts "Megaconference VI"

NORWALK – Cerritos College hosted "Megaconference VI" in its teleconference center yesterday, Dec. 9. Noted sessions included "Searching for Anne Frank" where pen pals, friends and relatives of Anne Frank greeted one another and spoke to the audience.

For information on future conferences, visit www.megaconference.org/program.

Modernization at schools underway

NORWALK—Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD) recently completed construction on the first two schools in its \$250 million Measure S school modernization and expansion program and is nearing completion on a third school.

Improvement began at all three schools in January. Hutchinson Middle School was the first school to celebrate completion of its modernization project, and it did so yesterday during a ceremony at the school. Waite Middle School, which has recently completed construction and Los Alisos Middle School, which will be completed in January, will hold similar celebrations after Jan. 1, 2005.

Construction work at all three middle schools include classroom modernizations and site utility infrastructure improvements such as new domestic water and gas service, new electrical service and sewer system upgrades at select locations.

Other schools currently under construction as a part of the Measure S program include Hargitt Middle School, Los Coyotes Middle School, Foster Road Elementary and La Mirada High School. Work began at these schools in summer/fall 2004. Work will commence in winter 2004/2005 at Dolland, Morrison and Johnston elementary schools as well as at Glenn and Norwalk high schools.

The Measure S School Facilities Modernization and Expansion Program was approved by Norwalk-La Mirada voters in November 2002. The program includes 28 schools in the district. Each school will receive a variety of renovations or improvements based on need and meeting the priorities established and approved during the planning stages of the program. Measure S improvement work began in November 2003 and will be phased over 6 to 8 years. The program is being funded by \$165 million in general obligation funds as well as a matching share of approximately \$85 million from the state.

Cerritos awards inaugural scholarships

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation recently awarded the Cheryl A. Epple Memorial Scholarship to two student volunteers, the first such people to receive the recognition. Each student received a check for \$1,000.

Former foundation board member Bob Epple, who is a Cerritos College board trustee, presented the scholarships honoring his late wife to Raymond Concha and Marla Ramirez. Cheryl Epple was an alumna of the college and longtime board member before she suddenly passed away in July.

"Cheryl believed that those of us who are blessed have a responsibility to give back to others," Bob Epple explained. He went on to say that Cheryl's friends and family created the scholarship honoring volunteerism because Cheryl had felt so strongly about public service within her community.

Raymond Concha, a Downey resident, is a member of the Cerritos College Peer Counselor program, a group that makes regular visits to high schools to assist prospective students with admissions and other information.

Concha served in the Navy for seven years and became active in volunteering while in the service.

"I've grown a lot through volunteering," he said. "Especially in my character."

The Downey Patriot



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RAISE

The 2.41 increase was also granted the superintendent, assistant superintendents, certificated and classified management and confidential employees effective July 1, 2004.

Jeff Orlinsky, a teacher at Warren High School and the Bargaining Chair of the Downey Education Association (DEA), spoke Tuesday, thanking the School Board for straightforward negotiations that led to the wage settlement.

Superintendent of Schools Wendy Doty thanked Orlinsky.

In other action the Board:

*Reorganized, with Barbara Samperi seated as the new Board President.

*Applauded a vocal presentation by the Lewis Elementary School All-Star Choir.

*Received an administrative report on the first Period Interim Finances as of Oct. 31 and approved positive certification for the remainder of fiscal 2004-05.

*Approved revisions to AR 3111, Regular School Calendar, and AR 3111.1, Adult School Calendar.

*Approved the Test Calendar for the 2004-05 school year.

*Reviewed the proposed 2005-06 Course of Study for the middle and high schools.

*Adopted a resolution assigning the Integrated Waste Management Board for fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, and authorized execution and delivery of documents.

Gifts

*Accepted with gratitude gifts from the private sector including a cash donation of \$6,700 for the closed system TV network at East Middle School from the East PTA; a cash donation of \$500 for classroom use at Rio San Gabriel from Rene Smith and James Ziengenbein, M.D.; plus many smaller but no less appreciated gifts.

*Declared as a result of financial uncertainties, and other factors, management including the superintendent, assistant superintendents, confidential and other unrepresented employee salaries are indefinite for 2004-05.

*Approved attendance and convention and conference fees.

*Ratified a general agreement with Behavioral Education for Children with Autism for the 2004-05 fiscal year retroactive to July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005.

*Ratified a general agreement with Village Glen Westside School, the Help Group for the 2004-05 fiscal year from Sept. 29, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

*Ratified payments for special education placements.

*Approved purchase orders by the Purchasing Department.

Completed

*Accepted as complete roof repairs, replacement, and asbestos abatement work by FC & Sons Roofing of Bell Gardens in the sum of \$38,456 to be charged to Deferred Maintenance Fund.

*Accepted as complete roof repairs, replacement, and asbestos abatement work by FC & Sons Roofing of Bell Gardens in the sum of \$153,593 to be charged to Deferred Maintenance Fund.

*Accepted as complete trade electrical work by Spike Electric of Whittier in the sum of \$4,088 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete fencing work by McCullah Fence of Bell Gardens in the sum of \$13,585 to be charged to the Bond and/or General Funds.

*Accepted as complete backhoe work by Terra Pave of Whittier in the sum of \$4,475 to be charged to the Maintenance, Deferred Maintenance and/or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete concrete work by 3D Concrete of Downey in the sum of \$10,380 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

Change orders

*Approved change order 5 for the Downey and Warren High School Stadiums Plumbing and Site Utilities Package No. 2 by Plumbing, Piping & Construction of Cypress in the increased sum of \$8,924.

*Approved change order 2 for the Downey and Warren Stadiums, Mechanical/EM Controls bid package 3 by Coutts Heating and Cooling of Corona in the increased sum of \$10,800 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved change order 8 for the Downey and Warren Stadiums, electrical bid package 4 by Mel Smith Electric of Stanton in the increased sum of \$29,988 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved change order 2 Downey and Warren Stadium work, track and field construction by Byron-Davey of San Diego in the increased sum of \$68,861 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved change order 3 Downey and Warren Stadium work, package 11 by Robert Patterson Painting of San Juan Capistrano, in the increased sum of \$12,148 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved change order 1 to purchase of chicken products with Kings Delight/Braselton Poultry of Atlanta, Georgia, in the increased sum of \$4,100 to be charged to Food Services Fund.

*Approved change order 1 to an open purchase order for frozen foods with ASR Food Distributors of Commerce in the increased sum of \$47,000 to be charged to the Food Services Fund.

*Approved change order 3 to an open purchase order for contract electrical labor with Spike Electric of Anaheim in the increased sum of \$10,000 to be charged to the Maintenance Fund.

*Approved change order 4 to an open purchase order for repair parts for buses, with NAPA Auto Parts of Fontana in the increased sum of \$3,000 to be charged to the Maintenance Fund.

*Approved change order 1 to an open purchase order for general maintenance supplies with McMaster-Carr of Santa Fe Springs in the increased sum of \$3,000 to be charged to the Maintenance Fund.

Budget items

*Approved adjustment of the General Fund budget to reflect increase in income and appropriations for specified accounts.

*Approved extensions of the 2004-05 budget for all funds to reflect the 2003-04 ending unaudited actuals in the 2004-05 beginning budget.

*Approved the sale of surplus personal property by Nationwide Auction Company with income going to the General Fund.

*Approved equipment purchases in accordance with policies.

*Ratified the abolishment and establishment of several positions.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18 at the Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

SCHOLARS

Thirty-three students qualified for the AP Scholar award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. They were Lindell Abril, Bukky Adeyinka, Ricardo Ambriz, Adrian Burgos, Jesper Carig, Annie Choi, John Choi, Panayiota Christidis, Kami Cottle, Michelle Diaz, Marisa Durham, Pauline Esparza, Gabriel Flores, Linda Han, Alma Hernandez, Vanessa Josef, John Kim, Yuri Kim, Rona Kinney, David Kkolrdski, Jessica Lee, Marianna Lilly, Richard Mirabella, Yukiko Noda, Steven Oh, Angela Pak, Amandeep Sandhu, Christine Sipos, Jonathan Song, Diana Alpos, Steven Torices, Erica Valencia and Miguel Vindel.

Of this year's recipients at Downey High, 15 are juniors. These have another year in which to complete college level work and earn even higher AP Scholar award honors.



LENDING SOME HELP — Steve Roberson, left, president of the Downey Kiwanis Club, along with member Larry Lewis present a \$500 check to Stacy Brabant of the Downey Council PTA HELPS Program. The group collects non-perishable food throughout the year for distribution and also prepares holiday gift baskets. "The Kiwanis of Downey are happy that they are able to help support this excellent volunteer program that provides for those in need," said Roberson. For more information on PTA HELPS, call 861-9833. Kiwanis can be reached at 927-2626.

MAYOR

activities, such as saying hello's and shaking hands; second is helping citizens-neighbors solve/resolve their individual problems; and thirdly, having a direct hand in charting city policy. He gave profuse thanks to city staff, particularly City Council Secretary Shirley Conte, and other colleagues and coworkers for "doing a wonderful job."

Incoming mayor Bayer said her focus will be on enhancing after-school programs and upgrading facilities for the youth of Downey, emergency preparedness, and beefing up 'homeland' security.

Perkins said he welcomes the addition of Gafin to the Council, and joined the others in saying he looked forward to tackling the problems and also opportunities that lay ahead.

For his part, Gafin avowed that as an accountant he will bring his expertise to bear on the city budget process. He said that as a political neophyte, he has yet to learn "the art of saying a lot and saying nothing" (to cheers), and, as if to demonstrate that he really is a man of few words, uttered his first official message: "Let's get to work."

Faces

Faces in the crowd included Judge Roy Paul, Dr. Mary Stauffer, former City Clerk Judy McDonnell, and newly-minted Duarte City Manager Darrell George, who said he might run for political office next.

COMMENT

-ings due to a medical emergency related to her husband.

Ferraro said she attended a recent Downey City Council meeting at which the recently retired Wendy McKenzie and Linda Kennedy were honored.

Tod Corrin said he too attended the recent breakfast at Cerritos College.

Cheryl Andresen also attended the breakfast. Boardmembers also attended the recent PTA Council Awards presentation.

The Board also heard a speaker from the audience who asked if something could be done to improve conditions at the Warren High School swimming pool.

The School Board's Don La Plante responded by saying it was a long-time problem with Warren's pool dating to its construction in the 1960s.

DNC Christmas luncheon Dec. 13

DOWNEY—The Downey Newcomers Club has scheduled their Christmas Party luncheon for Monday, Dec. 13 at Los Amigos Country Club. The installation of incoming club officers at 11 a.m. precedes the luncheon, which will have all the trimmings including a special "Belated Birthday" cake for the club's anniversary last month.

Santa Claus will pay a visit at 12:30 p.m., and there will be playing and singing of Christmas carols as well as photo sessions with Santa.

Call Paula Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, for reservations, at 861-2545. Tickets are \$10.

"Bill Bell Bird Walk" tomorrow

WHITTIER—The Annual Bill Bell Bird Walk will be held tomorrow, Dec. 11, at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. Sponsored by the Whittier Area Audubon Society, the event is a low-key, casual affair perfect for beginning birders or those who don't want to do a strenuous day of walking.

Whittier Narrows Nature Center is at 1000 N. Durfee Road in South El Monte and offers a variety of habitat as well as a museum. Call Jean Beaton at 869-6545 for more information.



CUSTOM CAR SHOW—Was offered Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Warren High School parking lot, and this supercharged Model-T custom was just one of the wild machines on display. The event raised toys for underprivileged youngsters.

The poets' corner

Quiet

Hold me tight while the sun is still asleep
Kiss me wholeheartedly while the moonlight is still deep
The silky clouds are dancing a swan-song
Don't wander anymore, here's my love for you to keep...

—Linh Duy Vo,
Downey

Scandinavian Christmas at Nordic Fox

DOWNEY—The Nordic Fox Restaurant starts the Scandinavian Christmas season with the presentation of the Swedish Lucia Pageant on Monday, Dec. 13. The first presentation will be at 4 p.m., and a second at 6 p.m.

In Sweden the eldest daughter of the household wearing a white dress and a crown of candles serves coffee and pastries to the other family members. The interesting full story of the tradition will be told accompanied by Swedish music on Dec. 13.

There will be a 20 percent discount on all entrees from 4-7 p.m.



SANTA CLAUS APPROPRIATELY DRESSED—Had a hearty ho-ho-ho despite the rain Sunday during the Holiday Lane Parade.

Whittier Audubon meets Dec. 16

WHITTIER—The Whittier Area Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society which serves the city of Downey, will host their monthly meeting Dec. 16 at the Whittier Community Center.

Paul Carlton, a member of the "Friends of the Foothills," will give an audio-visual presentation on his organization. The group was founded by the Sierra Club and works to preserve open wildlife space in Orange County.

The public is invited to the free meeting. Refreshments and social time follow the program.

For more information call Jean Beaton at 869-6545 or visit www.whittieraudubon.org.

Downey Library offers Internet class

DOWNEY—The Downey City Library at 11121 Brookshire Ave. will offer a Beginning Internet class Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10:30 a.m.- 12 noon in the Computer Lab, aimed at enabling adults to learn to surf the Internet and gain valuable computer skills in a relaxed setting.

Students must be comfortable using a computer mouse. This free class will teach students the basics of using the Internet Explorer browser and how to use search engines and subject directories. Information: (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

Healthcare meeting Dec. 13

DOWNEY—Learn about healthcare options for 2005 when Golden Outlook, along with Downey Regional Medical Center, hosts a lunch meeting Dec. 13 at the Sizzler restaurant at 10315 Lakewood Blvd.

Discussed will be Golden Outlook's physicians, hospitals, health plans and more. Guests are encouraged to take a friend.

For more information call 904-6014.

Masonic Lodge meeting every Monday

DOWNEY—Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at 8244 3rd St for their dinner and meeting. For more information call 869-3521.



FERRARI—Graced the entries at the car show at Warren High School Saturday, Dec. 4. The event gathered toys for underprivileged youngsters.



HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES – Under the direction of Paula Vreulink, Southern California Dance Theatre will celebrate their 10th anniversary of 'The Nutcracker' at the Downey Theatre Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 17-18. Tickets are \$14.50, \$17.50 and \$19.50. For ticket reservations, call 496-1766.

CSULB holiday presentation Dec. 13-14

LONG BEACH—The Carpenter Center on the CSU-Long Beach campus, 6200 Atherton St. in Long Beach, presents "On A Humorous Note: A Celebration of America's Wittiest Songwriters" for 2 performances only, Dec. 13-14, as part of the Club Carpenter Cabaret series.

The holiday presentation features the following "wildly talented and clever" singers and songwriters: classical-pianist-comic-songwriter Dale Gonyea, a pianist since the age of 5; Broadway veteran Amanda Abel, a granddaughter of Eddie Cantor; Senior Citizen "Cabaret Darling" Ray Jessel, who has been called "the millenium Noel Coward" by Broadway veteran Michael Feinstein; and chanteuse extraordinaire Shelly Goldstein, who has been called "a combination of Liza Minnelli and Bette Midler." For tickets/information, call (562) 985-7000.

"Doo Wop Daze" recounts 1950s

LOS ALAMITOS – "Doo Wop Daze," an interactive journey through the music and events of the 1950s, is currently showing at the WestEnd Dinner Theatre in Los Alamitos.

Written by Gale Baker and directed by Kent Johnson, cast members interact with the audience with trivia questions and encourage the crowd to dance along.

"Doo Wop Daze" is on a limited run closing Dec. 19. For tickets and show information call (562) 596-6892.

Free holiday performances Dec. 24

LOS ANGELES – Over 40 performing groups from throughout Los Angeles County – including choirs, music ensembles and dance companies – will converge on the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center in Los Angeles Friday, Dec. 24 for the 45th Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration

The six-hour program is free and will be hosted by Henry Winkler. The show is being called a 'gift' from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. with performances beginning at 3:00 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the show and reservations or tickets are not necessary. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission is producing the event.

For more information call (213) 972-3099.



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"The Nutcracker" returns to Downey

DOWNEY – The Southern California Dance Theatre returns with its 10th anniversary edition of "The Nutcracker." The ballet will feature new costumes, new scenery and new choreography.

It will be produced at the Downey Civic Theatre Friday, Dec. 10 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 11 and 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Prices range from \$14.50 to \$19.50.

For tickets and information call 496-1766.

"A Christmas Carol" in three-day run

LA MIRADA – The La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, along with International City Theatre, presents its critically acclaimed circus-version of "A Christmas Carol," complete with juggling, acrobatics, stilt walking, and giant, life-sized puppets, three nights only Dec. 21-23.

An itinerant troupe of clowns and puppets transforms into the characters in Charles Dickens' classic story, pulling the audience into the life of Ebenezer Scrooge as the Christmas Spirits work their magic and warm his heart. All of the classic characters are represented – Scrooge, Marley, the Cratchits and Tiny Tim.

Tickets are priced at \$20, \$30 and \$45 and discounts are offered for season subscribers, seniors, and students/children. To purchase tickets call the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at 944-9801.



'T00 MANY TAMALES'—A play with music that "celebrates laughter, joy, [the] traditions and customs of the Hispanic Family," is a presentation by the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts at the BFA Theatre, 421 North Avenue 19 in Los Angeles Dec. 1-30. It will be performed in both Spanish and English. Above, a scene with cast members Monica Guzman and Paul Ramirez. Tickets are \$14 children (12 years and younger) and \$16 for adults. For times/reservations, call BFA at (323) 225-4044.

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BLADE: TRINITY (R) (11:15, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:40

ALEXANDER (R) (12:00, 4:00, 8:00

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) Fri (11:10, 12:35, 1:50, 3:10, 4:20, 5:35, 7:00, 8:05, 9:35, 10:30, Sat (11:10, 12:35, 1:50, 3:10, 4:20, 5:35, 8:05, 9:35, 10:30, Sun to Thur (11:10, 12:35, 1:50, 3:10, 4:20, 5:35, 7:00, 8:05, 9:35, 10:30

NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) (10:45, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) (11:45, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (11:20, 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45

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OCEANS TWELVE PG13 (11:30 2:30) 5:30 8:30

BLADE: TRINITY R (10:00 12:50 3:40) 6:30 9:20

BLADE: TRINITY R (11:00 1:50 4:40) 7:30 10:20

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG (10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30

ALEXANDER R (10:15 2:00) 5:45 9:30

NATIONAL TREASURE PG (12:30 3:45) 7:00 10:15

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS PG (10:30 12:55 3:20) 5:45 8:10 10:35

SEED OF CHUCKY R (10:45 1:05 3:25) 5:45 8:05 10:25

THE POLAR EXPRESS G (10:15 12:50 3:25) 6:00 8:35

THE INCREDIBLES PG (11:00 1:50 4:40) 7:30 10:20

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\$2,061 – Was raised by the employees of All American Home Center. From left to right: Lanny Gertler, president of All American; Ezell Williams, Los Angeles Mission; Cindy Munoz, All American advertising department; and Cristina Gonzales, All American advertising supervisor.

Red Cross seeks local volunteers

DOWNEY—The American Red Cross immediately needs volunteers to assist with blood drives in the Rio Hondo area which covers Downey and Norwalk. No experience is necessary; training is provided. Bilingual volunteers are highly encouraged to apply.

Volunteers assist the collection staff by greeting and registering donors, instructing donors to read necessary paperwork, providing refreshments, looking for donor reactions and promoting public relations. For more information, call Zeidy Cabrera, Recruitment Representative, American Red Cross Blood Services, 1-800-498-9910, Ext. 7.

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All American employees show their compassion

DOWNEY – For the 14th consecutive year, All American Home Center has made a contribution to the Los Angeles Mission to help feed the hungry during the holiday season.

A special project of All American's advertising department, employees at the store sell each other homemade food, beginning a month before Thanksgiving. The amount of money raised is then matched by the company's president, Lanny Gertler, and his wife Judy, and donated to the Mission.

This year, associates purchased \$1,030.50 worth of food, bringing the total contribution to \$2,061.00

"The company is most proud of the family-type relationship that exists between the associates and the managers of the company, and this fundraising event – organized by associates for associates – is typical of the spirit that exists within the organization," Lanny Gertler said. "The \$2,061 will feed over 1,300 homeless individuals during the holiday season, and this never would happen without the compassion and involvement of the over 250 associates who work for the company."

All American Home Center, located on Firestone Blvd., is the largest single-store, family owned home center in the United States, added Gertler.

"The Joy of Christmas" playing in L.A.

LOS ANGELES – Eight thousand toys are expected to be distributed as The Dream Center sponsors a toy giveaway after each performance of their Christmas show, a Broadway-style musical, "The Joy of Christmas."

The show, featuring a full orchestra, 150' panoramic screens, special effects and live animals, is playing at Angelus Temple, 1100 N. Glendale Blvd. in Los Angeles.

The show is free to the public and all children ages 3-16 accompanied by an adult receive a free toy.

Performances are being held now through Dec. 19. For show times and tickets, call (213) 273-7048.

Cancer support group at DRMC

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center hosts a free cancer support group each Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m.

The hospital is located at 11500 Brookshire Ave. For more information call 806-2790.

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ONE BIG CHECK — Orlandus Waters presents a \$1,500 check to the Downey Police Fire Foundation as Police Chief John Finch, left, and Fire Chief Mark Sauter look on.

Financial Partners aids police and fire program

DOWNEY – Police Chief John Finch and Fire Chief Mark Sauter accepted a \$1,500 check recently at their annual golf tournament held at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, a donation from Financial Partners Credit Union. The monies will be used towards the departments' youth scholarship program.

"Giving back to our community is important to everyone who works here," said Orlandus Waters, senior vice president/government and community relations. "We feel lucky to have the means and managerial support to do this."

Much of the donated money was raised through fundraisers put on by Financial Partners employees. Financial Partners matched their employees' donations dollar for dollar.

Financial Partners also participated in post Sept. 11 fundraisers and provides continual support for Gangs Out of Downey, Books N' Hoops, and other Downey youth programs.

To find out more, call (800) 950-7328.

Servin named CAREGiver of the year

DOWNEY—Elena Servin has been named CAREGiver of the Year by the Home Instead Senior Care franchise office in Downey. Home Instead Senior Care is the nation's leading provider of non-medical home care and companionship services for the elderly.

The Home Instead Senior Care office is located at 12741 Bellflower Blvd., Suite 207 in Downey.

SCRS hosting phone drive

DOWNEY – Donate old and inactive cell phones to Southern California Rehabilitation Services and help raise money to improve the quality of life of disabled people in southeast Los Angeles County.

Phones may be turned in to 7830 Quill Drive, Suite D, in Downey. SCRS can also help individual businesses launch their own phone drives.

For more information, call Judy Logan, Development Coordinator, at 862-6531, ext. 15.

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City toy drive ends today

DOWNEY – The City of Downey is seeking the donation of new and used toys for distribution to disadvantaged children in Downey and its Sister City – San Quintin, Mexico. The toy drive ends today, Dec. 10. The toys will be distributed through the Downey Council PTA H.E.L.P.S. "Holiday Basket Program," and the Downey Sister Cities Association.

The City Public Works Department is organizing the drive. Designated drop-off points are: Downey City Hall, Downey City Library, Downey Police Station, Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, all Downey Fire Stations, all Downey public schools, and local businesses displaying a City toy collection barrel. Toys should be unwrapped.

For more information on how to get more involved in the effort, contact the City's Recycling Office at 904-7103.

Adult School's Vegas Tour Jan. 9-12

DOWNEY—The Downey Adult School offers an all-new Las Vegas Adventure Tour Jan. 9-12, which will start at the Mirage Hotel and will include: a guided tour of Madame Tussaud's Museum at the Venetian, one breakfast at Caribe Restaurant and \$50 of food vouchers, admission to Dolphin Habitat and Secret Garden, a visit to the famous Shark Reef in the Mandalay Bay Hotel and a tour of the Casino Legends Hall of Fame in the Tropicana Hotel

Package price is \$269 double per person, and \$359 single. Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office or mailed upon request. Call 940-6213 for more information.



SUPPORTING ARC — Kiwanis President Steve Roberson and member Willie Gutierrez present Mary Guzman of ARC of Southeast Los Angeles with a check for \$1000, proceeds from the recent pancake breakfast held at Downey High School. For information on the Kiwanis Club, or how you can help ARC (formerly Association for Retarded Citizens), call Roberson at 927-2626.

Women's golf club seeks new members

DOWNEY – The Rio Hondo Women's Golf Club, which enjoys a weekly tee time Tuesday mornings starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Golf Course, 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, is accepting applications for membership for the '04-05 season.

General meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month following play.

For more information, contact the golf course at 927-2420.

Council agendas available online

DOWNEY – Complete City Council and Community Development Commission agendas and minutes can be accessed on the City of Downey website at www.downeyca.org.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Downey City Hall.



HAPPY TO HELP — Steve Roberson, President of Downey Kiwanis Club, presents a check for \$3,200 to Diane Lumsdaine, President of Arc, with Kiwanis members Rich Molinaro (left) and Steve Yung (right). The gift funded the annual thanksgiving luncheon put on by Arc.

Kiwanis help serve Thanksgiving meals

DOWNEY – Over 350 adults with developmental disabilities and their advisors at Arc of Southeast Los Angeles in Downey were treated to traditional Thanksgiving meals – complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie – thanks to Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club Nov. 24.

Kiwanis members provided funding for the project, at a cost of \$3,200, and showed up for the dinner to act as servers, waiters and clean-up crew. The club came to Arc's aid after diminished state funding put this year's dinner in doubt.

"Even though this was not planned as part of our community service budget for this year, we stretched a little bit and some individual members made extra donations, so we could come up with the full funding for this worthwhile project," said Steve Roberson, a local realtor and president of the Kiwanis Club.

Arc, formally Association for Retarded Citizens, operates out of a three-building facility on Woodruff Ave, where it serves hundreds of disabled adults from 26 neighboring cities. According to Kevin MacDonald, Arc's Executive Director, the traditional Thanksgiving meal is an event that many look forward to all year long.

Bellflower Chorus seeks singers

BELLFLOWER – The Bellflower Civic Chorus seeks singers for its 35-member mixed ensemble. Sopranos and tenors are particularly sought.

The chorus has existed for more than 35 years singing favorite songs. Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. at Simms Park, 16614 S. Clark Ave., in Bellflower.

Rise 'N Shine group meets Dec. 14

DOWNEY—Scheduled speakers at the 7:30 a.m. meeting Tuesday, Nov. 14 at Nordic Fox Restaurant, 10924 Paramount Blvd., of the Downey Chamber of Commerce's Rise 'N Shine Networking Group are Chamber members: Robyn Wonnell of Keller Williams Real Estate Center, Daniel Nunez of Norwalk Self-Storage, and Dionne Bassano, D. C. of CURVES.

This is the only December meeting for the group. For information, call 923-2191.

SEAACA accepting toy donations

DOWNEY – The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA), in an effort to reduce the stress of newly arriving animals, is accepting donations of toys for their animal population.

Call 803-3301, ext. 223 or 221, for more information.

Civic chorus anticipating busy holidays

BELLFLOWER – The Bellflower Civic Chorus will present their annual winter concert, "A Christmas Fantasy," Sat.-Sun., Dec. 11-12 at the William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16660 Civic Center Drive in Bellflower.

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BERNICE IRENE BIBY—Resided most of her life in Downey.

Memorial services held for Bernice Irene Biby

DOWNEY—Memorial services were held Nov. 27 at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary in Whittier for Bernice Irene Biby, a California native who resided in Downey for most of her life.

Born Sept. 25, 1920 to parents Lester Dickinson and Margaret Christian Tyler Brooks, she died on Nov. 21 after a long stay at the Southland Care Center in Norwalk. She was 84. She was laid to rest next to her ex-husband, Ray Phillip Biby of Linden, Colorado who died in Yuma, Arizona in 1994 at age 73.

A 1938 graduate of John C. Fremont High School, she received a BA in Social Welfare from CSU-Long Beach where she was on the Dean's Honor List. She had earlier attended LA City College. She worked from 1975 as a fiscal clerk for the LA County Office of Education located on Imperial highway in Downey until she retired in 1992. Her surviving sister now residing in Eugene, Oregon, Barbara Keathley, also worked there.

She is survived by daughters Judith A. Flicker, Janice Rae Biby, and Joyce L. Biby, all of Downey; and sons Russell P. (Yoba) Biby of Gainesville, Missouri and James R. (Donna) Biby of Las Vegas, Nevada; grandchildren Michele Suzanne (John) Eusebi of Valencia, Christopher R. (Sally) Flicker of Downey; Geoffrey and Alicia Biby of Downey, Golda Mae and Layla Biby of Gainseville, Missouri; and Greg Biby of Arizona, and Daniela Biby of Las Vegas; as well as nieces Elizabeth Keathley of North Carolina and Margaret Studer of Long Beach; nephew Earle (Anand) Keathley, Jr.; and great grandchildren.

Interment was at Rose Hills Memorial Park, with Rev. Bruce Gray of St. Matthias Episcopal Church of Whittier officiating.

Dewey invites you to Friends Bookstore

DOWNEY—Dewey, the official mascot of the Friends of Downey City Library Bookstore, invites the community to check out its back-to-school specials: hundreds of National Geographic magazines at only 25 cents each (a few really old ones are priced at a bargain \$2)—ideal for school report ideas; biographies of actors, politicians, etc.; Zane Grey novels for western buffs; and more.

Open during regular library hours, as volunteer hours permit, the Friends Bookstore is located inside the Downey City Library at 11121 Brookshire Ave. Proceeds from the bookstore are used to purchase new books for the library, as well as many special needs of the library, such as the summer reading programs, Children's Book Week, Bilingual Story Time books, Teen and Adult Programs.

For more information, call 904-7360, or visit www.downeylibrary.org.

EZRA Center meets Dec. 21

DOWNEY—Program for the meeting of Ezra Center for Mature Adults Tuesday, Dec. 21 at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., will be Cantor Kenneth Jaffe continuing his exploration of both familiar and Jewish melodies, in words and music, that he started last spring. This will occupy the 10 a.m.-12 noon slot. As usual, a catered Kosher luncheon (a belated Hanukkah luncheon) will be served after the program. The community is welcome.

For more information, call the Temple office, 861-9276.

Joy V. Valentine, former city employee, mourned

DOWNEY—Joy Valerian Valentine, who had retired as a Downey city employee, died Nov. 20 of accidental causes at her home of 51 years in South Gate. She had previously been employed in various other cities' agencies, including Lynwood, Compton and South Gate.

She is survived by her son, Sgt. John Valentine Herrera, U.S.A.R.; her daughters Patricia, Theresa, Christina; 8 grandchildren; and 1 great granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her eldest daughter Angela and twin grandchildren, Jennifer and Matthew.

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be given to a needy child or to an animal protection/rescue organization in her name.

Graveside services held for Thomas Elmer Lund

DOWNEY—Graveside services were held Dec. 2 at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier for Thomas Elmer Lund, who worked as a counselor for ARC in Downey. Endowed with an independent streak and blessed with a good sense of humor, he was a ham radio operator and loved to work on computers.

Born March 2, 1942 in Monterey Park to parents Elmer and Juanita Martha Stuard Lund, he was a graduate of Bell High School and went on to graduate from Long Beach State University.

He is survived by his wife Shannon Lund of Downey, his mother Juanita, and brother Terry Lee (Sandra) Lund of Victorville.

Downey Zrelak Mortuary was entrusted with the funeral services.

Sarah Ann Schroeder passes away at 91

DOWNEY—Sarah Ann Schroeder, one of the founding members of St. Raymond Catholic Church and a resident of Downey for 56 years, has died, on Nov. 26 in Norwalk. She was 91.

She was born June 22, 1913 in Tahona, Oklahoma to parents Andrew and Anne Crilly McGarry and resided in the family home in Downey that her husband, Albert Schroeder, built. She lived next to her sister-in-law, Alma, for many years.

In her earlier years she enjoyed playing basketball and held all the basketball records at St. Joseph High School in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Later in life, she enjoyed playing cribbage, crossword puzzles, going to Las Vegas and playing an active role in demonstrating her Catholic faith.

She is survived by daughter Ann Schroeder of Viola, Arkansas; sons Patrick (Kara) of Snowflake, Arizona, Joseph (Karen) Schroeder of Laguna Hills and John (Sherri) Schroeder of Yorba Linda; and brother Andrew McGarry of Seattle, Washington. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Albert; sister Mary Cox; and brothers Michael and Patrick McGarry.

A funeral mass was held in her honor at St. Raymond Dec. 1, followed by interment at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach.

The family requested that donations be made to St. Raymond's Catholic School, at 12348 S. Paramount, Downey 90241 for their scholarship fund.

'Shabbat Vayigash' at Temple Dec. 17

DOWNEY—Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., will hold a family night service, Shabbat Vayigash, Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m., to which the community is welcome. Services are conducted by Cantor Kenneth Jaffe, the Temple's Spiritual Leader.

An Oneg which includes delicious refreshments provided by the Sisterhood will be enjoyed after services. Temple Ner Tamid is a Reform Congregation. For more information, call the Temple office, 861-9276.

Downey High food drive a big success

DOWNEY—Last year, Downey High School collected over 9,000 food items during its annual food drive. This year, they did even better. A lot better.

Setting the school-wide goal at 10,000 items, the Associated Student Body (ASB) quickly eclipsed that number, collecting over 26,000 donations during the drive, which ran from Nov. 1-18. The students reached their goal of 10,000 within the first week alone.

As an incentive to the students, Principal Allen Layne agreed to eat "mystery meat" at a school rally on campus today, Dec. 10.

Legislative committee meets

DOWNEY—The Legislative Advocacy Committee of the Downey Chamber of Commerce meets the third Thursday of every month at 12noon in the boardroom of the Chamber, 11131 Brookshire Ave. For information call 923-2191.

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DMOA fashion show today at Rio Hondo

DOWNEY—The Downey Museum of Art will hold its annual Fashion Show and Luncheon at the new Rio Hondo Country Club, 10627 Old River School Road, today, Dec. 10, with the delightful Marsha Moode again doing the announcing.

Social is at 11 a.m., and luncheon starts at 11:30.

Fashions are provided by Draper's and Damon's. A silent auction and a prize drawing are part of the program, to add to the fun. Proceeds from the popular event support the Museum's programs and operations.

Tickets are \$30 per person. For more information, contact Kate Davies at DMOA, (562) 861-0419.

Auto tech program gets the gift of tools

NORWALK — Cerritos College's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology received a tool storage unit worth more than \$1,000 from Matco Tools Nov. 23. Cerritos College was chosen to receive the gift after instructor Jon Bender's name was selected in a drawing for the prize.

Matco representative Brian Stranahan visited the campus to deliver the 350-pound storage unit. Bender, along with Tony Baron, teaches in the Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET) program.

"We make a point of providing premiere auto schools in the area with expert tools that enable them to perform their best," said Stranahan. He went on to say that Matco gives students a 52-percent discount on tools, which allows students to collect high-grade equipment that they'll use for the extent of their career.

Cerritos College has offered automotive technology training since the college opened in 1955. The program consists of certificates, degrees and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and hybrids, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the U.S.

The Cerritos College Center for Advanced Transportation Technology consists of 150,000 square-foot facilities that provide students with hands-on nationally authorized training for GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler vehicles, as well as imports. The program also operates a California Advanced Transportation Technology Center that is partially subsidized by the state to encourage development of alternative fuel sources.

In addition, Cerritos College partners with Cerritos Auto Square, which trains and employs technicians and dealer managers.

New Year's Eve party at Nordic Fox

DOWNEY — Nordic Fox is hosting their second annual New Year Eve's party, beginning Dec. 31 at 9 p.m.

For reservations call 869-1414.



MARIA LARKIN—Longtime real estate professional, has joined Re/Max Online as their sales trainer.

Larkin joins team at Re/Max Online

DOWNEY—Re/Max Online has welcomed longtime real estate expert, Maria Larkin, to its staff as their sales trainer. Larkin, who has owned and operated various real estate offices of her own, will be teaching training courses for Re/Max Online agents.

A virtual cornerstone of the real estate industry in Southern California for nearly 30 years, Larkin received her broker's license in 1975 and has since helped to shape the field. Currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Downey Association of Realtors, she has also served as President in 1982, 1985 and 2000. She currently serves as a Director of the California Association of Realtors and as the 2004 Regional Chair of Region 22.

Top Re/Max Online agent Maria Elena Aguirre assures that "(Larkin) will truly be an asset because of her experience, and both new agents as well as seasoned ones can definitely prosper from her courses."

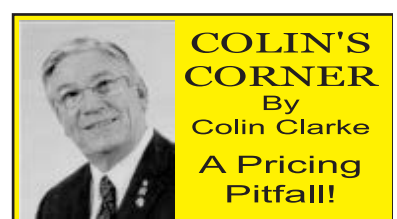


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 By Colin Clarke
A Pricing Pitfall!

Ready to sell, but confused about pricing? No matter what you hear elsewhere, pay close attention to any advice that a real estate professional offers. Remember that the agent doesn't set the price - you do. Make sure you understand all the facts before making your decision.

Would you think a home that sells in just a few days was probably underpriced? You'd be wrong - obviously, the home was perfectly priced! If the sellers - and the buyers - did their homework, they probably found out exactly what other homes in the area listed for, sold for, and didn't sell for. Homes priced at "fair market value" stand a great chance for an early sale.

If you begin by asking for more than the home is worth, you'll be cheating yourself out of consideration by serious, qualified buyers who know better. You'll get less interest, less offers, lower offers, or even worse - you could accept an offer that will be later withdrawn when the lender discovers that the appraised value came lower than the asking price.

The real proof that a quick sale wasn't priced too low is the homes in the neighborhood that haven't sold yet or have "expired." Ask the agent for those prices and then you'll understand how pricing correctly from the get-go results in a full price sale in

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JOHNNY CARRERA—Is one of the new members joining Century 21 My Real Estate Company in Downey. He has been the successful owner of J.C. Manufacturing for over 23 years. Carrera completed a specialized business course at UCLA and is currently in his last semester at CSU-Dominguez Hills preparing to graduate with a B.A. in psychology. To reach him for any real estate needs, call 927-2626.

Downey TOPS seeking new members

DOWNEY — Downey Chapter #63 of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international organization that aims at helping men and women to have happier lifestyles by improving eating habits, is seeking new members. The club says it's there to "help you reach your idea weight sensibly — no gimmicks, no harsh diets or exercises — just lots of support, motivation and fun."

Their meetings are held Mondays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 Third St. in Downey. For more information, call Lou at 861-9425.

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Soroptimists announce new award

DOWNEY — The deadline is Dec. 14 for two new awards that recognize community involvement.

Soroptimist International of Downey has announced that they will soon begin awarding two \$250 awards to young women between the ages of 14-17 who are active in volunteerism in their school or community.

The Violet Richardson Award recognizes young women who improve their community through volunteer efforts such as fighting drugs, crime and violence, cleaning up the environment, and working to end discrimination and poverty. Actions that benefit women are of particular interest. Violet Richardson was the president of the first Soroptimist Club in 1921. She believed in personal responsibility and in her motto: "It's what you do that counts."

Downey Soroptimists are accepting applications for the award, which may be obtained at the counseling offices of each of the Downey High Schools. Applications are due by Dec. 15 and may be sent to Downey Soroptimist Club, P.O. Box 365, Downey, CA 90241.

Emergency Preparedness for Downey

DOWNEY — The Emergency Preparedness Committee for the City of Downey meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Barbara Riley Community Center, 7810 Quill Drive. For information call City Hall at 869-7331.

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WARM SPIRITS — The offices of Re/Max Online are holding their first annual clothes and blanket drive through Dec. 17. They are accepting new and out-of-the-closet blankets, sweaters, socks and other clothing for donation to the Los Angeles Mission on Dec. 18. Donations may be turned in to any of Re/Max's three offices: 9216 Lakewood Blvd., 9027 Gallatin Rd. and 12070 Telegraph Rd. in Santa Fe Springs.

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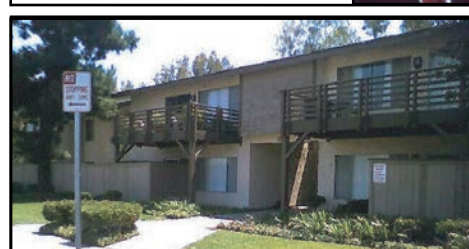
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