



The Downey Patriot

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Friday, March 18, 2005

Vol. 3, No. 47

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

Chief's report on Downey crime

By John Adams

DOWNEY—Chief of Police John Finch has released his Annual Report for the calendar year 2004, with violent crime showing another drop.

Of the seven crime categories used in measuring crime in the community, increases were noted in two: Robberies were up by 10 percent and Theft up 16 percent. But decreases were reported in five categories: Rape down 17 percent, Aggravated Assault down by 25 percent, Burglary down 7 percent, Vehicle Thefts down 6 percent, and Homicide—for the first time since 1967 (and only the second time in the Department's 46 year history) there were no Homicides here.

Viewed from a different angle property crime increased by 5.1 percent, while violent crime decreased by 10.2 percent, when compared to the previous year.

The Chief's report notes:

"To further our continued commitment to provide a high level of professional police service and to safeguard the Department's integrity, the Professional Standards Unit reviewed every incident where officers used force to ensure policy compliance and that appropriate procedures were utilized. Internal audits of our Property Room and Mobile Digital Computer transmissions were initiated, as well as data analysis of our officer-involved traffic collisions and holiday season residential burglaries.

At year's end, the Professional Standards Unit noted the following accomplishments.

*No force was used in 99 percent of our more than 4,200 arrests. This was achieved despite arrests in 2004 increasing 26 percent over last year.

*Tasers were used in 24 percent of the incidents where officers were compelled to use force and have proven to be an effective tool in apprehending combative suspects. To ensure that these devices were being used responsibly, the Professional Standards Unit critiqued each incident where the Taser was used and revised our Taser deployment policy to clarify the parameters for its use.

*Thirty-one of the 50 uses of force resulted in training recommendations being made by the Professional Standards Unit. These were focused on reducing liability, increasing effectiveness, and keeping officers and the community out of harm's way.

*An officer-involved traffic collision audit and associated PowerPoint presentation completed in 2003 were updated to reflect the latest statistics, causes and trends. Supervisors then used this information to emphasize safe driving with their employees in an effort to mitigate future occurrences, injuries and liability.

Firing Range

Meanwhile, the Department's Range Program continues to provide police personnel with the most comprehensive training available, with focus on the importance of threat assessment during carefully designed real-life scenarios, and using a wide variety of training modes constructed by the Department's 10 state-certified Range Instructors.

Among training methods introduced were nighttime range instruction, FATS (Firearms Training Simulator) instruction using the latest in video interactive training, and simulations in which officers work through a host of role-playing exercises with paintball cartridges if needed.

The continuous instruction included MP-5 and AR-15 range training

See **CRIME**, page 7

Arc walk sets new attendance record

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The great benefit Downey Arc Walk for Independence drew nearly 2,000 participants and spectators to the Stonewood Center next to the Acapulco Restaurant Saturday, March 12.

They were kept tapping their toes and turning their heads to the music of a marching band, as well as jugglers, and a variety of clowns who come out each year to make sure the event is a success.

Largest turnout yet...

This marked the largest turn-out thus far in this growing event which supports the Arc (formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens), which operates a large warehouse and educational facility in Downey at 12049 Woodruff Ave. The Arc training includes practical education for jobs and independent living skills for more than 400 developmentally challenged individuals.

Emcee Palmer

The throng was entertained by emcee Philip Palmer of ABC-TV Channel 7, along with major patron County Supervisor Don Knabe. They were joined on the podium by representatives of a large cast of major contributors including the Acapulco Restaurant; CareMore Medical; CPA #1 International Carol Pearce; the Haire Scott Family; Downey Kiwanis; the Farmer and Merchants Bank; Raul Lopez Insurance; the Rotary Club of Downey; Century 21 My Real Estate; Gary and Betty Morse; Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle Attorneys; Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis; Kaiser Foundation; and the Wells Fargo Bank.

Music was provided by the Warren High School Marching Band accompanied by Flag Bearers and Cheer Leaders who came out for this very special 8 a.m. event.



AND THEY'RE OFF—The first of nearly 2,000 participants jog through the giant balloon arch marking the start of the Arc Walk for Independence which was Saturday, March 12 at Stonewood Center.



CHEERLEADERS DO THEIR THING—These cheerleaders showed some spirit during the time prior to the start of the Arc Walk for Independence Saturday at Stonewood.



A SPECIAL CLOWN—This special clown added a colorful touch at the Arc Walk for Independence Saturday, March 12 at Stonewood Center.



COUNCILMAN MEREDITH PERKINS—Listens attentively to two clowns who have plenty to say at the Arc Walk for Independence Saturday at Stonewood Center.

Board applauds Downey victors

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The Board of the Downey Unified School District recognized the Downey High School Girls Varsity Water Polo Team which recently won the CIF Southern Section Division VI Championship.

The action was at Tuesday's regular Board meeting.

The young women who make up Downey's Championship team lined the wall of the Board Chamber Tuesday, as each was individually introduced by retiring Downey High Principal Allen Layne.

All the school board members congratulated the members of the team, but the Board's William Gutierrez was particularly proud, and actually attended the championship game two weeks ago.

In other action the School Board heard a performance by the students of Williams Elementary under the direction of Susan Breit, Claudia Loera and Rubina Toriz. Board President Barbara Samperi thanked the youngsters for sharing their songs.

Tallo and Garcia

The Board also honored Jim Tallo and James Garcia, who were recognized for their outstanding contributions toward improving the facilities in the District. They were presented to the Board by their boss, Buck Weinfurter, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation.

Tallo and Garcia introduced their wives and family members.

In other action the Board:

*Received the administrative 2nd period Interim Financial Report that stated that as of Jan. 31, 2005 the District can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*Accepted gifts to the District from the private sector including a cash donation of \$5,000 for field trips at Alameda School from the Alameda PTA; a cash donation of \$1,000 to be used for programs at Imperial

See **SCHOOLS**, page 7



THE GIRLS WATER POLO CIF CHAMPS—Share their recent triumph with Allen Layne, Principal of Downey High School, and Coach Sean Stewart. The team received plaudits from the Downey Unified School District board and administrators at the last board meeting. The girls finished the season 24-7-1.

DRMC responds to council comments

By Eric Pierce

DOWNEY – Officials at Downey Regional Medical Center responded this week to reports that the hospital is eight months late in submitting copies of its audit for fiscal year 2004 to the city, a violation of the terms of the hospital's lease from the city.

"Every year, the hospital's financial statements are audited by an independent, outside accounting firm, who then must certify the statements as being accurate and complete," said DRMC CEO Allen Korneff, who cited several reasons for the report's delay. "This past year, we brought in a new auditor, KPMG, which caused some lag time as they became familiar with our operations. In addition, the auditing methodology used for the FY2004 audit changed, with the DRMC Finance Department now performing many functions previously done by the audit firms. Tracking and providing this data, using new computation formulas, has also slowed the report."

City councilman Meredith Perkins, at last week's council meeting, said that numerous letters to the hospital have gone unanswered. He also threatened legal action to force DRMC to provide the reports.

Korneff assured that the report will be submitted to the city within 'the next few weeks.'

"We deeply regret the delays and understand the concerns voiced," he said. "We are, however, pleased that KPMG has been extremely thorough and deliberate to ensure the accuracy of the financial statements. We are communicating with the City and doing all we can to rectify the delay while ensuring complete accuracy."

Korneff also addressed comments by Perkins that the hospital is losing \$1 million a month.

See **HOSPITAL**, page 7

Chamber paper gets honorable mention

DOWNEY—The Downey Chamber of Commerce, in competition with other Chambers of Commerce comprising the Western region, was recently awarded Honorable Mention for their *Downey Business* publication. Over 100 entries were received from as many chambers of commerce representing the states of California, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

The Honorable Mention plaque is on display at the Chamber office.

Federal Employees club celebrates 50th

DOWNEY – The Southeast Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will celebrate its 50th anniversary March 23 at the Downey Woman's Club, 9813 Paramount Blvd. A catered lunch with choice of three entrees will be offered.

Georgie Bardwil, District 2 vice president, will serve as host and door prizes and entertainment will be featured.

Retired and active federal employees are invited to the celebration, which begins at noon. Cost is \$10 plus a "small donation." Call Una Lord at (323) 566-3345 for reservations.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) is an organization that works to support and protect the federal employee benefit programs for active employees, retirees and their survivors.

Last symphonic event of season

DOWNEY—In an eclectic program that includes music by Johannes Brahms, Johann Strauss Jr., and Morton Gould, the Downey Symphony will present its final concert of the season on Saturday evening, April 2nd in the Downey Civic Theater. Conductor Thomas Osborn's preview discussion will begin at 7:15 p.m., and will be free to all ticketholders in attendance.

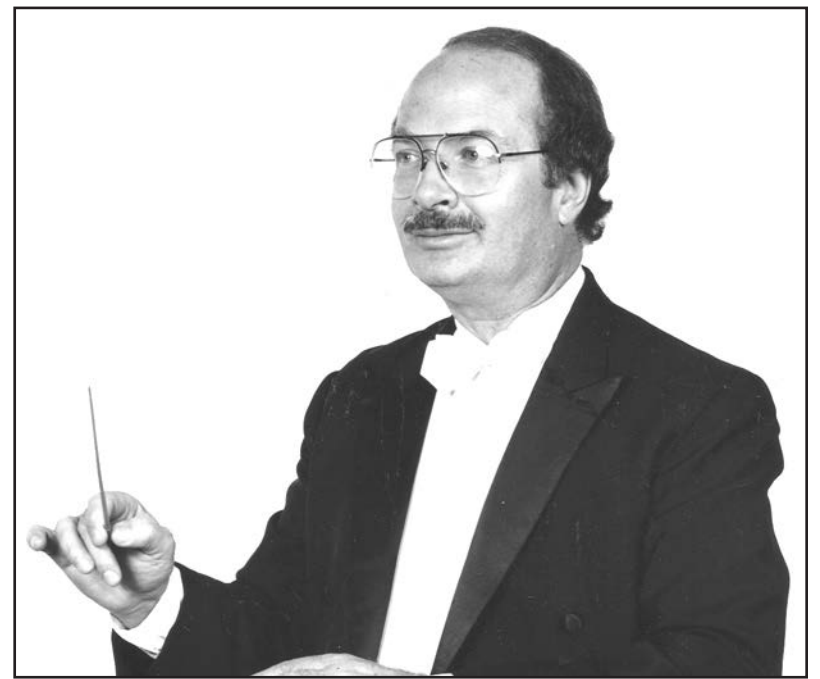
The music will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

The soloist for this evening of "Symphonic Dances" will be John Engstrom, who will perform Morton Gould's Concerto for Tap Dancer and Orchestra. Engstrom has made previous appearances in Downey as dancer and choreographer for the Downey Civic Light Opera Co. musicals, but this will be the first local audiences have seen him supported by a full symphony orchestra.

Also featured will be Jasmin Jackson, winner of last year's Baton Auction, conducting the St. Louis Blues March.

Downey's Civic Theater is located at 8435 Firestone Blvd., at the corner of Brookshire.

Tickets are priced from \$10 to \$25, and are available at the theater box office on Wednesday, March 30, between noon and 4 p.m., or the evening of the performance. Tickets may be reserved by calling the symphony office at (562) 403-2944.



CONDUCTOR THOMAS OSBORN—Will direct the Downey Symphony in an evening of classical dance April 2 here.

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2003 WARREN HIGH SCHOOL GRAD—Ramon Armijo IV, son of Elena Orozco of Downey, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and is now a bona fide Air Force Airman.



AIR FORCE AIRMAN—Quiahannah R. Cooks, niece of Downey resident Valerie Blakely and a 2003 graduate of David Starr Jordan High School in Long Beach, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Lajuana White of Huntington Beach.

Warren grad sets school steals record

DOWNEY – Julian Assibey, a Warren High School graduate, recently finished his basketball career at William Penn University in Iowa as the school's all-time steals leader with 146.

Assibey led the team with 61 steals this year, as the Statesmen went 20-15 before being bounced in the Midwest Classic Conference Tournament Finals.

A 5'9" guard, Assibey started 20 of 35 games this season.

Downey Lacrosse travels to Brentwood

DOWNEY – The Downey Lacrosse Club travels to Brentwood tomorrow, March 19, for an afternoon game before taking a near month-long break from competition.

The club won't play again until April 11, when it hosts New Community Jewish High School at Downey High School.

Purim and Shabbat Tzav services

DOWNEY—Temple Ner Tamid of Downey, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., will hold a Purim Service Thursday, March 24 as the congregation begins celebrating the Purim Holiday at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Tzav Services are scheduled the following evening at 7:30 p.m. Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people in Persia in the fifth century B.C.E.

The community is welcome to attend the services. For information, call the Temple Office at 861-9276.

Diabetes Health Fair at hospital March 19

DOWNEY – The Diabetes Institute at Downey Regional Medical Center will present its annual Diabetes Health Fair for the community March 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in its conference rooms at 11500 Brookshire Ave.

Visitors will be able to receive free glucose screenings, visit informational booths staffed by pharmaceutical and foot care companies and hear presentations on diabetes-related topics. Endocrinologist Dr. David Berger, Ophthalmologist Dr. Brian Brown and Podiatrist Dr. Douglas McClure will speak and answer questions.

"Experts estimate that 18.2 million Americans have diabetes, yet one person in three does not even know it," said Elsa Saucedo, R.N., certified diabetes educator. "At this health fair, we want to educate people on how to prevent diabetes, identify those who may already have this disease and provide resources for diabetics and their families."

For more information on the Diabetes Health Fair, diabetes education classes or support group, call 905-5580.

Downey Dolphins host metro area swim meet

DOWNEY—The Downey Dolphins Swim Team plays host to the 2005 Metro Section Spring Championships Meet today thru Sunday, March 18-20, at the Downey Community Aquatics Center, located on the campus of Downey High School on Brookshire Ave. Children ages 5-18 will be participating.

The community is invited to the event, as there will be "great food, great people and great awards" to involve the entire family.

Participating teams are competing in three divisions in freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, individual medley and team relay events.

Rancho's Amistad 2005 gala April 23

DOWNEY—Rancho Los Amigos' "Amistad 2005 Gala," set for Saturday, April 23 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel, will honor James C. Hankla, L.A. Care Health Plan, and Meg Mitani Moss, OTR/L. The event benefits the patients of Rancho through the work of the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation.

Spay/neuter clinic at animal shelter

DOWNEY – Dogs and cats can be spayed and neutered for free Sunday, March 20, at the L.A. County Animal Shelter in Downey, 11258 Garfield Ave. Appointments are necessary and may be scheduled by calling (310) 474-8172.

"Unaltered animals can produce thousands of offspring in a short seven-year life span," said Francis Battista of Best Friends Animal Society, which is hosting the clinic. "The problem is growing exponentially and the outcome is the current pet overpopulation crisis. By spaying or neutering your pet, you are playing an active role in ending the killing of domestic animals."

Pet adoptions are also available by visiting the visiting the South East Area Animal Control Authority at 9777 Seeca St., in Downey.



GOOD PRESIDENT—And Downey Councilman Dave Gafin, center, recently received a \$7,500 donation from CareMore Medical Enterprises founder/chairman/author Sheldon Zinberg, M.D., right, in support of GOOD's (Gangs Out Of Downey) goal to combat the influence of gangs and drugs in Downey. CareMore became the largest Platinum Sponsor for the upcoming annual GOOD luncheon April 13. Newly-appointed CareMore CEO Kenneth K. Westbrook is at left.

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The plot at Bosco

By John Adams

After the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999 they said it couldn't happen here. But the sound of an alleged plot which was being methodically acted out by two young students at St. John Bosco High School in nearby Bellflower was real enough to get the police and FBI's attention.

The two 16-year-olds were arrested March 7 and are scheduled for a pre-trial hearing March 24. They are being held in Los Padrinos juvenile facility in Downey. The two pled not guilty March 10. Their names are withheld since they are both minors.

Sheriff's spokesmen told the press that the alleged plot came to light after the two discussed the scheme with friends, and word of it spread. Eventually it reached the ears of a school counselor.

When it became known to authorities that it had reached the extent of certain actions such as the drawing of maps with the location where bombs could be set off, and a shopping trip to look at shotguns, authorities decided it was time to intervene.

The plot was uncomfortably close to that at Columbine where 13 were fatally shot and 23 wounded in 1999.

It is up to the court to decide what is to be done in terms of the penalty and what real crimes have been committed in the alleged incident here. They are charged with conspiracy.

But the very consideration of hatching such a plot here is sufficient cause for worry.

Both of the young men live in Downey.

What can be done to ensure that copycat plots don't continue to pop up locally?

Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), will hold its annual luncheon Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Country Club. It will be sold out, but perhaps a call to Stan Hanstad, Assistant Superintendent of the Downey Unified School District at (562) 469-6541 or Harry Montanez, Vice President of the Downey Federal Credit Union at (562) 862-8141, will inform you of how to help GOOD through contributions or action.

GOOD's goal is to help at-risk students resist the lure of gangs and drugs and to remain in school. It has proven effective in the past. GOOD, since its formation in 1989, has repeatedly contributed funds to the Downey Police, the 10-20 Club (a community outreach youth group), and the Cops on Campus effort. Bellflower and St. John Bosco are not a part of the Downey Unified School District, but the school is right next door and these kids come from homes in Downey. One parent told the press that families pay a lot of hard-earned money to attend a private school, and this is not what they expect to get in return.

This is true, of course, but it takes more than money in this struggle. It takes eternal attention and vigilance.

Board impressed by drama productions

By John Adams

DOWNEY—Downey's School Board may have attended East Middle School's production of "Death By Chocolate," on different evenings but they came away equally impressed with the young actors who produced this outstanding stage work.

School Board President Barbara Samperi was first to say how impressive she found the play to be, and she was joined by the Board's Betty Ferraro, Cheryl Andresen and Tod Corrin.

The comments were expressed at Tuesday's regular Board meeting.

Concerts

Corrin added he had attended recent band concerts by the high schools and middle schools and said these too had been extremely high in quality. Samperi then said she had been impressed by Tuesday morning's recognition breakfast celebration at Warren High school of students with 3.0 average gradepoints or above.

The Board's Vice President, Donald La Plante, declined to comment, saying he would just be repeating his already harshly voiced views on the Governor's inability to force a budget from the state legislature.

Read-ins

Ferraro, Samperi, Andresen and Corrin had all attended a recent read-in at Gauldin School, and Corrin also attended a read-in at Price. Ferraro noted the fine library at Gauldin. And she added special congratulations to Kent Halbmaier who was recently named the California School Administrator of the Year.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Let your views be known

Dear Editor:

As citizens of a country that proclaims on the Statue of Liberty that America "wants our tired, our poor, (sic) etc.," we as a nation are committed to social justice and the common good. We as a nation understand that budgets are moral documents that affect us all. Apparently, Congress doesn't understand this.

The House and Senate Budget Committees approved budgets last week that make dramatic cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, and countless other low-income programs while extending tax cuts and (unbelievably) proposing new ones for the wealthiest Americans. This week, the budgets will be discussed and voted on by the full House and Senate, with all members of Congress being able to participate.

It is necessary that we call our Representatives and state clearly our view of this proposed budget (whatever that view may be). I spoke with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's office this week and I can tell you what the deputy told me: that the Congresswoman wants to hear from her constituents on this and other matters. Every phone call, e-mail and fax gets documented and sent to Washington. You may think that your voice doesn't matter, but it does. Please call her at (213) 628-9230.

—Marie Augimeri,
Downey

Open letter to City Council

Dear City Councilmembers:

I would like to request that the Downey City Council enlarge the recently named commission to include a member of the Aerospace Legacy Foundation. Many letters, phone calls, and e-mails have been sent to you asking for this to happen. So far these requests have been ignored. The City Manager has said that this is a fund raising commission. A member from the ALF would be a great addition to it. They have many contacts in the community through talks given to local service organizations, former employees from the site, and thousands of contacts in the aerospace community. The fund raising potential from the ALF is tremendous.

The ALF does not object to being relegated to being docents in the new Learning Center/Space Museum, but they would like to be a part of the first step in its development too. As a group you should be responsive to the wishes of the people of Downey, and add a member of the ALF to this commission.

—Cleo Latimer,
Downey

Conservation Corps job openings

NORWALK—The California Conservation Corps has job openings in Norwalk and throughout the state—young people will have a chance to learn more about the corps member positions March 28-31.

To fill the openings for the full-time CCC positions, orientation sessions are scheduled in Norwalk March 28 through March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Corps staff will be on hand at the CCC's Norwalk Center on the grounds of Metropolitan State Hospital, 11401 Bloomfield Ave. Those attending should enter the hospital grounds from the Bloomfield Avenue entrance and follow the signs to Building 204. Parents are welcome to attend.

Applicants must be between 18 and 25 years of age, California residents and not on probation or parole. Women are encouraged to apply. Those attending the orientation session should bring a photo ID and either a Social Security card or birth certificate.

Positions are available on the Norwalk CCC crews, allowing corps members to live at home and commute to work. Applicants may also choose to live at a residential center in Northern California such as the corps facility near Lake Tahoe.

Training, job skills, outdoor work, career direction and more...all is part of the CCC. Corps members work each day on a variety of natural resource projects; they may also be dispatched to floods, fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters. In addition, the CCC assists young people in earning their high school diplomas.

To learn more about the CCC, drop by one of the Norwalk orientation sessions March 28-31 or make an appointment by calling (562) 651-5502, or call up the web at www.ccc.ca.gov.



WARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Mrs. Roxann Davis is praised by Downey parent for her positive impact on children at the school.

Ward principal appreciated

Dear Editor:

I just want to share with the Downey community the good work the principal of Ward Elementary School, Mrs. Roxann Davis, is doing at the school, where my son Fabian R. Merino is a 3rd grader.

In the eyes of a child, the person besides their parents to make an impact in their lives is a teacher or principal. They go out of their way to take care of our children in their school years. A principal treats everyone of his/her students like their own. Mrs. Davis has always been there for us parents, concerned and dedicated to our children's welfare. Thank you, Mrs. Davis.

—Mrs. Merino,
Downey

The Downey Patriot



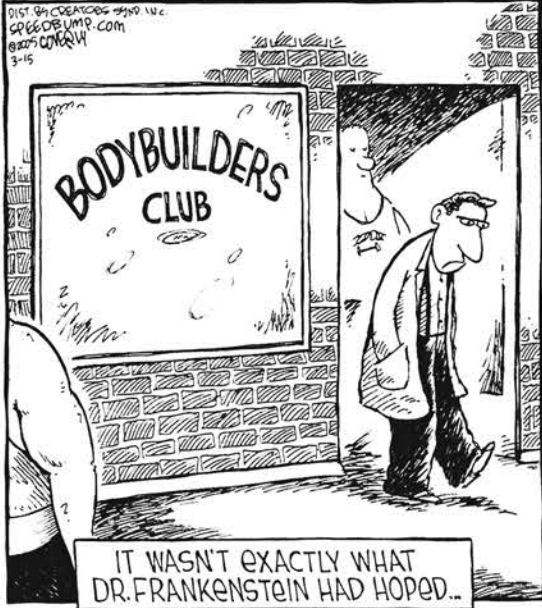
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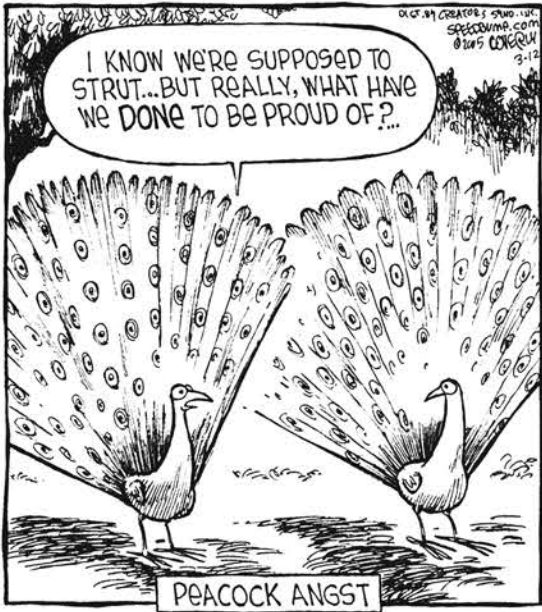


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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

Sat. Mar. 19, 9:00 a.m.: **City of Downey Spring Boutique** by Community Services Department at Barbara Riley Community Center, 7810 Quill Dr. For information call 904-7223.
Tues. Mar. 22, 7:30 p.m.: **"Five Principles of Fulfillment"** with guest speaker Ryan Blair at Rise N' Shine Networking of the Downey Chamber of Commerce at Nordic Fox Restaurant, 10924 Paramount Blvd. For information call 923-2191.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
1st Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, at Riley Center. Call Lois Buchanan 927-9790.
1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: Traffic Committee, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.: City Council/Community Development Commission, Council Chamber.
2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Design Review Board, Council Chamber at City Hall.
3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: Parking Place Commission, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
6:30 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous, at Downey Med. Center Conf. Room A, for information call 426-6786.
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: 2nd Century Foundation, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: Downey Bocce Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Perry Michienzi at 869-8782.
9:30 a.m.: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Dorothy Paricek at 927-5437.
9:30 a.m.: Adventure with the Bible, at the First Baptist Church Call 928-4153.
12 p.m.: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo, for information call Doug Baker at (714) 229-2266.
6 p.m.: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Rm. 115, 8348 E. 3rd st.
7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
7 p.m.: Boy Scout Troop 441, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
7:30 p.m.: Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
1st and 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.: Quota International Southeast Cities, for information call (323) 569-2854.
2nd Tues., 8:30 a.m.: Women's Agape, at Los Amigos Country Club, for information call (562) 622-3785.
2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers, at Nordic Fox. for info. call (562) 923-2191.
2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: Sertoma Club, at the Nordic Fox. for information call (562) 927-6438.
2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: Writer's Workshop West, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106.
3rd Tues., 1:30 p.m.: Huff and Puff Respiratory, at DRMC Support Group, call 904-5355.
Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: Los Companeros Service Club, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

1 p.m.: Women's Bocce Club, for information call 869-8782.
6 p.m.: Downey Space Toastmasters Club 513, at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, for info. call Mark at 803-5203.
1st Weds., 10 a.m.: Woman's Club of Downey, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493.
1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, for information call 927-9790.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Emblem Club #309, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
2nd Weds., 7 p.m.: Downey Jr. Chamber of Commerce, for information call 867-1087.
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Sister Cities Ass'n, at Maude Price School, Call 869-5444.
2nd Weds., 11:45 - Downey Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: Diabetes Support Group, at DRMC, for more information call 622-2088.
Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
9 a.m.: Senior Californians of Downey, (a social activities club for senior citizens), for information call 803-6887.
12 p.m.: Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee, for information call 928-4153.
12 p.m.: Optimist Club of Downey, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 806-3701.
12:30 p.m.: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at United Methodist Church, call (626) 965-9991.
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 803-4571.
4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOURS
CALL THE
DOWNEY FAMILY YMCA
(562) 862-4201

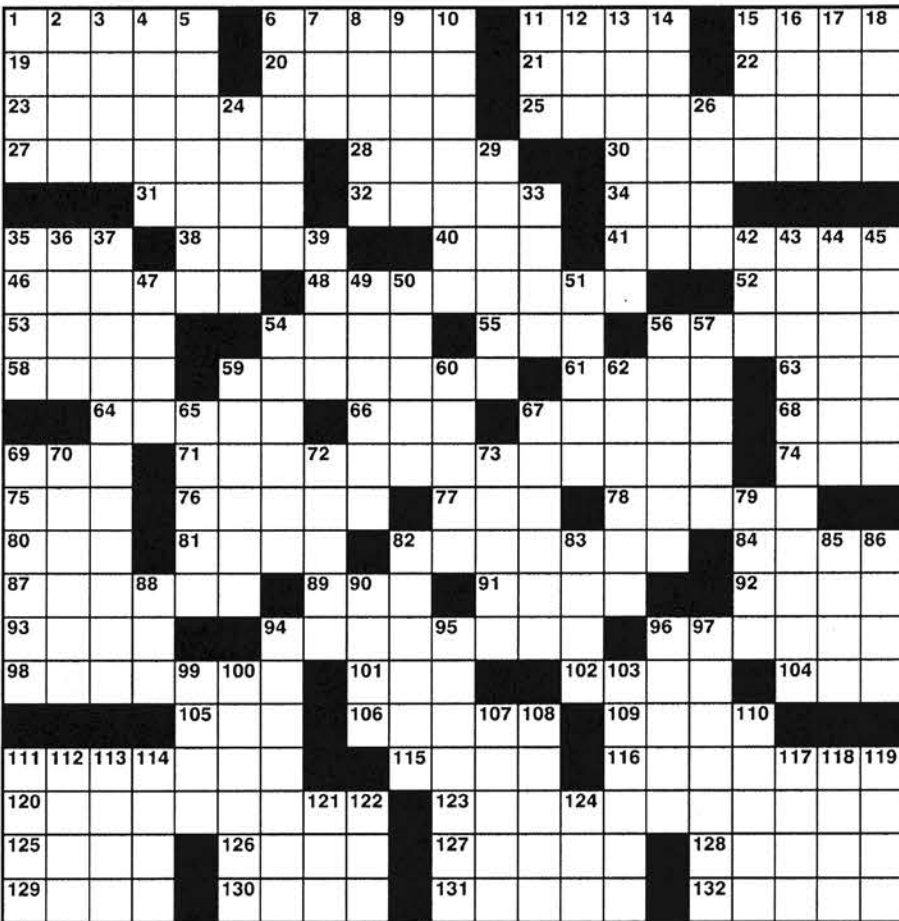
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
PSEUDO PIG LATIN: They only sound like it
 by S.N. and Paul Grumback

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| 85 Verdi heroine | 103 Big bag | 121 Expert |
| 86 First husband | 107 Resign | 122 Talk too much |
| | 108 Take care of | 124 Gun the engine |

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.

David Small (32 Across) is the title character in the "Rabbit" mystery novels of Harry Kemelman. The quote at 91 Across is from a theme based on their sounding like Pig Latin, where words start with a vowel and end with a long "A" sound.

BASE SCARF HAIR GALS
 WAXES PANELS OR FLOTTA
 ELECTRIC NOTLORIAL
 DISMISSAL ELBA DISIA
 OTOGNO NUNILAVANE
 CFFA LITILAVANE
 OENOLEISREARHREAV
 NEMENENHENSOSPO
 MARKNOWERINIH
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CRIME

conducted outdoors to afford realistic environmental challenges including weather and times of day.

Neighborhood Preservation

Neighborhood Preservation strives to address the needs of identified neighborhoods through bridge-building between various City departments and residents. Community meetings serve to improve the quality of life in designated "preservation areas." Neighborhood Preservation also helps coordinate inspection sweeps to address property maintenance and building code violations. In conjunction the Department performs outreach to property owners and managers providing education and help where needed. Community Cleanup Days are conducted with volunteers to remove blighting influences. A team of police officers is assigned to each preservation area, and work closely with residents.

Early in 2004 committees were formed to address crime trends in auto, theft, burglary and robbery. These were chaired by detective sergeants and consisted of patrol officers and detectives. They researched recent trends and made recommendations for combating crime types, and emphasized a wide range of options including educating of personnel and the public, enforcement and staffing.

Burglary analysis

Residential burglaries that occurred between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 of 2003 were analyzed to determine when the majority were perpetrated. The analysis results were shared with patrol personnel to increase awareness of this grinch-type criminal behavior. A 17 percent reduction in residential burglaries was achieved compared to the previous year.

Detective Division

The Detective Division prepared two fliers on crime prevention measures. The first was for auto thefts and the second dealt with fraud schemes used on the elderly.

The Forensics Unit processes crime scenes for evidence using photography, videotapes and fingerprints. All unknown fingerprints are entered into the Automated fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). Last year, 198 positive identifications were made using AFIS, and the unit responded to 1,950 calls for service.

In the 2003 annual report the arrest of a suspect in a 1994 triple homicide, based on DNA evidence was reported. In Aug. 2004 the suspect pled guilty to three counts of homicide and was sentenced to life. Further investigation led to the discovery that three bodies listed as Jane Does had been discovered in the Nevada desert in the mid-1990s. DNA resulted in the remains being identified, bringing the case to closure.

In February 2004, the Gang Unit which was deactivated in 2003 was re-activated. Two investigators are working full-time on gang-related matters.

The Special Enforcement team processed 143 prospective employee applicants, a 38 percent increase from last year. It also conducted nearly 149 alcohol and tobacco compliance checks.

9-1-1 calls

The Communications Center answered more than 30,394 9-1-1 calls, of which 98 percent were answered in under 16 seconds.

Federal and state grant money continues to decline. These include the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program which has been reduced by one-half. And funding will be reduced by 25 percent more in the next year's budget. And the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant which has been used to fund the School Police Officer Program now can only supply about 15 percent of the needed funding. The rest comes from the police budget, the Downey Unified School District and Gangs Out Of Downey.

HOSPITAL

"Everyone at the hospital is working diligently to bring us into the black," Korneff said. "However, cost pressures on hospitals are very real, as evidenced by half of the state's hospitals losing money. At our hospital, at least half of this figure can be traced to our making 911 services available as a community benefit. The government has abandoned their funding responsibility and as a result we are incurring great losses for this service."

Korneff also maintained that the hospital treats a growing number of uninsured patients - made worse by the recent closure of trauma services at Drew King Medical Center - while dealing with a statewide nursing shortage.

Last October, DRMC canceled its Medi-Cal contract with the state, after the hospital reported losses of nearly \$7 million in 2003 in providing care to patients who carry Medi-Cal. While county hospitals were receiving \$2,200 per patient per day, DRMC says it received just \$850, a rate that failed to cover the basic costs of Medi-Cal care.

"We continue talking with the county and state, but so far they are unable to meet our costs," Korneff said.

DRMC also announced this week that Tim Kares has resigned as Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer. Bruce Browne, a financial consultant with William Casey & Associates, will assume his duties, which includes completing last year's audit and developing the budget for fiscal year ending 2006.

"The DRMC Board of Directors and management take very seriously the need to be fiscally sound and responsible," said Korneff. "The community needs this hospital and we intend to continue providing our residents with high quality medical care for many years to come."

Author Luis Rodriguez speaks April 13

DOWNEY—Award-winning author Luis J. Rodriguez will speak and sign books at a National Library Week presentation sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library on Wednesday, April 13 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, 7810 Quill Dr. One of the leading Latino writers in the country, Rodriguez has written 9 books, including "Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.," which won the Carl Sandburg Literary Award.

Waldenbooks of Downey will provide copies of his books for purchase and signing at this event. Free tickets are available from the Adult Information desk at the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave. For information, call 904-7360, ext. 3.

Waste roundup tomorrow in Pico Rivera

PICO RIVERA—County residents are invited to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste and e-waste at a free hazardous waste roundup in Pico Rivera at the Southern California Gas Co., 8101 S. Rosemead Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Household hazardous wastes including motor oil, paint, turpentine, acid or lye-based cleaners, household and car batteries, pesticides and herbicides which may be brought for free disposal, as well as e-waste which includes computer monitors and TV sets, VCRs, fax machines, cellular phones and computer keyboards.

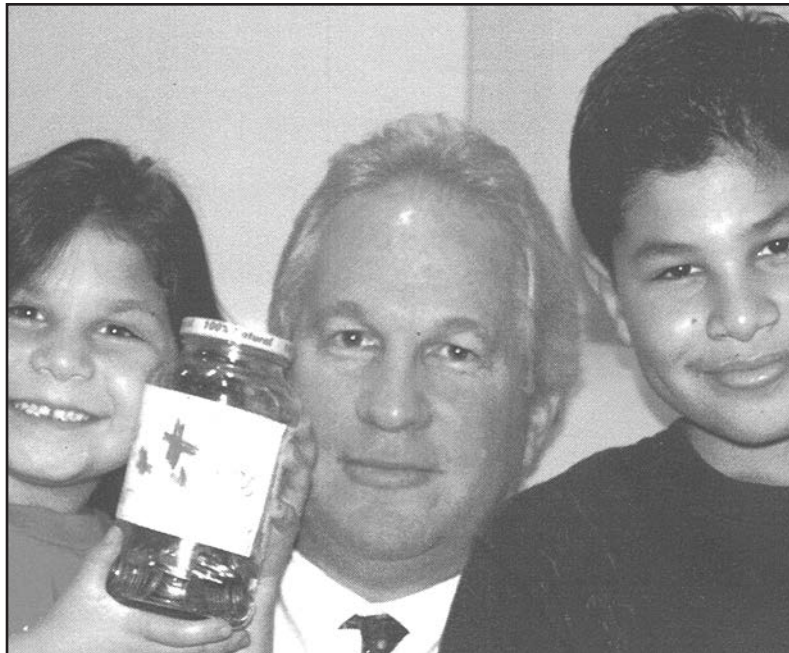
No explosive or radioactive material will be accepted.

Do not mix products together.

For information, call the L.A. County Department of Public Works at 1-(888)CLEAN LA or the L.A. Sanitation District at 1-800 238-0172.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF DOWNEY – President Dan Gold, right, hands ARC of Southeast L.A. County Executive Director Kevin MacDonald a donation of \$1,000. The Optimist Club said they are proud of their community commitment in the city of Downey.



THE BROWN FAMILY — Will and Sarah Brown, children of Downey Ophthalmologist Brian Brown, recently undertook a fundraising effort for victims of the Asian tsunami. The children organized a Jog-A-Thon at Westerly School of Long Beach, where they attend classes, while dad collected loose change from patients at his office. Sarah, 6, also returned her Barbie Castle, a Christmas gift, for \$160. All said, the children raised \$28,000, which they donated to the Long Beach Red Cross.



NICOLE LEON – Will vie for the title of Miss Pre-Teen Los Angeles at a pageant competition April 3.

Downey resident in pageant competition

DOWNEY – Nicole Petrite Leon of Downey was recently selected to participate in the Nationals' 2005 Miss Pre-Teen Los Angeles pageant competition that will take place April 3. If she were to win the title, she would represent Los Angeles and the surrounding communities at the Cities of America National Competition in Orlando.

Leon learned of her acceptance into this year's competition when Nationals, Inc. announced their selections on Monday.

She will be competing in the Miss Pre-Teen Division, where she will go against other young ladies in categories that include casual and formal wear. Her personality and interviewing skills will also be judged. Leon is competing for her share of over \$20,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Leon is being sponsored by Cafe and Stuff and Paul Granata of Granata's Restaurant.

Burnett Miller art exhibit at Cerritos

NORWALK—The Cerritos College Art Gallery is exhibiting "Selections from the Burnett Miller Collection" until Thursday, March 31 in Room AC-50, 11110 Alondra Blvd., in Norwalk.

Miller, who received his MFA from USC and was the curator for the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, is acknowledged to have had a wide artistic impact and is credited with having brought to prominence a number of different artists without whom an international survey of sculpture, painting, installation or performance art would not exist. He emphasized concept-based works that excited and inspired him, regardless of its retail performance, and often supported work that was "not necessarily an easily packaged commodity." Since his passing in 2001, his collection is now being overseen by his wife, Tara Guizot, who has loaned and curated the work currently on exhibit.

Admission to the exhibit is free. For information, call Andrea Bronte, gallery director, at 860-2451, ext. 2612.

The poets' corner

The Pill

To ease our pains and cure our ills,
The search is on for the perfect pill—
Red, white, yellow, orange or brown,
Fat, thin, flat, or maybe round.

Vitamins, supplements, medicinal and more
Pills are swallowed by the score
To keep us fit and well all year
And away from the bed and rocking chair.

I'd rather do what mother said—
Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables instead,
And for a pain or ache in the head,
Take two aspirins and go to bed!

—Martha J. Morrissy,
Downey

SCHOOLS

Elementary School from Washington Mutual; scholastic books valued at \$500 for classroom use at Unsworth Elementary from Washington Mutual; plus many smaller but no less valued gifts and donations.

*Approved registration fees and expenses for convention and conference attendance.

*Ratified a General Agreement with Pyramid Autism Center for the 2004-05 fiscal year effective Jan. 24, 2005 and ending June 30, 2005.

*Ratified payments for various Special Education placements.

*Approved revisions to AR 3126, Graduation.

*Ratified purchasing orders prepared by the Purchasing Department.

*Ratified the issuance of Payroll Orders on Hourly, Overtime, Civic Center work by classified personnel, Adult School and Food Services for the month of February 2006.

*Ratified B Warrants for the period of Feb. 1, 2005 and ending Feb. 28, 2005.

Agreement with Concordia

*Ratified a Student Teaching Agreement with Concordia University starting Jan. 1, 2005 through Dec. 31 2007.

*Ratified District participation in the Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs Owner Controlled Insurance Program for New School Construction and Modernization, effective Feb. 1, 2005.

*Approved an agreement for Professional Services with Bay Actuarial Consultants for an Actuarial Study of the District's Property/Liability Program effective March 15 through Dec. 31, 2005.

Auditing contract

*Approved an Audit Contract with Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company, certificated public accountants for fiscal years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 for Independent Audit Services as required by the State Education Code. The maximum amount not to exceed the amounts shown for years ending June 30, 2005, \$37,200; June 30, 2006, \$38,600; and June 30, 2007, \$40,350.

*Accepted as complete Trade Electrical Work on a bid by Spike Electric Co., of Anaheim in the sum of \$54,180 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete-Trade Electrical Work on a bid by Spike Electric Co., of Anaheim in the sum of \$87,523 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Rejected all bids on purchase and/or lease of modular buildings and alternates with the possibility of re-bid at a future date to be determined.

Change orders

*Approved Change Order No. 4 for the Downey and Warren High School New Stadiums Interior and Exterior Finishes and Asphalt Paving Bid Package with Terra Pave of Whittier in the increased sum of \$37,185 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved Change Order 2 for the Downey and Warren High School New Stadiums Interior and Exterior Finishes, Landscape and Irrigation Bid Package 2 with American West Landscaping of Downey in the increased sum of \$18,653 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved Change Order 3 for the Downey and Warren High Schools New Stadium Interior and Exterior Finishes, Bid Package 12 with Pugliese Interior Systems of Rancho Santa Margarita in the increased sum of \$12,550 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved Change Order 1 for Architectural Services with Moreno Valley Architects of Moreno Valley in the increased sum of \$20,000 to be charged to the Maintenance Funds.

*Approved Change Order 1 to a purchase order for Chicken Products with Kings Delight of Atlanta, Georgia in the increased sum of \$6,000 to be charged to Food Services Funds.

*Approved routine personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board.

Not listed on credential

*Authorized service of a teacher, as submitted, assigned to an area not listed on her credential for the 2004-05 school year, pursuant to the Education Code.

The next public meeting of the Board of the Downey Unified School District will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 at the Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

'School of Choice' open enrollment

DOWNEY—The Downey Unified School District will be conducting its annual School of Choice open enrollment during the month of April for the 2005-2006 school year. Downey students wishing to attend a Downey school out of their attendance area may apply during the month of April (only).

Students wishing to apply may pick up an application beginning April 1st at the Downey Unified School District office, or at any Downey school during the open enrollment period. It is recommended that new students, including Kindergarten students entering a Downey school for the first time and wishing to apply for school of choice, should register at the school in their assigned attendance area.

This will guarantee registration in the District for the new school year.

Applications must be submitted to the Downey School District Office by the closing deadline of April 29, 2005 at 4 p.m. Applications are not processed on a first-come, first-served basis. A random, unbiased lottery will be held to place students on a School of Choice waiting list for the 2005-2006 school year. Schools may accept students from the established waiting lists according to priority, but only if space is available.



DR. RAGAA ISKAROUS – From Downey Select IPA paid a visit to the Downey YMCA recently, where she watched children tumble in a youth gymnastics class. A recent donation from the health firm will help ensure that such classes continue.

Yard sale permits available at City Hall

DOWNEY – Two-day permits for garage/yard sales are available for \$10 by visiting the Cashier's window at City Hall.

Permits are issued only to the person who resides at the address of the sale. For more information, call 904-7331.



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Six new businesses revitalize retail strip

By Lisa Lavadores

DOWNEY – Business is booming at the northwest corner of Paramount and Florence in the strip of offices adjacent to Vons. In just over seven months' time, six new businesses have opened their doors.

First was Bobaloca, a fruit drink bar that offers a variety of healthy beverages. Now open for seven months, Bobaloca has found Tapioca Milk Tea to be its most popular item. Along with their tasty drinks, the colorful shop offers several different cake snacks.

In December, Action Realty and Investments burst on the scene. Owners Guillermina Valdez and Carlos Rios have seen their enterprise grow from a staff of 11 to 30 in a few short months, with nearly 100 years of agent experience, an in-house real estate attorney, and a Transaction Coordinator. This energetic team also provides transaction coordination to several outside agents.

Taking over the old Pancake House is Cafe Opa. Owner Panagiotis Bouris (call him Takis) has created a bright, clean, and cheery atmosphere with checked-cloth tables replacing the old booths. Cafe Opa offers healthy and delicious California food with Greek flavor. Choose any item from rotisserie chicken, fresh salads, wraps, sandwiches, gyros, lamb chops, and soups.

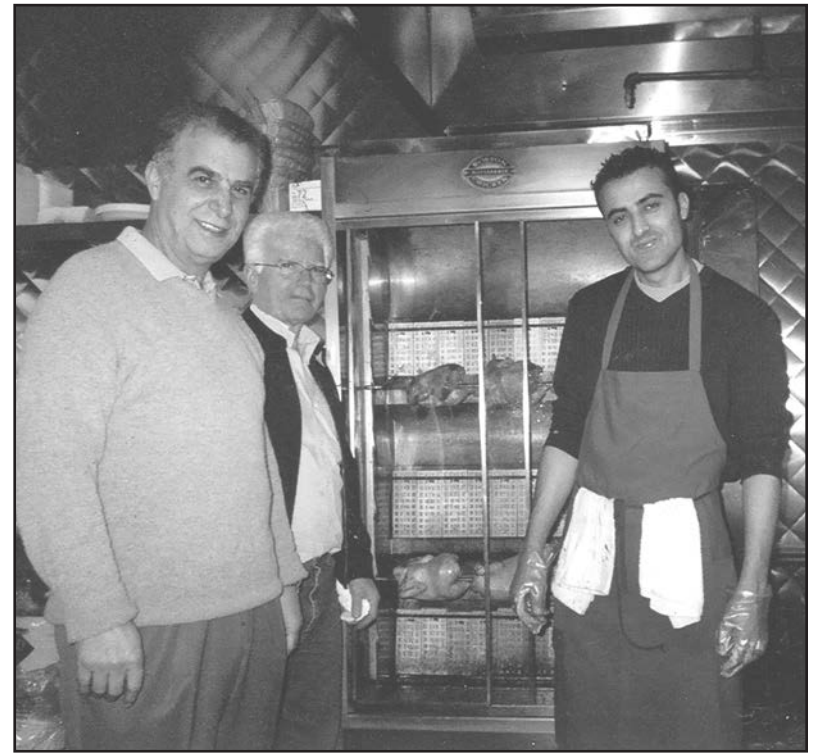
Jennifer Stocks and her husband James opened Sweetly Iced in February. Jennifer began cake decorating as a hobby but came to love it so much that she decided to go into business. Sweetly Iced carries a big stock of cake decorating items and offers a variety of classes at all levels, some of which are also offered in Spanish.

City Wide Group also sells real estate, along with offering both commercial and residential loans. Owner Ray Sedighi (know as Ray S. to his clients) has sold real estate in Downey for 18 years. City Wide Group's small but reliable staff is eager to find excellent deals for neighborhood residents.

iTel Communications sells cell phones, accessories, and pre-paid refills. This location is the newest of six in the Los Angeles area, and iTel claims it can beat any offer in Downey. It prides itself on the service offered – once a product is purchased, all rebate forms are filled out in the store and the envelope is stamped, allowing the customer to simply drop the forms in the nearest mailbox.

The face of business has changed drastically at the corner of Paramount and Florence. In the past few years, new shops like Auntie Sophie's and Magix Photo have joined established businesses such as Rose Cleaners and C & Company Hair Designs to offer expanding services in this location. And the energy of this newest group of owners, along with the products and services they offer, promise to make this spot thrive for some time to come.

E-mail Us: DowneyPatriot@yahoo.com



CAFE OPA – Owner Takis Bouris (left) is seen at his restaurant at 9905 Paramount Blvd., Downey. He offers fresh and healthy California food with a Greek flavor. Also pictured are customer George Dritsas and cook John Shokri. For information, call 806-0761.



SWEETLY ICED – Co-owner Jennifer Stocks (right) has opened this new business at 9903-A Paramount Blvd., Downey. She offers a variety of cake decorating classes. Also pictured is Sonia Abarca, Jennifer's mother, who works in the shop. For information, call 776-9845.

Diabetes management sessions offered

DOWNEY—Downey Regional Medical Center, 11500 Brookshire Ave., offers a four-session, 12-hour program Thursdays on the Management of Diabetes starting April 7, and continuing on the 14th, 21st and the 28th. The course will benefit individuals who have had diabetes for years as well as those recently diagnosed with the malady. Participants may bring a friend.

Through the DRMC Diabetes Institute, persons struck by diabetes have the resources enabling them to manage their diabetes, improve their quality of life and delay or prevent complications. Diabetes Educator Elsa Saucedo, RN, MSN, teaches patients self-care—how to eat right, take medications correctly, exercise appropriately, identify signs and symptoms, perform foot care and use a meter.

The free diabetes classes are held at the DRMC conference rooms. Preregistration is required since space is limited, and there is a \$10 materials fee for the series. Call (562) 904-5580 to register or for more information.

Spring Break fun at Downey parks

DOWNEY – “Spring Break Fun at the Parks – Spring Spectacular,” a free Spring Break program for children presented by the City of Downey Community Services Department, will be offered March 28 – April 1.

Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Crawford, Furman, Golden and Rio San Gabriel Parks will host the program from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with activities scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The program will also be offered at Brookshire Park from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Children ages 6-12 can enjoy arts/crafts, chalk art, a “Spring Fling Party,” and lunch and games with the camp leaders (bring your own lunch). Children may arrive and leave at any time.


Registration is required and can be completed at the park sites until the program concludes. Flyers regarding the program are available at City Hall. Call 904-7238 for more information.

Coin and Stamp Expo March 25-27

PASADENA—The 35th Pasadena Coin and Stamp Expo, featuring over 75 dealers displaying a variety of collector quality coins and stamps, is scheduled from Friday-Sunday, March 25-27 at the Pasadena Conference Center, 300 E. Green St. in Pasadena.

The exposition offers a wide selection of hobby supplies, maps, bonds, stocks, currency, casino chips and other collectibles. The schedule: Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

General admission is \$2, and tickets are good all 3 days. For information, call (818) 997-6496 or visit www.bick.net.



Downey Neighborhood Patrol
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Or for more information please call our office at (562) 869-1231 ask for Michael Yassa - President
Email: michael@downeyneighborhoodpatrol.com
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One in ten seniors lives in poverty.
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San Francisco Organizing Project, San Francisco, CA

Sebastian Sidi returns to Downey Theatre

DOWNEY – Sebastian Sidi, homegrown composer, arranger and instrumentalist, returns to the Downey Theatre where he will be joined by special guests for a live performance April 16.

Tickets are only available through Johnny & Co. Hair Salon, which is sponsoring the event.

Joining Sidi on stage will be Javier Lima (guitar), Mike Roper (bass) and Tonya Hoodye and Georgia Waggenor (vocals) singing "Time to Say Goodbye" by Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli and newly arranged by Sidi himself.

Influenced by the sounds of rock, classical, jazz and Latin, Sidi has combined them all to create an electrifying genre of its very own.

General admission tickets are priced at \$15 and may be purchased by calling Johnny & Co. at 862-2111 or in person at 10921 S. Downey Ave.

For more information or call (562) 544-7774.

Lutheran church hosts symphonic band

DOWNEY – The Symphonic Band of Martin Luther High School in Greendale, Wisconsin, will perform a concert March 20 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 13200 Clark Ave., Downey. The event is free, but a freewill offering will be taken to help the band with their expenses.

Under the direction of Jonathan R. Wiegert, the 60-member ensemble will perform works by David Holsinger, Johan de Meij, John Philip Sousa, Percy Grainger, Philip Sparke, Stephen Bulla, Fred Allen and Tomohiro Tahebe.

The Symphonic Band is the premier instrumental ensemble of Martin Luther High School, a Missouri Synod Lutheran school serving 400 students. The group tours the United States annually.

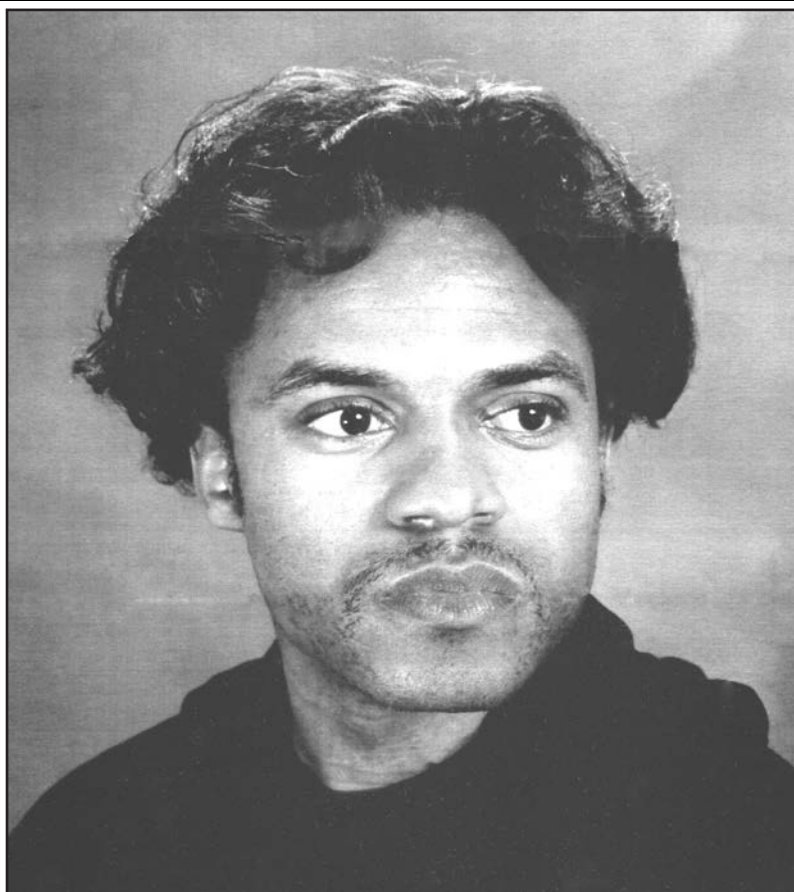
For more information, call Good Shepherd at 803-4459.

Street Faire sponsorships still available

DOWNEY—Gold (\$5,000), silver (\$2,500), bronze (\$1,000), and "Friends of the Faire" (\$100) sponsorships for the upcoming Downey Street Faire May 7 are still available, according to the Street Faire Committee co-chaired by Jan Scott of Pacific Western Bank and Fiunuala Anderson.

Gold sponsors are entitled to three booth spaces; silver, two spaces; and bronze, one space. Sponsors' names will appear in news releases and other publicity about the fair, including paid advertisements, posters, and flyers distributed to 10,000 grammar school students. All major sponsors will have their names on banners at the fair.

The following bronze sponsors have recently signed up: Century 21 Jervis & Associates - Colin Clarke; Downey Federal Credit Union, Downey Ford, and Financial Partners, Inc. Meanwhile, the newest "Friends of the Faire" include: All American Home Center, Atlantic Lock & Key, Jerry Brady, California Well Being Insurance Agency, Century 21-My Real Estate Co., Inc., Don Dixon & Associates Insurance, Downey Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Edy's Pampered Paws, Efficient Lighting & Electric, Elite Concrete Restoration, Escrow Results, Freedom Vacations, Inc., Los Amigos Country Club, Paramount Iceland, Park Water Company, So. California Alcohol & Drug Program, and Southland Credit Union.



SHAWN MORGAN – This popular pianist/vocalist entertains every Friday and Saturday evening at Granata's in downtown Downey. The Italian eatery has a full cocktail bar and an extensive wine list. Granata's is located at 11032 Downey Ave. For information, call 861-2997.

Smothers Brothers comedy tour

DOWNEY—The Downey Adult School Creative Learning Tours is offering a tour of the Smothers Brothers Comedy Performance on Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m. at the Haugh Performing Arts Center at Citrus College. The Smothers Brothers mark over 45 years in show business and are legends for lengthy careers that have surpassed all other comedy teams. After the show, there will be a delightful meal at the nearby Citrus Grill Restaurant. The tour includes transportation, reserved tickets for the performance, and dinner.

Tour registration coupons are available in the Downey Adult School main office or mailed upon request. For information, call 940-6213.

First Baptist to hold 1st annual keyboard festival

DOWNEY—First Baptist Church of Downey, 8348 East Third Street (behind Embassy Suites), will present its 1st annual Keyboard Festival Friday-Saturday, April 29-30, featuring 4 grand pianos, 14 keyboard players, choir, dance, drama and special effects. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. both days.

The musical program will consist of a variety of selections (featuring many original arrangements), from Handel to Broadway, ragtime to Disney, and sacred to pop. Much of the drama offered will portray life stories of composers and contemporary musicians. Film segments from recent movies, to include *Ray*, *Immortal/Beloved*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, will be shown. In the program as well will be the winner of the 1st annual Keyboard Festival audition.

Performing will be the 60-voice choir of First Baptist, the Ps 150 Dance Team, and the FACES Drama Ensemble.

The concert is free to the public (offering will be received). Tickets are required to assure seating. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Keyfest Ticket Office, (562) 923-1261, ext. 276.

'Sawdust Art Festival' this summer

LAGUNA BEACH—The 39th annual Sawdust Art Festival in Laguna Beach, which hosts 200 Laguna Beach artists each summer, will this year run from July 1 through Sept. 4. The festival is known for its "exciting" live entertainment, featuring everything from jazz quartets to acrobats to surf bands, as well as three cafes and a saloon.

The festival takes place in picturesque Laguna Canyon in the midst of a three-acre eucalyptus grove, with majestic 100-year old trees shading and cooling the grounds while two waterfalls "add to the tranquil atmosphere." It's been voted one of the top three art festivals in the nation by the readers of *AmericanStyle Magazine* and is said to attract visitors from around the globe, including many celebrities.

But before the festival begins, the 5th annual *Spring Into Art* takes place on the weekends of March 19 and 20. Art students of all ages and levels are invited to the Sawdust Art Festival where classes will be offered in a variety of artistic media, including glass-blowing, oil and watercolor painting, glass sand casting, silk painting, and jewelry-making.

For more information, call (949) 497-0520.

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THE RING 2 PG13	(11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30
ICE PRINCESS G	(11:45 2:10 4:35) 7:00 9:25
ROBOTS PG	(10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20
ROBOTS PG	(11:15 1:40 4:05) 6:30 8:55
HOSTAGE R	(11:45 2:20 4:55) 7:30 10:05
PASSION OF THE CHRIST (RECU) NR	(10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25
BE COOL PG13	(10:40 1:30 4:20) 7:10 10:00
THE PACIFIER PG	(11:45 2:15 4:45) 7:15 9:45
CURSED PG13	(11:00 4:40) 10:20
DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN PG13	(1:50) 7:30
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★ ROBOTS PG (11:20, 12:05, 1:40, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10), 6:50, 7:40, 9:25, 10:05 (ON 2 SCREENS)

BE COOL PG-13 (11:15, 2:15, 5:05), 8:00, 10:45

THE PACIFIER PG (11:45, 2:25, 4:45), 7:15, 9:45

CONSTANTINE R (3:30), 10:10

HITCH PG-13 (11:05, 2:05, 5:00), 7:50, 10:30

MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG-13 (12:00), 7:00

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Extended hours at Count Clerk's office

NORWALK—Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Conny McCormack announced that the Norwalk office is now extending business hours every 3rd Thursday of the month to 7 p.m.

The Extended Hours Program was developed to offer more convenience to the more than 1,500 customers who come to Norwalk on a daily basis. Extending business hours from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. one day a month will provide customers more flexibility. The program will be assessed after 6 months to determine if customers are taking advantage of the enhanced hours.

Services offered during the extended hours include accepting requests for certified copies of birth, death and marriage records, issuing marriage licenses, performing marriage ceremonies (by appointment only) and answering telephone inquiries.

Additionally the public will be able to view official real estate records filed from 1957 to the present, accept requests for certified copies of real estate property records and answer telephone inquiries.

For more information regarding the Extended Hours Program and other departmental services, the public may visit the RR/CC website at www.lavote.net or call 1-800-481-8683.

'Workout Against Cancer' March 21

DOWNEY – Curves Fitness, at the intersection of Firestone Blvd. and Woodruff Ave., is hosting a "Workout Against Cancer" on Monday, March 21, a fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Los Angeles.

The public is invited to the workout event, where prizes and certificates will be awarded. Donations will also be accepted.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the largest childhood cancer research center in the United States. Admission is based on physician referral only and no one is turned away because of an inability to pay.

Session workouts are 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Curves is at 9430 Firestone Blvd. Call 803-3630 for information.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED—To help set up a Healing Field of 1426 American Flags at the north field at East Middle School, 10301 Woodruff /Florence Avenues March 30 to honor children who have died at the hands of an abuser. The display will stand until April 2. Most welcome for a variety of essential jobs are local citizens, employee groups, service clubs, scout troops, church groups, and students in search of community service credit. To find out how you can help, call the Exchange Club Family Support Center, 904-9590, or visit www.healingfield.org/downey.

Arthritis Institute director at OASIS

DOWNEY—The Downey Adult School's OASIS program Monday, March 21 at 4 p.m. will feature guest speaker Jeri Ward, the director of the Arthritis Institute's Operation Walk. Operation Walk is a nonprofit agency that performs joint replacement surgeries in countries where people don't have access to this kind of surgery.

The class Monday will be open for enrollment at 3 p.m. There is no enrollment fee and no pre-registration. Dinner tickets are available for \$3.50. The event will also include piano entertainment by Dr. Robert Flynn. Downey Dial-A-Ride will provide transportation to attend this class. For information, call 940-6200.

Frank A. Everhart was retired glass mold maker

DOWNEY—Services were held at Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey, with Pastor John Rose officiating, for Frank A. Everhart, who was born Jan. 23, 1922 in Dunkirk, Indiana and died at Downey Regional Medical Center on Feb. 26. He was 83.

A retired glass mold maker, he was a resident of Downey for 53 years. He is survived by 6 nieces; a nephew; and 2 sisters-in-law. His brother, James Everhart of Modesto, just passed away on March 6. He was preceded in death by his wife, Delores, in 2002.

Interment was at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, with Miller-Mies Mortuary handling arrangements.

Services held for Ford F. Sammons

DOWNEY—Services were held on March 12 with Pastor John Rose officiating at Miller-Mies Mortuary Chapel of Downey for retiree Ford F. Sammons, who was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado and was a resident of Downey 55 years. He lived in the state a total of 75 years.

The founder/owner/operator of Sammons Equipment Manufacturing in Whittier, he died on March 7 at the age of 90. He was a member of Downey Masonic Lodge #220.

He and his wife Betty, who survives him, did a great deal of traveling together during their 67 years of marriage, and visited all 50 states as well as Canada.

He is also survived by daughter Jeri A. Droke; granddaughter Lynn Hearn; grandsons Kevin and Shawn Droke; and great grandchildren Jack Droke, and Ashley and Riley Hearn.

Interment was at Pacific View Memorial Park in Newport Beach.

Health seminars offered at SCRS

DOWNEY—The Southern California Rehabilitation Services (SCRS) has scheduled four free "Take Charge of Your Health" seminars on the Fridays of April 8 and 22, and May 13 and 27. Each seminar will be from 10 a.m.-noon and will be held at the SCRS facility at 7830 Quill Drive, Suite D, in Downey. The seminars will answer questions about one's medications and health. Information: 862-6531.

The schedule:

April 8—"Medicines: Friends or Foes?": This session will outline some basic information on how medicines work, and address problems of medicine misuse among older adults.

April 22—"Using Medicines Wisely": Participants will learn how to read medicine labels correctly and set up a personal medication record.

May 13—"Take Charge of Your Medicines": Discussion will focus on how to buy, store and take medicines properly.

May 27—"Talking to Your Doctor": This session will inform participants on how to communicate effectively and proactively with their doctor.

Participants will receive important free literature, including a personal medication record. Those who attend at least three of the four sessions will receive a free one year subscription to the quarterly newsletter, "Health Wise," as well as a certificate of completion.

Hotline 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.

Will New Rules Make You A Roth IRA Convert?

Will you need the required withdrawals from an individual retirement account to cover living expenses once you retire? If the answer is "no," then you may be interested in a new rule passed by the IRS that makes it easier for traditional IRA owners to convert to a Roth IRA and thereby avoid distributions altogether. The rule, which went into effect January 1, 2005, states that individuals who have reached age 70½ and are already taking required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA no longer have to include that money as part of their modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). Why is this significant? Excluding IRA income from an individual's MAGI enhances the likelihood that more retirees will meet the \$100,000 eligibility threshold for converting to a Roth IRA.

This rule may be of interest to people in their 70s and older who don't need the IRA income and who'd prefer leaving the money to grow tax deferred for the benefit of their heirs rather than drawing it down through required minimum distributions. Keep in mind, however, one of the bigger drawbacks to converting from a regular IRA to a Roth IRA is the up-front tax payment that will be due on the money being converted.

If you are doing a little forward planning and like the idea of no required minimum distributions, be sure you understand how the Roth IRA - and a Roth conversion - might affect you.

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6th GRADER KRYSTAL DIAZ—Of Downey has been selected to participate in the upcoming Miss Pre-Teen Los Angeles pageant competition April 3, with a chance to win her share of over \$20,000 in scholarships, prizes and special gifts. She is currently seeking sponsors to assist her in getting ready for the competition.

Student going for Miss Pre-Teen

DOWNEY—Another Downey student, Krystal Diaz, a 6th grade honor student at East Middle School, was recently selected to participate in Nationals, Inc.'s upcoming 2005 Miss Pre-Teen Los Angeles pageant competition Sunday, April 3.

As a contestant in the Miss Pre-Teen division, one of three divisions having young ladies between ages 10 and 19 competing in modeling routines that include casual and formal wear, and where judging will put a premium on personality, Diaz has a chance to win her share of over \$20,000 in scholarships, prizes, and specialty gifts.

And should she win the title of Miss Pre-Teen of Los Angeles, she would represent Los Angeles and the surrounding communities at the Cities of America National Competition scheduled in Orlando, Florida, where over \$60,000 in prizes and awards await the winners.

Participation in the pageant competition will not entail any expense for Diaz, provided she finds willing community businesses, organizations and private individuals to sponsor her. Sponsorship means she will get all the necessary training, rehearsals and financial support to get her well-prepared, and confident, for the pageant.

Those wishing to assist and sponsor Diaz, who attended Gaudin from kindergarten to grade 5, are urged to call Patty Neidert, Los Angeles pageant coordinator, at 800-569-2487.

Baseball sign-ups tomorrow at Apollo

DOWNEY – The Downey Junior Athletic Association is holding baseball sign-ups tomorrow, March 19, at Apollo Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children should bring a copy of their birth certificate and a current report card.

Players must be in the K-8th grade and enrolled in a Downey school. Cost is \$56.

Easter Storytime March 22 at library

DOWNEY – Preschool children and their parents can celebrate spring at the library with a special Easter Storytime March 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Cormack Room. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy holiday picture books and have the chance to make a special Easter craft to take home.

For more information, call Children's Services at 904-7360 Ext. 4. The library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave.

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.

Council and commission 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.

\$10K Stonewood Center scholarship available

CERRITOS—The three Long Beach area Macerich-run malls—Los Cerritos Center, Lakewood Center and Stonewood Center—will be granting a total of \$30,000 in college scholarships this year to three local area high school seniors.

Each of the shopping centers will award a \$10,000 scholarship to a deserving student based on academic achievement and community responsibility criteria. Applicants must be seniors in good standing from eligible area high schools.

Seniors attending Bellflower, Calvary Chapel Christian, Columbus, Downey, Santa Fe, Somerset, St. John Bosco, St. Mathias, Paramount, Pioneer, or Warren high schools are eligible to submit applications for the Stonewood Center scholarship.

To be eligible for the Los Cerritos Center scholarship, applicants must be seniors attending Cerritos, Norwalk, Gahr, Tracy, Valley Christian, or Whitney high schools.

Lakewood Center scholarship eligible high schools include Artesia, Jordan, Lakewood, Mayfair, Michelson, Millikan, Poly, St. Joseph Catholic, and Wilson.

Applications can be obtained from the Guest Services Centers at Stonewood, Lakewood and Los Cerritos Centers, or from career counselors at one of the eligible high schools. Applications can also be obtained by visiting the 3 centers' website at www.ShopOneShopAll.com. The completed applications must be submitted with supporting documentation no later than April 15, 2005.

'Healthy Heart' nutrition classes

DOWNEY—A Healthy Heart Nutrition Class, for people who have high cholesterol and/or triglycerides or high blood pressure, is taught from 4-5 p.m. at Downey Regional Medical Center, 11500 Brookshire Ave., on the second Wednesday of every month.

The free lecture teaches that diet changes can reduce the risk of heart disease. Registration is required by calling the DRMC Department of Education. (562) 904-5580.

Church launches '40 Days of Purpose'

DOWNEY—The Moravian Church of Downey, located at 10337 Old River School Road, launches its "40 Days of Purpose Campaign" on April 9, joining a worldwide network of thousands of churches inspired by the best-selling book, "The Purpose Driven Life."

During the 40-day campaign, "the truths about God's five purposes for people—worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism—will be communicated repeatedly" through an all-church seminar April 9, weekly messages by Pastor C. Hopeton Clennon, daily readings and e-mails.

"People will hear about God's purposes for their lives in many different formats," said a Moravian Church official. "This will allow for the truths to sink deeper into hearts, which is essential for any permanent life change."

Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact the church officiate 927-0718.



KNOWN AS 'MR. CHEMISTRY'—Rudy Gonzales will introduce children ages 5-12 to the magic of science with his "Rudy's Radical Science Show" at the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave., Wednesday, March 30 from 2-2:45 p.m. in the Cormack Room. No science background is needed to enjoy and learn from the free show, which takes place during Spring break. Seating is limited; show passes will be distributed starting at 1:30 p.m. For information, call the Children's desk at 904-7360, ext. 4.

Downey Church Directory

DOWNEY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 8441 East Florence Avenue, Downey * 562-869-7291
 Charles Schepel, Interim Minister
 March 20 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m.
 March 24 Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
 March 27 Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10711 Paramount Blvd. Downey (562) 923-1215
 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP . . . SUN. 8 A.M.
 ESPANOL . . . 9:30 A.M.
 PRAISE SERVICE . . . 11 A.M.
 Rev. Norman Stoppenhagen
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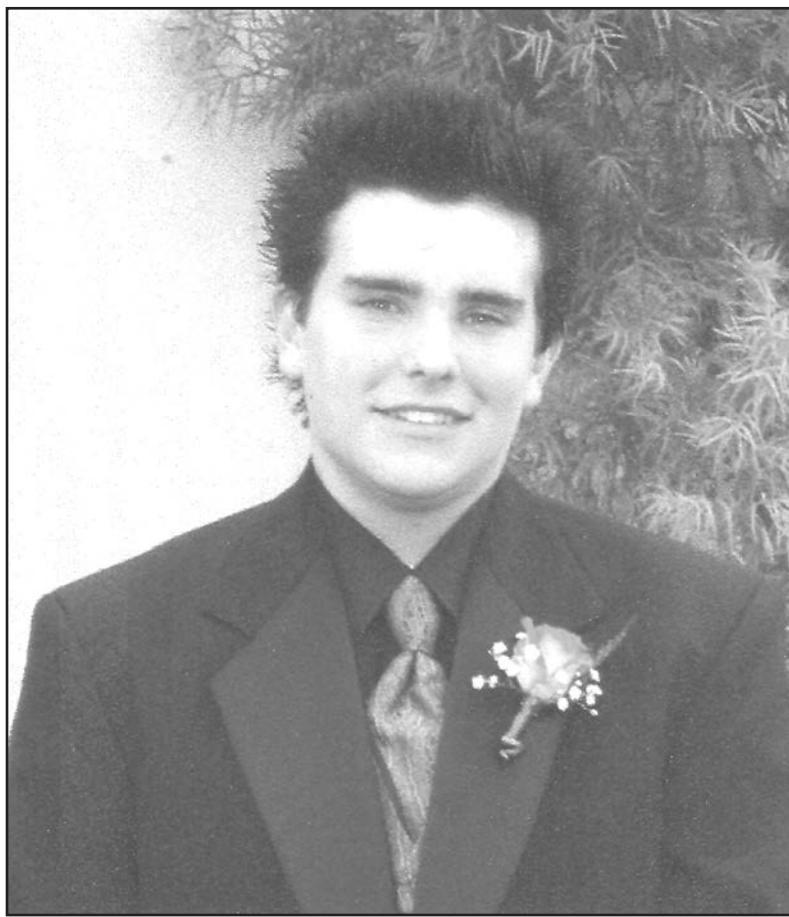
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The Arc is a private non-profit organization serving over 400 people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities every day in 24 different programs.



WARREN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT—Nick West is just back from Washington, D.C. where he attended, with some 350 other junior and senior students, the National Youth Leadership Forum in Law. He intends to pursue a law career.

Warren honor student attends leadership forum

DOWNEY—Nick West, a grandson of (the late) Edward and Jill DiLoreto, attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law March 1-6 in Washington, D.C., where in addition to visiting prestigious law schools, law firms and area courthouses, he participated in intensive court simulations that included a role as a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

West was one of about 350 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the U.S. who attended the forum. They were selected for demonstrating academic achievement and an interest in the legal profession.

West is a 4.0 GPA student and plays baseball for Warren High School. He has been in the Downey Unified School District GATE program since elementary school at Price. While at Griffiths Middle School, he was designated Top Indian. He is aiming for a law career as a prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Outstanding musicians at Guild musicale

DOWNEY—Talented young musicians, including East Middle School's 8th grader Ruth Tan, perform tomorrow, March 19 at 2:30 p.m. at the Downey Symphony Guild's young people's invitational musicale at the Downey Moravian Church, 10337 Old River School Rd. in Downey.

The program is one of the Guild's continuing outreach programs for the community. The John Hume Performing Arts Foundation will provide a scholarship to each young performer, to encourage and support their musical endeavors.

Tan and Myron Chang, an honors sophomore at Cerritos High School, will perform a piano duo; they are students of Elizabeth Wilson.

Thirteen-year old Elizabeth Wang, a 9th grader at Whitney High School in Cerritos and who takes piano lessons from Louise Earhart, will perform a piano solo. Helen Shinn, a pupil of Arthur Mautner, will play the violin. Leah Metz, who studies under Allen Mautner, will play the cello. The names of the other featured young performers were not available at press time.

Coordinating the program is Downey Symphony Guild's program vice-president Pauline Hume, with ways and means vice-president Katie Hare, fresh from her "wonderful job" on the Mardi Gras Gala last month, overseeing the event.

The Downey Symphony Guild is hoping many in the community will come to tomorrow's concert to help encourage and support the advanced music students. There is no charge for the program but the audience is invited to donate \$10 at the door to cover production expenses.

Refreshments will be served following the concert. For information, call Pauline Hume, 869-0422.

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Tuesday, March 29
10:00 a.m.
Carrows
7900 Florence Ave.
Downey

Other meeting dates and locations may be available.

Space is limited. To RSVP or to arrange special needs accommodations at sales meetings, please call 1-800-698-2859, or for the hearing impaired, TDHI 1-800-387-1074.

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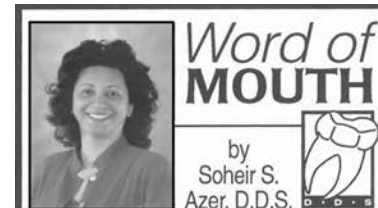
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Dirty teeth can pose a bigger health problem than most people might suspect. In fact, researchers report that germs found in dental plaque can migrate to the lungs and cause potentially fatal pneumonia in elderly nursing patients. While the study that led to this finding was small, the researchers said they found clear evidence in eight patients who developed pneumonia while in hospital that had originated from their own dental plaque. Of the 49 patients, 28 had germs known to cause respiratory disease in their dental plaque samples. This is the first study to establish an unequivocal link between dental hygiene and respiratory infection. This study established the need for the elderly to maintain clean teeth and dentures.

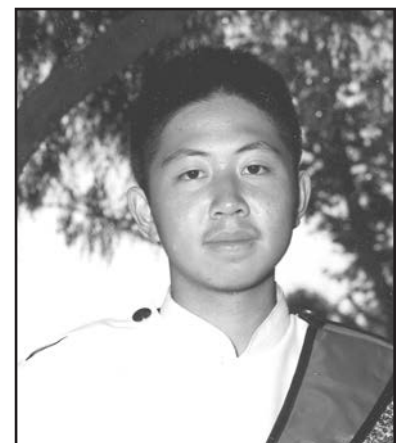
Good oral hygiene - including brushing at least twice a day and flossing - will help eliminate plaque and tooth decay. Let us show you how to care for your teeth. By having regular checkups, you can avoid many problems and spend fewer dollars. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where all the members of our staff are dedicated to serving you. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Our concern is your comfort and confidence - our goal is to help preserve your natural teeth for a lifetime. To schedule an appointment please call (562) 923-3714.

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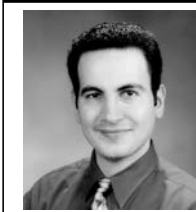


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NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF FINANCE – At **Financial Partners Credit Union** is **Debbie Burgess**, who has been with the company since 1986.

Credit union names new vice-president

DOWNEY – Financial Partners Credit Union has promoted Debbie Burgess to vice-president of finance, where she will oversee all aspects of the credit union's fiscal operations.

In her new role, Burgess will be in charge of budgeting, asset liability management, financial reporting, fiscal analysis of new products and services, credit union investments, optimization of members' dividends, and short and long-term economic forecasting. She will oversee a staff of 20.

"Debbie Burgess has been an exceptionally dedicated and valuable member of our management team for years," said Nader Moghaddam, president and chief executive officer, Financial Partners. "Promoting her to vice-president of finance will help drive the credit union's long term objectives."

Burgess began her career at Financial Partners in 1986 as a senior internal auditor. She later moved to the accounting department and served as a financial analyst. Prior to her promotion to vice president of finance, Burgess was controller for Financial Partners, which now boasts \$623 million in assets.

Burgess holds a bachelor's of business administration degree from Cal State University, Fullerton.

Day camps offered during spring break

DOWNEY—The City of Downey Community Services Department is offering children, ages 6-14, a great way to spend their spring break at "Camp Wilderness" in Wilderness Park from Monday-Friday, March 28-April 1. The camp will offer activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, games, skits, an excursion, and social-interactive activities.

"Children really enjoy camp because they meet new friends and have a lot of fun," said Sheila Pautsch, Recreation Supervisor for the department.

Camp hours are 9:30-3:30 p.m., and extended camp hours are 7-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Camp fees are \$65 per child and \$60 for each additional family member. Extended camp fees are \$35 for the first child and \$30 for each additional family member. Fees will cover materials, supplies, supervision, lunch beverage and snack, and an excursion. Campers must bring their own lunch.

Registration is at the Community Services Department, located on the second floor of the City Hall. For information, call Pautsch at 904-7238.

Emergency Committee monthly meetings

DOWNEY—The Emergency Preparedness Committee meets regularly the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at 12222 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

For information, call the city of Downey Fire Department, 904-7344.

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State Contractors Board conducts sting operation

NORWALK—The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is warning consumers about the dangers of hiring unlicensed contractors following a successful sting operation in the city of Norwalk on March 10. CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT), in cooperation with the Norwalk Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol, conducted the undercover operation to underscore the fact that illegal contractors are operating across Southern California.

SWIFT investigators stung a total of 11 unlicensed contractors in the March 10 undercover operation. The phony contractors were arrested and cited for contracting without a license. Their violations include bidding for jobs that require a contractor license, asking for illegally large down payments, illegal advertising and illegally using someone else's contractors license.

The SWIFT undercover operatives invited suspected unlicensed contractors to a secret sting location in Norwalk. When they bid on various home improvement jobs, including landscaping, demolition, painting and concrete, ten were arrested and issued Notices to Appear (NTA) in Los Angeles County Superior Court. They could face a maximum of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine for a first offense. Two others face administrative citations.

By law, all contractors who perform work that total \$500 or more (labor and materials) must be licensed by the CSLB. Because of their non-compliance with the workers compensation guidelines, unlicensed contractors often submit lower bids on jobs. If a worker is injured on the job, the homeowner could be considered liable. And, if a deal goes bad with unlicensed contractors, the homeowner has very few options.

The CSLB urges consumers to follow these tips when dealing with a building contractor:

- *Hire only licensed contractors and ask to see the license.
 - *Don't rush into decisions and don't hire the first contractor who comes along.
 - *Be especially hesitant when approached by someone offering home improvement services door-to-door, especially when they will use material they claim is left over from another job.
 - *Verify the contractor's license by checking online at www.cslb.ca.gov or via CSLB's automated phone service at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).
 - *Don't pay more than 10 percent down or \$1,000, whichever is less.
 - *Don't pay cash, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
 - *Get three bids, check references, and get a written contract.
 - *Contact the CSLB if you have a complaint against a contractor.
- The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

'Connections' meets Thursdays

DOWNEY – Connections, a local business networking group, meets every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Nordic Fox restaurant, 10924 Paramount Blvd. For information call Nick Smith at 861-5222.



CAROL PEARCE – Broker/owner of **Travis Mortgage**, recently celebrated the company's eighth anniversary with **Edgar Cortez** and **Mattie Espindola-Robles**. Also pictured is **Casper Hale**, the office mascot. **Travis Mortgage** can be reached at 869-8860.

Tim Kares resigns as DRMC CFO

DOWNEY – Tim Kares has resigned as Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of Downey Regional Medical Center after two years in the position. Replacing him on an interim basis is Bruce Bowne, a financial consultant with William Casey & Associates.

Kares brought new direction and organization to the finance department at DRMC, and assisted in many process improvements and significant projects, according to CEO Allen Korneff.

Bowne will be responsible for all of Kares' job responsibilities, including completion of last year's audit and working to develop a budget for fiscal year ending 2006.

DRMC Golf Classic June

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center's 20th Annual Golf Classic will be held June 6.

Call 904-5000 for information.

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 Colin Clarke
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Planning to buy a home? One question you may ask is, "When can I move in?" This question may have many possible answers. Real estate purchases are created with an Agreement of Sale or Purchase Contract. This document spells out all items agreed upon by both buyers and sellers, including basics like the purchase price, the terms of payment and the closing date. The closing date is that day on which the buyers transfer funds to the sellers, and the sellers deed property to the buyers, concluding the transaction. Another important item is the "possession" date, when the sellers transfer physical possessions of the property to the buyers. Often that date coincides with the "closing" date - once the buyers have paid for the home, and have a deed, it is logical that they should also be allowed to occupy the home. Nevertheless, other dates are sometimes chosen for possession, allowing the sellers time to move after the closing, or to accommodate special needs of the buyers to move early. If any day other than the "closing date" is chosen for possession, a temporary occupancy agreement should be attached to the purchase agreement including conditions of occupancy, rent to be paid, and the responsibilities of all parties. Be certain the "possession date" is spelled out clearly in any purchase agreement, and enjoy a smooth move!

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dba MAJAPARA. Announces its closing at 8321 Stewart and Gray Rd. Downey, CA 90241 as of January 15, 2005

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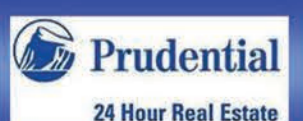


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