



The Downey Patriot

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Friday, April 15, 2005

Vol. 3, No. 51

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



SEBASTIAN SIDI – Returns to the Downey Theater April 16 for a live performance of his unique combination of rock, Latin, jazz and classical sounds. Tickets are still available by calling (562) 544-7774 or visiting Johnny & Co. Hair Salon.

Sebastian Sidi returns to Downey Theater

DOWNEY – Sebastian Sidi, homegrown composer, arranger and instrumentalist, returns to the Downey Theater where he will be joined by special guests for a live performance tomorrow, 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 Sara Brightman's and Andrea Bocelli's "Time to Say Goodbye," newly arranged by Sidi himself.

Born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1975, Sidi migrated to the United States in 1982. It's here that he discovered his love for music, banging on drums at an early age and later mastering the keyboard.

He landed a job in 1997 as a keyboardist with a female country music singer, but eventually left that when he realized he was more rock n' roll

than country.

Influenced by the sounds of rock, classical, jazz and Latin, Sidi combined them all to create an electrifying genre of its very own. He was soon performing concerts throughout Orange County, Los Angeles and Long Beach.

"I could not believe I was actually getting paid to play, and people were actually buying my CD," said Sidi. "People were even asking for my autograph."

Sidi performed his first concert at the Downey Theater in 2002, which coincided with the release of his second cd "Passion."

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.

Log on to www.sebastiansidi.com for more information or call (562) 544-7774.

Array of festivities planned for Street Fair

By Linda Pak

DOWNEY—Live music, dance performances, classic car shows, and a mouth-watering array of food for all tastes will highlight the 12th Annual Downey Street Fair, Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with the Warren High School marching band and color guard kicking off the daylong festivities. The venue will be at Firestone Boulevard and Brookshire Avenue, at and around the Downey High School parking lot.

First to perform at 9:30 a.m. will be the award-winning Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines International returning again this year to perform their "oldies, but goodies" barbershop style music. Originally charted as The Downey Chorus, the chorus still calls Downey 'home' and regularly performs at community functions, including its annual show at the Downey Theatre.

Shifting the theme will be the gentle rhythms and graceful movements of Polynesia performed by The Ku' uipos O Hula, a local group of dancers from ages 6 to 82. They have performed in Tahiti, New Zealand and Hawaii, as well as county fairs, private weddings, and company picnics. On stage at 10:15 a.m., they will bring the mood of the islands with their dance routine from the movie, "Lilo and Stitch."

See **STREET FAIR**, page 4

Pressure for public art grows in Downey

By John Adams

DOWNEY—Councilman Kirk Cartozian wants more meetings of Council's Public Arts Subcommittee. He commented so at Tuesday's regular council meeting.

Councilman Dave Gafin invited all to Wednesday's Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) Luncheon at Rio Hondo.

And Mayor Anne Bayer congratulated the young winners of the recent Keep Downey Beautiful Poster Contest, adding the winners works are on display in City Hall.

Councilman Rich Trejo also congratulated Downey's Junior Athletic Association team for its recent good showing.

And Trejo also said he enjoyed the recent Easter Egg Hunts for children in the parks sponsored by the Park and Community Services Department.



COUNTY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE—Was the perfect emcee at Wednesday's annual GOOD Luncheon as he regaled the stellar audience with quips, asides, and his usual bonhomie.

GOOD Luncheon was a model for the ages

By Henry Veneracion

DOWNEY—Before a packed audience of distinguished guests and community leaders, emcee Don Knabe made certain to underscore the tremendous good GOOD (Gangs Out of Downey) is doing to the community, reminding everyone that in the engaged effort, "You can make a difference."

A highlight was a plaque presentation to Ernest Caldwell, a protege of 10-20 Club president Darrell Jackson and who has earned a seat on S.A.R.B.'s board, who spoke movingly about his dark past as a gang member and, fidgeting in his "unaccustomed" suit-and-tie attire, how a religious transformation turned his life around."

See **GOOD**, page 4

Cop grant funds to neighborhoods

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The City Council has appropriated \$122,910 in federal police grant funds for support of the neighborhood preservation effort in Downey.

The action at Tuesday's regular council meeting includes the balance of all unspent block grant program funding allocated by the federal government through 2004-05 plus the accrued interest.

For overtime patrols

The money will be used to support the overtime cost for police officers for the neighborhood preservation program through extra patrols in target areas where special problems have been reported.

The action involves federal grant funds and has no impact on the general fund budget.

Seizure funds to buy cop computers

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The City Council has approved the expenditure of \$90,000 in police asset seizure funds for the purchase of computers.

The action was at Tuesday's regular Board meeting. A staff report noted that the present computers are operated on a round-the-clock, 24/7 basis, are four years old and are breaking down at an alarming rate that compromises dependable police operation.

Improved compatibility

The police management system (New World) will be compatible with the new computers and will enhance operations and capabilities. A total of 75 computers will be purchased through this allocation.

There is no impact on the City's General Fund as all expenditures will be asset seizure funding earned through department operations.

In other action the City Council:

*Heard a presentation by Mark Morris of the City's Housing Division on the Housing Division's Senior Paint and Fix-Up program.

Reduce diesel emissions in rail yards

*Adopted a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 888 (De La Torre) which would authorize the South Coast Air Quality Management District to require retrofitting to reduce diesel emissions in rail yards.

*Allocated \$26,350 for the cost of municipal consolidated election of Nov. 2.

*Appropriated \$122,910 in federal police grant funds for support of the Neighborhood Preservation effort. Councilman Richard Trejo in particular spoke for the measure which passed 5-0.

*Approved a permit for the closure of Brookshire Avenue from Firestone Boulevard north to Civic Center Drive for the Chamber of Commerce Street Fair on May 7.

*Approved reallocation of library appropriations for the Computer Network project.

Honors for Miss Downey and her Court

*Honored Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey and their courts with the presentation of pins.

*Approved the appointment of Dwight Simpson to the City Hospital Commission from District 4.

*Proclaimed April Fair Housing Month.

The next public meeting of the Council will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday April 26 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Funding to improve computers at library

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The City Council has approved the reallocation of Library appropriations to fund a much-needed library computer network project.

The action at Tuesday's regular meeting was suggested by staff, in a report that stated there are cabling, security, equipment and compatibility problems with the current library software. Total cost of the improvements is \$50,000.

See **COMPUTERS**, page 4

**WATCH FOR THE
DOWNEY STREET FAIR
COMING MAY 7**



SWINGING SENIORS – Members of the Downey Seniors Recreation Club celebrated almost 50 years of dance with a lively luncheon April 4 at the Rio Hondo Country Club. For information on joining the club, call Fred James at 928-3716.

2nd Night Passover Seder at Temple

DOWNEY—(Reform) Temple Ner Tamid of Downey and (Conservative) Temple Beth Shalom of Whittier will be having a 2nd Night Passover Seder at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 24 at Temple Ner Tamid, 10629 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey. The community is welcome to attend.

During Passover, Jewish congregations celebrate and recall the exodus from Egypt. The eating of unleavened bread (matzoh) is symbolic and traditional, and it is done for the 8 days. The menu consists of kosher style chicken or vegetarian dinner.

Donation for adults and children 13 and older is \$25; children 6-12 years old \$10; children 5 and under free.

Reservations and payment cut-off date is Monday, April 18 as space is limited. For information, call the Temple office, 861-9276.

Area sex offender registry available

DOWNEY – Information related to the sex offender registry, commonly referred to as “Megan’s Law,” for the Downey area may be found online at <http://gismap.co.la.ca.us/sols/default.htm>.

Information is also available by calling 863-8711.

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Newcomers Club prep for annual fashion show

DOWNEY—The Downey Newcomers Club is busy preparing for their annual fashion show, “Fashions at a Glance,” to be presented by Glory M’Lou of Seal Beach Monday, May 2 at the Rio Hondo Country Club.

The event will feature door prizes by Downey merchants. The proceeds will help the club award 3 scholarships to the local Downey high schools, as well as support the Rose Float Association, H.E.L.P. and the P.T.A.

Tickets are on sale for \$25 each. The event will begin with a social hour at 10:30 a.m., then a lunch of prime rib, followed by the fashion show at 12:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are recommended, as this is always a sold-out event. For tickets, contact Melba at 862-2799.

Small business workshops at city library

DOWNEY—Entrepreneurs and others interested in starting and running a small business may attend an upcoming series of free workshops at the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave. Featured will be a collection of library books for small business owners.

The series starts with “Legal Issues for Small Business: Choosing a Business Entity” presented by attorney Ben Martin Saturday, April 23 in the Cormack Room from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Martin will explain the pros and cons of establishing a sole proprietorship, partnership, C-corporation, S-corporation, limited liability company and limited liability partnership.

Others in the series are: “Financing Your Small Business: Access to Capital (May 7); “Marketing Your Small Business” (June 25); Starting & Running a Home-Based Business” (July 9); and “Running a Business in Downey” (July 23).

Participants may attend one or all sessions. The workshops are presented through a Library Services & Technology grant from the California State Library. For reservations, contact the Adult Information desk at 904-7360, ext. 3.

Golf tournament and banquet May 9

DOWNEY – The Teen Challenge Ministry Institute will hold its 1st Annual Golf Classic & Banquet on May 9 at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization that works with individuals with drug and alcohol addictions.

Registration for the tournament starts at 9:30 a.m. and costs \$150, which includes admission to the banquet for a spouse. Sponsor opportunities are also available.

Play will be conducted in four-person scramble format, with each player using his own ball to compete for individual prizes.

To register or help with a sponsorship, call (323) 569-2818. Nick Garife is director.

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THE GALAXY – U12 boy’s soccer team finished their season by winning the Tri-Section Championship last month, becoming the first Downey team to accomplish the feat since the girls did it five years ago. The Galaxy, originally knocked out of the section playoffs but invited to continue as a wildcard team, shutout Chula Vista 4-0 in the finals. Managing the team is Coach Jerman Valencia and assistants Bruno Leal and William Ochoa.

DUSD exceeds energy savings projections

DOWNEY—Working together to save energy, the staff members of the Downey Unified School District exceeded energy savings projections set by the District and its energy conservation partner, Energy Education, Inc., for the just-completed performance year by \$119,727.

The projected cost avoidance target during the third year of DUSD’s program with Energy Education, Inc. was \$692,000. The District finished the year with \$811,727 in savings. DUSD has avoided a total of \$2,480,623 in costs since beginning the energy program.

“Surpassing savings projections is a significant achievement,” said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and founder of Energy Education, Inc. “DUSD has achieved success very quickly by consistently implementing the people-oriented approach to energy conservation and maintaining productive efforts at all levels of the organization. We commend the Superintendent and the School Board, and other administration, faculty, and staff members for clearly fulfilling their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers’ money and the environment.” DUSD began its people-oriented energy conservation program in partnership with Energy Education, Inc. in November 2001.

Dr. Wendy Doty, DUSD Superintendent, said: “Our District Energy Manger, Calvin Davis, has done an excellent job of monitoring our energy use. Our staff has been committed to controlling energy usage in every area. The District is proud to have saved \$2.48 million in energy costs. This savings can be redirected to the classrooms and our educational program.”

Community prayer breakfast May 11

CERRITOS—The Cerritos Community Prayer Breakfast (CCPB) returns to the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on May 11 featuring Doug Mazza, who was for years identified with the automotive industry. The breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m., with Los Angeles County 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe as master of ceremonies.

Mazza began his automotive career as a member of the launch team for Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America. He was later recruited by American Suzuki Motor Corporation as a senior executive. He finished his career in automobiles in 1997 after serving as the COO for Hyundai Motor American since 1992.

Mazza is current president and executive director of JAF Ministries, the international nonprofit organization that serves people with disabilities and their families in the U.S., Western and Eastern Europe, South America, China, India and Africa. For information/tickets (\$20 per person), call Mary Villegas at (562) 860-8378.

Speaker to discuss natural gas April 16

DOWNEY – Sierra Club official Rudy Vietmier will speak on Liquefied Natural Gas and their announcement that they’re bringing their product to Long Beach, when the League of Women Voters Downey Area meets at Furman Park Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m.

Natural Resources Director Silvia Arroyo will take questions from the audiences. The public is invited to attend.

DowneyLINK services for residents

DOWNEY – DowneyLINK, the city of Downey’s transit system, operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information on routes and transfers, call 529-LINK. Each ride costs 25 cents.

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Monday, April 25th 10:00 a.m. Carrow's 10640 Rosecrans Ave., Norwalk	Monday, April 25th 2:30 p.m. Sizzler 10153 Artesia Blvd., Bellflower	Wednesday, April 27th 10:00 a.m. Hometown Buffet 8432 Firestone Blvd., Downey

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GIRL SCOUT TROOP 278 – Has been collecting and recycling cans and bottles, using the proceeds to buy bar soap, toothpaste, toilet paper and other necessities for the PTA H.E.L.P.S. room, a local organization that helps the needy in Downey.

Carpenter students attend Music Center

DOWNEY—Carpenter Elementary fifth graders were among 18,000 other fifth graders from throughout Los Angeles County to attend a free performance on April 5, 6, and 7 at the Music Center by MOMIX, the internationally acclaimed dance company.

The program is part of the Dorothy B. Chandler Children's Festival, one of many programs undertaken by the Music Center Education Division, which provides "the finest in arts education" to hundreds of thousands of students and teachers each year while providing "leadership to advance the quality and scope of arts education in Southern California."

Jailhouse conversion story at church

DOWNEY—A local Downey boy's jailhouse experience that led to his conversion, a la Chuck Colson, along with other instances of redeeming power that can turn tragedy turning into opportunity, will be featured at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, April 24 at the First Presbyterian Church of Downey.

Preceding "Daniel's Story" will be a Starbuck's Moment (coffee and pastries) at 9 a.m., and education classes for all at 9 a.m. Information: 861-6752.

'Moon Over Buffalo' at Warren

DOWNEY—Tickets costing \$7 went on sale Monday for "Moon Over Buffalo," a presentation by the Warren High Drama Department on May 10-13 at 7:30 p.m. For reservations, call 869-7306, ext. 5618. There will be no late seating.

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Word of MOUTH
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

Because our jaws are smaller than our early ancestors' jaws, they often lack sufficient room for the wisdom teeth. If so, these third molars can become partially impacted (unable to erupt), leaving an opening for bacteria to enter around the tooth and cause infection. There is also the potential that poorly aligned wisdom teeth will damage adjacent teeth, or that a fluid-filled sac (cyst) could form, which leads to the destruction of surrounding structures such as bone, teeth, and roots. All these possibilities are good reason for extraction. However, not everyone has problems with wisdom teeth. To assess your situation, ask the dentist to evaluate the health and positioning of your third molars before potential problems arise.

If a wisdom tooth is impacted or is emerging and causing problems, you should schedule an appointment with your dentist as soon as possible. This column has been brought to you in the interest of better dental health. We believe in an informed patient approach to achieving optimum dental health. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, Where we are dedicated to saving and restoring your teeth and helping you look your best. Call (562) 923-3714 to schedule an appointment for superior oral health care. Beautiful smiles are a team effort.

P.S. Wisdom teeth usually erupt between ages 17 and 25.
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DUSD elementary track and field meet April 23

DOWNEY—The Downey Unified School District will hold its 45th annual Carnival of Champions Track and Field Exhibition Saturday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Downey High School, 11040 Brookshire Ave. The public is welcome; admission is free.

The meet brings together 4th and 5th grade representatives from 9 Downey elementary schools. Approximately 500 boys and girls will compete in the following 7 track and field events:

- *50-Yard Dash
- *100-Yard Dash
- *Baskets in One Minute
- *Softball Throw for Distance
- *Standing Long Jump
- *Four-Member-Team 440 Yard Relay
- *Mixed Coed Relay

Field events will begin at 8 a.m., followed by running events at 10:15 a.m. Final heats will take place at 11:30 a.m.

Team scoring will be on a 10-8-6-4-2 basis for 1st through 5th place in each event.



10-20 CLUB'S FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT—Darrel Jackson was among more than 150 Grants Workshop participants on Feb. 8 who received valuable guidance directly from federal officials who review grant applications. They represented such agencies as the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Here he confers with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, whose office sponsored the workshop. The 10-20 Club is an anti-gang prevention program that provides young people who range in age from 10 to 20 years with positive alternatives to gang involvement through mentoring programs, anger management classes, family support groups, drug and alcohol diversion programs and community service.



SIX WOMEN – Were honored at Downey Soroptimists' annual Women of Distinction program held last month at the Rio Hondo Events Center, which also included the presentation of the Violet Richardson Award to Kathleen O'Connell for her 'Soles for Souls' project, which provided over 300 pairs of shoes to less fortunate people in the community. From left: O'Connell; Lucy Lynn Wilson; Dorothy Pemberton; Stacy Brabant; Fay Campbell; Jean Kiskadden; Judy McDonnell; Linda Haines; Dawn Marie Lemonds, Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project Liaison for Project Independence; and Joan Bauer, teacher in the pregnant minors' Cal-SAFE Program.

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FOOD COURT	12:15-12:45 Country Kickers
Snacks, Lunch, Desserts and Drinks	1:00- 3:00 Flashpoint Band
from your favorite restaurants and to support many non-profit organizations.	3:45- 5:00 All About Me Band
CLASSIC CAR SHOW	
3:15-3:30 Car Show Awards	

Street named after Eugene Erickson, 86

DOWNEY—Eugene Erickson, for 23 years the administrator of Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, died of congestive heart failure on Feb. 26 at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla. He was 86.

Erickson, along with John Affeldt, MD, Vernon Nickel, MD, Jacqueline Perry, MD, Evalyn Hamil, RN, and other key individuals, turned the county's Rancho Los Amigos facility from the county poor farm and long-term care facility into one of the top three acute care rehabilitation centers in the United States. During his tenure as administrator, from 1953 through 1976, the hospital developed and pioneered special programs to serve and rehabilitate patients with very severe physical defects, notably spinal cord injuries, birth defects and post-polio myelitis.

For each patient, an intensified care, treatment and training program was developed and carried out by a team working together—physician/surgeon, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, speech therapist, recreational therapist, medical social worker and special prostheses were needed. The team approach was considered radical at the time, but it worked—patient stays in the hospital were greatly reduced and patients achieved a much higher level of independence and self-care than previously. The quality of life for the hundreds of thousands of paraplegic and quadriplegic patients treated over the years at Rancho Los Amigo Rehabilitation Hospital was vastly improved. The concept of an individualized intensive care plan for each patient, carried out by a team of specialists, became the standard for excellent rehabilitation care across the country.

All of this great advance in rehabilitation occurred during Erickson's stewardship of Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Hospital. In recognition of his accomplishments, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, upon his retirement, renamed a street on the hospital grounds "Erickson Street," breaking a policy and precedent of never naming a street after an individual while they were still alive.

A graduate of UCLA, he also received a master's degree from USC. He served as a Naval officer during WWII. He was active in a number of hospital professional organizations and, beginning in 1966, was listed in Who's Who in America. For many years, he resided in Long Beach but, upon retirement, moved to La Jolla.

Erickson is survived by his wife, Gertrude of La Jolla; two brothers, Vincent of Indian Wells and Harlan of Newport Beach; and two daughters, Diane Gunderson and Kathleen Umamoto of the Los Angeles area.

At his request, no services were held. The family suggests donations be made to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

COMPUTERS

Cost breakdown

That figure breaks down to \$18,350 for hubs and connectors; \$9,100 for a computer server for a public system; \$12,450 for installation and programming work; \$4,000 for network equipment for Santa Fe Springs; and \$6,100 for cables.

The money involves the reallocation of two existing budget programs. One of these supplies the main library funding, and the second the library consortium program with Santa Fe Springs.

The moves do not impact the present General Fund.

STREET FAIR

Downey's own Class 6 Band will start the 11 a.m. hour with classic rock cover favorites, including Jimmy Hendricks, Deep Purple, AC/DC and Alice Cooper. The band has been playing for over 10 years and includes Downey residents Chris Baumann, Scott Charitan and Rick Martinez.

Country music fans will love the Country Kickers, returning again this year with their fast-paced, western foot stomping music and dance at 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Under the direction of Janet Karter, the troupe performs both line dances and partner dances such as waltzes, western cha cha, and two-step.

Flight, a five-piece dance band, will display their musical versatility at 1 p.m. with a challenging repertoire spanning six decades of music, including swing, country, T and B, surf, disco, pop, funk, blues, jazz, and rock. Punning on the group name, leader Lou Apodaca invited everyone to "fulfill your entertainment needs and take Flight with us at the Street Fair."

Performing the final act from 3:45-5 p.m. will be All About Me, a local rock 'n roll band, featuring high energy rock from the 70's, 80's and 90's, and selections from their own original repertoire.

In addition to music and dancing, The Kid's Zone will provide rides, game booths, and other attractions for the younger crowd. Kiddie rides will include a moon bounce, super slide, swings, Jacob's Ladder and a train. For pre-teens and teens, there will be wall climbing, combat jousting and more. Tickets will be 50 cents each and will vary in number required for each attraction.

Car enthusiasts will also find an eye-candy showcase of shiny classic cars displayed by their owners at the far end of the high school parking lot. Spectators will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite vehicles. Two "People's Choice" awards will be given, as well as trophies for Best of the Show, Best Paint, Best Interior, and Most Original. Winners will be announced and awarded at 3:15 p.m.

Finally, since no fair is fun without food, local groups and restaurants will feature an appetizing array of dishes to please every palette. The Downey United Methodist Church, B.B.Q. Bowl, B-Food International, Frantone's, Hawaii Tropical Drinks, the Downey Rose Float Association, Pinata's Taco House, the Downey AYSO, Lisa's Sweet Stop, Snookydoggs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Old Fashioned Kettle Korn, Barrett's Lemonade, and Orange Mist will provide a true smorgasbord of dishes ranging from Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Mexican, American, and Italian.

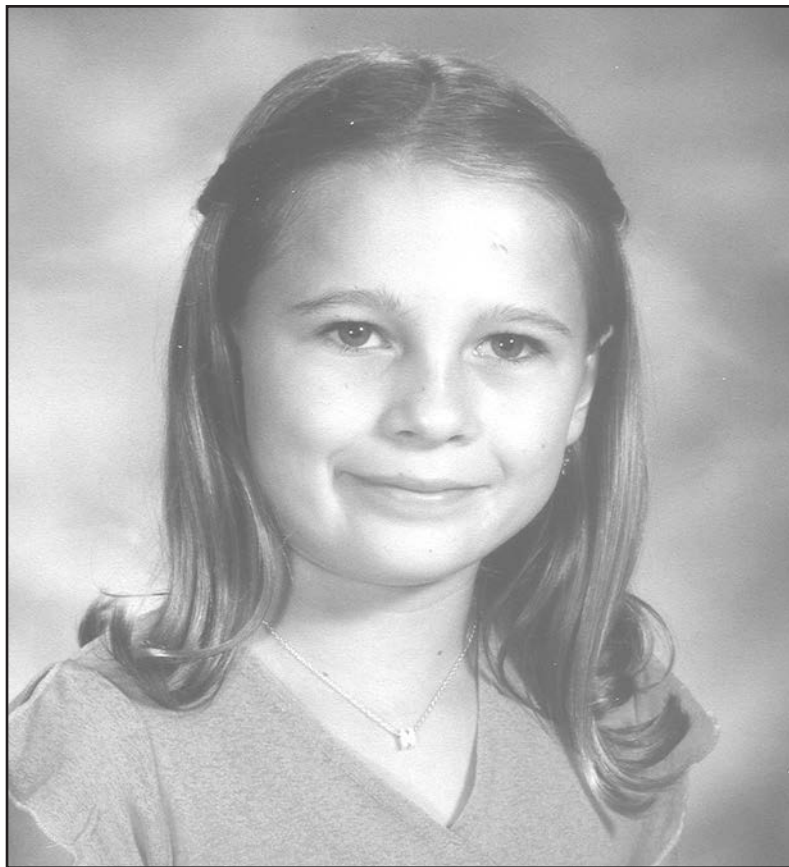
Produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, the fair is sponsored by CalMet Services, Inc.; Century 21-Jervis and Associates, Colin Clarke Agent; Downey Federal Credit Union, Downey Ford, Downey Regional Medical Center, Financial Partners Credit Union and HealthFirst Medical Group.

Rose Float 'casino night' April 22

DOWNEY—The Downey Rose Float Association's first annual "Casino Night" is slated for Friday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Women's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd. There will be food, games, a silent auction, gifts, and door prizes. Tickets are \$20 per person.

For information/tickets, call Gary DeRemer at 260-8503, or Nancy Rysavy at (213) 730-6006.

The Rose Float Association will also be holding fundraisers at the Downey Street Fair May 7 and will man a fireworks booth at the Ralphs on Lakewood Boulevard in July.



NICHELLE ESQUITIN – Will tour Washington, D.C. while studying leadership strategies on a week-long trip in October. Nichelle is a student at Carpenter Elementary School.

Carpenter student going to Washington

DOWNEY – Nichelle Esquitin, a student at Carpenter Elementary School, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum, where she will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C. in October to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

Esquitin will examine the characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity. Forum delegates will also participate in group discussions and exercises to learn how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus and foster change.

Esquitin was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

AAA manager OASIS speaker April 18

DOWNEY—Guest speaker Hend Hasrouni, Downey District Manager of the Automobile Club of Southern California, will be demonstrating and explaining how a new computer program developed by AAA and other experts called "Roadside Review" works and how it will benefit drivers at Monday, April 18's OASIS meeting held at Downey Adult School, 12340 Woodruff Ave.

The program is said to include 8 scientifically validated physical and mental skills essential to safe driving.

The class Monday will open for enrollment at 3 p.m., with Dr. Robert Flynn's providing piano entertainment. There is no enrollment fee and no preregistration. The program is at 4 p.m., followed by a healthful full course dinner at 5 p.m. (which costs only \$3.50).

Downey Dial-a-Ride will provide transportation to the class. Information: 940-6200.

Family health and fitness fair tomorrow

DOWNEY—The City of Downey Community Services Department, in conjunction with Kaiser Permanente, is holding a Family Health & Fitness Fair tomorrow, April 16 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive.

The event kicks off with a fun run around Apollo Park starting at 8:30 a.m. as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle for the community and to acknowledge April as Healthy Parks Month.

The health fair begins at 10 a.m. and will include demonstrations from City instructors teaching yoga, hip-hop and Folklorico dance. There will be light refreshments.

Over 30 vendors will be present to promote emotional, physical and financial health, including the following screenings: body fat testing, glucose and cholesterol, blood pressure, bone density, and massage. For information, call 904-7223.



CHILDREN'S AUTHOR AND STORYTELLER—Kay Rydell makes a special appearance at the Downey City Library Thursday, April 21 from 7-7:45 p.m. to delight children ages 3-10 and their parents with her "Travel Adventures with Kay Rydell."

Children's storyteller at library April 21

DOWNEY—Children's author and storyteller Katy Rydell will make a special appearance at the Downey City Library Thursday, April 21 from 7-7:45 p.m. to present "Travel Adventures with Katy Rydell." This free program for children ages 3-10 will feature humorous tales from around the world. Rydell is a nationally-acclaimed storyteller, teacher and author of the picture book, "Wind Says Goodnight."

Parents are invited to the storytelling session. The library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave. For information, call 904-7360, ext. 4.

The poets' corner

The little mermaid

inside a muddy yard
where black eels writhe where iron-clawed seaweed clamps
and strangles foolish fish the old
sea witch cut out my tongue and for it sold to me
a bloody dram of hope dear prince
the hag said death unless I win your love

I have left my father's house and my sister's arms
risen above our coral grotto
to breathe this pale thin sky which lies around your head
for you I have learned to walk on the points of knives
silent dumb learning mortality
today you chose another to be your bride

a darkened moment ago
my sisters came near your shores and sang my name
they had cut off their hair which flowed so long and blue
in the currents of our home the sea the hag
who lives on the price of love
sold them this knife red in my hand as the dawn
if I use it to stab your heart I return as a child
my memory of you dissolved

swift rushes the morning the useless blade
shrieks with a lost sister's wail
it tumbles into the sea staining the rich foam
with witch's venom

on a sea-grape leaf
a drop of brilliance flickers like dew
suddenly all the twigs
shine like a fistful of lights

—Lorine Parks,
Downey

Friends' April selection for silent book auction

DOWNEY—The Friends of the (Downey City) Library, who maintain a bookstore within, invite the reading public to participate in their silent book auction for April. The selections are:

Star Wars Trilogy, Special Edition – Contains *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi*. Minimum bid: \$12.

Titanic [VHS] and Voyage on the Great Titanic: The Diary of Margaret Ann Brady (Dear America) – [VHS] – Winner of 11 Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Book (fiction) – The diary of 13-year old Margaret Ann Brady describes how she leaves her lonely life in a London orphanage to sail on the Titanic. Minimum bid \$14. [VHS – widescreen format and book]

The Making of Beauty and the Beast/Beauty and the Beast [VHS] – A modern movie masterpiece, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* waltzed away with 6 Academy Award nominations. Enjoy the film and how it was created in the making of the book. Minimum bid \$10 [Book and VHS format movie]

The Children's Book of Myths and Legends – The myths and legends in this book come from many different cultures all over the world. Contains stunning illustrations. Minimum bid \$6.

James Herriot's Treasury for Children – *James Herriot's Treasury for Children* collects all of the beloved veterinarian's delightful tales for young readers. Radiantly illustrated. Minimum bid \$6.

In Search of America – In this volume, Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster take readers on a journey through the U.S., and into the great themes of American identity. Minimum bid \$8.

America's First Ladies – Here, in a spectacular volume of over 200 photos – many not published before – are America's First Ladies in all their roles. A fascinating journey through 200 years of American history and a private audience with the presidential wives who helped shape it. Minimum bid \$7.

Millie's Book: As Dictated to Barbara Bush – Autographed by Barbara Bush and Millie. Celebrated on the cover of *Life*, Millie Bush has continued to gain the attention of the nation. *Millie's Book* presents an authorized account not only of the Bushes' White House but also of their home. Minimum bid \$15 [signed by author]

Norman Rockwell Illustrator – 25th anniversary edition. The artist's achievements have not only endured, but the art world has witnessed a deepening appreciation of Rockwell's unique place in American painting. Minimum bid \$6.

The 500 World's Greatest Golf Holes – There are 500,000 golf holes in the world. Here are the 500 most beautiful, difficult, exotic, thrilling and notable. Anecdote and history, strategy and geography, illustrated with more than 800 full-color photographs and hand-painted renderings. Minimum bid \$8.

Los Angeles Then and Now – *Los Angeles Then and Now* is a captivating chronicle of history and change since the dawn of the camera age. It pairs archive photographs, many over a century old, with specially commissioned views of the same scene as it appears today. Minimum bid \$5.

Cats of the World – 75 full-color and 100 b/w illustrations. This book explores origins of the domestic cat, emergence of breeds, feline behavior, myths, cats' roles in history, and more. Minimum bid \$6.

Wild Animals of North America – National Geographic Society. Contains illustrations, photographs, geographic information, biology and much more. Minimum bid \$5

Life Classic Photographs – From a dazzling panorama of more than 50 years and 2,000 issues, John Loengard, former *Life* picture editor, has selected over 100 of his favorite images. Gives us an insider's account, richly spiced with anecdotes. 37 color, 65 black-and-white illustrations. Minimum bid \$6.

GOOD

DUSD's Rose Boland also made a brief but resonant presentation on the impact True Lasting Connections has been making in the lives of numerous Downey families who "can't even afford to avail of basic health services and the like."

A Phil Presicci GOOD scholarship was announced, which received warm applause. Among those lauded for their all-around valued contributions was DUSD Assistant Superintendent Stan Hanstad, who has been tireless in pushing for, among other things, the fast-burgeoning 'link' project.

I don't know if a record of sorts was established at the end, mainly because of Knabe's adroit emceeing, but the whole thing lasted barely over an hour. A good sign of things to come?

We get letters!

By John Adams

We attended the annual GOOD (Gangs Out Of Downey) luncheon April 13. County Supervisor Don Knabe combined just the right mix of levity and fun with the seriousness of the group's meaning and intent.

Many familiar faces including retired DUSD Superintendent Ed Sussman and former Downey businessman Phil Presicci (who conceived of GOOD and then fought to help create it in 1987), return for this yearly event.

This group does immense good in saving local youngsters from gang and drug inroads. It does just what the title suggests through financial contributions, emphasis and vigilance.

* * *

A check of the mailbag reveals a note from the Bellflower Civic Chorus, which will hold their annual spring concert, "I Love a Holiday," Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m., at the William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16660 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower (the same structure that houses the Bellflower City Hall).

The show pays a musical tribute to major holidays throughout the year, saluting each month and its holiday. Endearing favorites such as "Auld Lang Syne," "My Funny Valentine," "MacNamara's Band," and "Easter Parade," are all included, as are some surprises such as "That Old Black Magic," and "Let's Get Away From It All." American traditional favorites will include "I've been Workin' On the Railroad," and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." And patriotic holidays are remembered through "Your a Grand Old Flag," and others.

The evening will be topped off with special solo numbers and dancing by the "Headliners."

General admission for all this is just \$5. For information on membership and tickets, call (562) 866-4664 or (323) 569-5930.

This is a grass-roots group well worth the price of admission and Bellflower is right next door.

Web loaded with past memories and headlines

The online site www.DowneyEagle.com offers visitors a nostalgic trip down memory lane, with articles and feature stories chronicling Downey's steady progression as a city.

A look at some of the site's content:

July 11, 1997 - This issue prominently tells how the city was in negotiations for the purchase of 68 acres from NASA. The city envisioned industrial and commercial developments and even denied a request for an aerospace museum, saying it would require too much space while providing too few jobs.

This same issue features a story by our editor, John Adams, on the grand opening of the Krikorian Cinema. Its opening film was "Men in Black."

May 1, 1998 - The Downey Eagle announced the addition of new employee Kristen Price, who "will be replacing veteran ad representative Jerry Brady, who will be in semi-retirement." Seven years later, the "semi-retired" Brady is the full-time advertising director for The Downey Patriot and current president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

September 4, 1998 - A Los Angeles Federal Court judge threw out a lawsuit by Ed DiLoreto against the Downey Unified School District over their refusal to display a sign bearing the Ten Commandments on a fence near a high school baseball field.

Same issue also featured a chilling editorial by then-Congressman Steve Horn, almost three years to the day before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It read in part: "Although we must not and will not change our nation's role in the world to accommodate terrorists, we must do all we can to prevent an attack on American soil while preserving the ideals of our open society... Let us hope that the Clinton Administration continues to monitor Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network...and takes further action to punish and prevent terrorism."

February 26, 1999 - The Sam's Club warehouse store on Florence Avenue announces their intention to move to a new, larger location in Long Beach. WalMart, the parent company of Sam's Club, promised to work with the city in finding a new tenant for the site.

April 7, 2000 - Scenes for a new Fox television sitcom began filming at Downey Ford, which was selected because of its resemblance to old car lots of the 1950s. Proclaimed Patty Garcia, Executive Assistant at Downey Ford: "The location scout from Ray Arts Studio was looking for a dealership that looked old...and we were it!"

Scrounge up more history at www.DowneyEagle.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Resident explains her intent

Dear Editor:

I want to thank Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's workshop on "How to apply for government grants." The workshop covered all subjects [helpful] to someone [contemplating] to put together nonprofits that will help our citizens.

While in the workshop I had the great privilege of meeting Sister Sylvia from the Daughters of Charity. Her mission is to find and fund housing for our elderly. I asked her, "Please give me an example of what level of seniors needs this project of yours." This is what she related to me:

In Los Angeles, there is a place where her order of Catholic nuns delivers Meals on Wheels. She said there is a man, 79 years old, who served in WWII and was injured in that war and since then has suffered from his injuries. He is a disabled American veteran. When her group delivers his meals, they must take an elevator to the third floor. She said the stench is so bad that they cover their noses and try to hold their breath[s] for the three-floor elevator ride to his room. His room is large enough to have a bed and about 7 steps of walking space. He has three bolts on his door and is in constant fear because the residents frighten him. This is one of our seniors that she works hard to find decent housing [for]. And she applies for money from our government to help this cause.

These are the kinds of Americans that I cited when I [wrote] a few weeks ago that are in jeopardy of losing their funding in the current and immoral budget proposal that our President wants to pass through our legislative bodies. For those that don't take the time to give service to their community, their county, their state and country, to get down and dirty to the startling facts of how some of our citizens live and can only look at entitlements and aids in a negative way...I wanted to share this experience with the hope of opening hearts and minds to the fact and truth...that we have in our country men and women who have slipped through the cracks of our society and live everyday in undignified living conditions. And I want also to say this:

Blessed.... are the poor in spirit.... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
 Blessed....are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy
 Blessed.... are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God

Whether Christian, Jew, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist and so on.... all religions teach us that what we do to the least of our brethren we do to our Higher Power, I call God through Christ.

Therefore, this sharing with you of my experience, my hopes and dreams is meant only to inspire. It is not meant to argue.

—Marie Augimeri,
 Downey

Exhibit celebrates polio vaccine's 50th

DOWNEY—An exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Salk vaccine against polio will move from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey to Stonewood Center for display tomorrow, Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rancho Los Amigos was a center for the rehabilitation of polio patients for years prior to the discovery of the vaccine in 1955. Following that discovery the number of polio patients in the country plummeted from more than 45,000 to 910.

Admission to the display is free. Call (562) 401-1602 for information.

Gustafson named to fill chamber slot

DOWNEY—Gwynn Gustafson, a resident of Downey for 30 years, has been selected to fill the term of a resigning member of the Chamber Board of Directors.

Gwynn is an active member of the Chamber's Rise N' Shine networking group, and also serves on the Street Fair Committee. Her own business is as an advertising consultant for Co-Op Cache Consulting, with a focus on locating vendors and/or manufacturers to pay for retailer ads in local newspapers.

A product of a local high school and Cerritos Community College, she is a former director of the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Hollywood Chamber, and the California Newspaper Advertising Executives Association.

In Downey she is a supporter of the Downey Civic Light Opera and the Pro Networkers.

She is married to husband Bobby and has three married daughters and three granddaughters.

She can be reached by calling (562) 869-5366.

'Educator Enrichment Day' held at CC

NORWALK—The Cerritos College Foundation, in cooperation with the Boeing Company, the Southern California Gas Company and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, hosted more than 400 local K-12 educators representing 80 area school districts at its third annual Educator Enrichment Day on March 19. Engineers, physicists, chemists and technology experts from industry volunteered their time and knowledge to lead teachers in hands-on training sessions, in the first of a three-part training program known as T.E.A.M. Science (Teacher Enrichment and Mentoring) established through collaboration between private and public sectors.

"The goal of Educator Enrichment Day is to provide educators with direct interaction with knowledgeable industry specialists," said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation. "During Educator Enrichment Day, we established a cohort of protégé teachers who in the coming months will be mentored in practical science and technology principles by Boeing employees who have been in the industry for several years. By exposing educators to interaction with physicists and engineers who deal with mathematic and scientific principles on a day-to-day basis we expect that they'll soon absorb a wealth of practical knowledge to then share with their students."


The second part of the T.E.A.M. Science collaboration involves arranged mentor-protégé relationships between Boeing employees and K-12 teachers. The third piece of the enrichment trilogy, Summer Science Camp, is scheduled for July, and invites area K-12 students to partake in exploration of science and math experiments team-led by educators and Boeing employees. Many Boeing employees involved in the program are from the company's facility in Seal Beach.


Volunteers needed for trash pickup

DOWNEY—Keep Downey Beautiful is looking for volunteers to help pick up trash throughout the city on Saturday, April 23 from 9-11 a.m., as part of Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup observed throughout the nation March 1 through May 31. The Great American Cleanup is believed to be the nation's largest annual community improvement program.

To volunteer, call 904-7159.

The Downey Patriot

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The Downey Patriot is published weekly by John Adams.
 Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by
 Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

Mass of Christian Burial held for Victoria Pelusi

DOWNEY—A Mass of Christian Burial was held on April 4 for Victoria Ann Pelusi at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, where she was a parishioner for over 40 years. Born July 23, 1927 to Louis and Anna Speno, she passed away on March 29 at the age of 77.

She was a beautician by profession, an avid gardener, and an equally avid sports fan, especially enjoying basketball and baseball. She was a native Californian and longtime resident of Downey.

Pelusi is survived by sons Frank Pelusi of Laverne and Eugene Pelusi of Buckley, Washington; brothers Sonny Speno of Redding, CA, Sam Speno of La Habra, and Eugene Speno of Palm Desert; sisters Mary Jane of Glendale and Frances of Monterey Park. Also sure to miss her are her many friends.

Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City. The Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary was entrusted with services.

Lorenza Soto was a native of Spain

DOWNEY—Born in Zaragoza, Spain and since 1969 a resident of Downey, Lorenza Soto passed away at home on April 5.

A Memorial Service was held in her honor on April 12 at Miller-Mies Mortuary Chapel, officiated by Deacon Mario Guerra.

She held memberships in the National Automotive Dealers, Automotive Dealers Office Managers and the California Motorcar Dealer Associations.

Soto is survived by brother Joaquin and his family; daughters Patricia and Lori; grandchildren Ryan, Sean, Mando, Kyle, Ruben, Kevin and Carolina; great granddaughter Hailey; and sons-in-law Sergio and Ruben.

Burial was at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

Arrangements were handled by Miller-Mies Mortuary.



MARIA GUERRA—Whose full name was Maria Teresa De Jesus De La Campa Guerra, was along with her family an émigré from Cuba, to escape the communist regime there. Son Mario Guerra serves as a deacon at St. Raymond's Catholic Church.

Maria Guerra migrated to U.S. from Cuba

DOWNEY—Maria Guerra, who was born Jan. 19, 1928 in a small fishing town called Puerto Padre in Cuba, has died after a long illness with lung cancer that developed into bone cancer. She had brought her family to the U.S. from Cuba in 1965 to escape the communist regime, and had lived in Huntington Park for 40 years. She died on March 29. Her full name was Maria Teresa De Jesus De La Campa Guerra. Her last occupation, in a life that saw her engage in many, was owning her own retail business specializing in porcelain figurines.

A Memorial Mass officiated by Msgr. Robert Gipson was held in her honor on April 5 at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, where her son Mario Guerra serves as a deacon. Deacon Mario, together with Deacon Ralph Riera, presided at her vigil held the evening before.

Her husband of almost 60 years, Manuel, preceded her in death, as did sons Luis Guerra of Downey and Juan Guerra of Long Beach. She is survived by sons Manny Guerra of Los Angeles and Deacon Mario Guerra of Downey; sisters Evangeline Gonzales and Eulalia Cuevas of Miami, Florida; daughter-in-law Ann Guerra, who was her main caretaker; grandchildren Angel Nicholson of Indiana, Adriana Thibideaux of Yorba Linda, Mario Luis Guerra II of Riverside, Lynne Guerra, Matthew Guerra, Haley Guerra and Ryan Guerra of Downey; 4 great grandchildren; and niece Alicia Cuevas of Miami.

Interment was alongside her husband, Manuel, at Holy Cross Cemetery. Services were entrusted to Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary.

Remembrance services for Joseph John Byrne

DOWNEY—Longtime Downey resident Joseph John Byrne, who was born May 29, 1920 to John and Vila Byrne in Galesville, Wisconsin, passed away on April 8 at the age of 84.

Remembrance services were held yesterday, April 14 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, where he had been a parishioner since the 1960's.

He served in the Army Air Corps where he was first a gunner, then a pilot of B24's and B25's. Among the many citations he received were the Silver Star and 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses. Sometime after his discharge from the Air Corps, he became general manager of an oil distribution company.

He donated much of his time with the Boy Scouts of America, the Downey Junior Athletic Association, and coaching Little League baseball. He also belonged to the American Legion Post #270.

Byrne is survived by his wife Alberta; sons Joseph Jr., Steven and Jeffery, daughters Paula and Linda; grandchildren Gregory Scott, Harkelwood, David Paul, Brad Alan, Kristopher John, Paul Joseph, Meagan Leigh and Andrew Michael; and great grandchildren Brandan Cortney, Branden Steven, Katrina and Elanina.

Interment was at Pine Cress Cemetery in his hometown of Galesville. The Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary was entrusted with services.

Funeral services held for Dorothy Esther Grilich

DOWNEY—Funeral services were held on April 4 for Dorothy Esther Grilich, a longtime parishioner of St. Raymond's Catholic Church, who was born in Wausau, Wisconsin on May 12, 1917 to Gustav and Lorena Karl, and passed away on March 29. She was 87.

She is survived by daughter Patricia (Antoni); son Rodney (Margaret); grandchildren Catherine, David, Anne and Linda; and great grandchildren Jennifer, Anthony and Elizabeth. Many friends will also miss her.

Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, with the Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary handling arrangements.

Program needs more local host families

LOS ANGELES—Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.), which sponsors foreign high school students for semester and year program homestays, is looking for Los Angeles area families to act as hosts to the youngsters ages 15-18 years who are scheduled to arrive soon.

According to P.I.E. director John Doty, the students are all English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

Families who host for P.I.E. are eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

P.I.E. has students coming from Germany, the former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Macedonia, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Australia, Yugoslavia, China and many other countries.

Doty encourages families to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

For more information, call Pacific Intercultural Exchange toll-free at 1-800-631-1818.

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 Ragy Saad
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 Ronnie Valencia
 Kristine Valenzuela
 Aimy Vo
 Dell Williams
 Marie Won
 Jean Won Yang
 Jean Yoo

IN MEMORIAM

Vivienne Wohlgenannt
 Jeanne McAllister
 Marge Rosenbauer
 James Meneilly
 Marge Corth



Volunteering at the April 2005 Blood Drive, from left: back row: Stephanie Guizar, Angela Lu, Kristine Valenzuela; Front row: Victor Martinez, Gaby Diaz, Anthony Moon

Auxiliary Parliamentarian
 Bob Wartenbe



Downey Regional Medical Center wishes to thank its 309 volunteers for giving 32,000 hours of service this past year to care for our community.

We proudly celebrate their spirit, sacrifice, commitment and achievements.

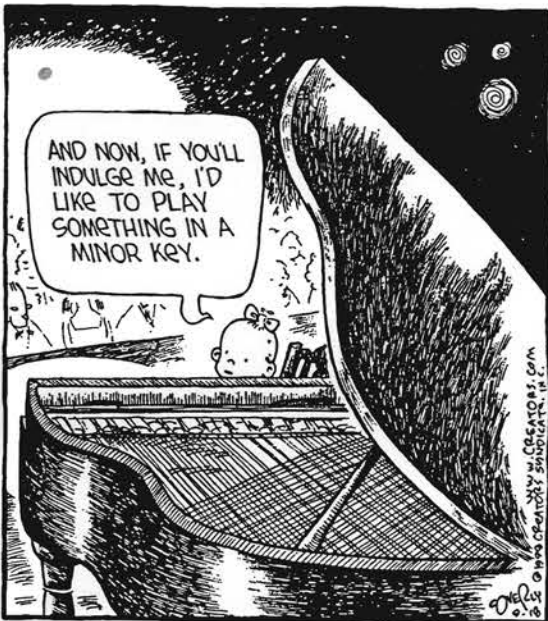
Throughout DRMC you'll find a variety of opportunities for volunteer service. For more details please call (562) 904-5321.



SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For April

Fri. Apr. 15, 6:30 p.m.: **Shawn Morgan** entertains at Granata's Restaurant, 11032 Downey Ave. The Pianist/vocalist also plays Saturday evening. For information call 861-2997.
Sat. Apr. 16, 8:00 p.m.: **Sebastian Sidi** in concert at the Downey Theatre, 8345 Firestone Blvd. Blends of rock, jazz, classical and Latin sounds. For information call 862-2111.

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 862-7197.
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

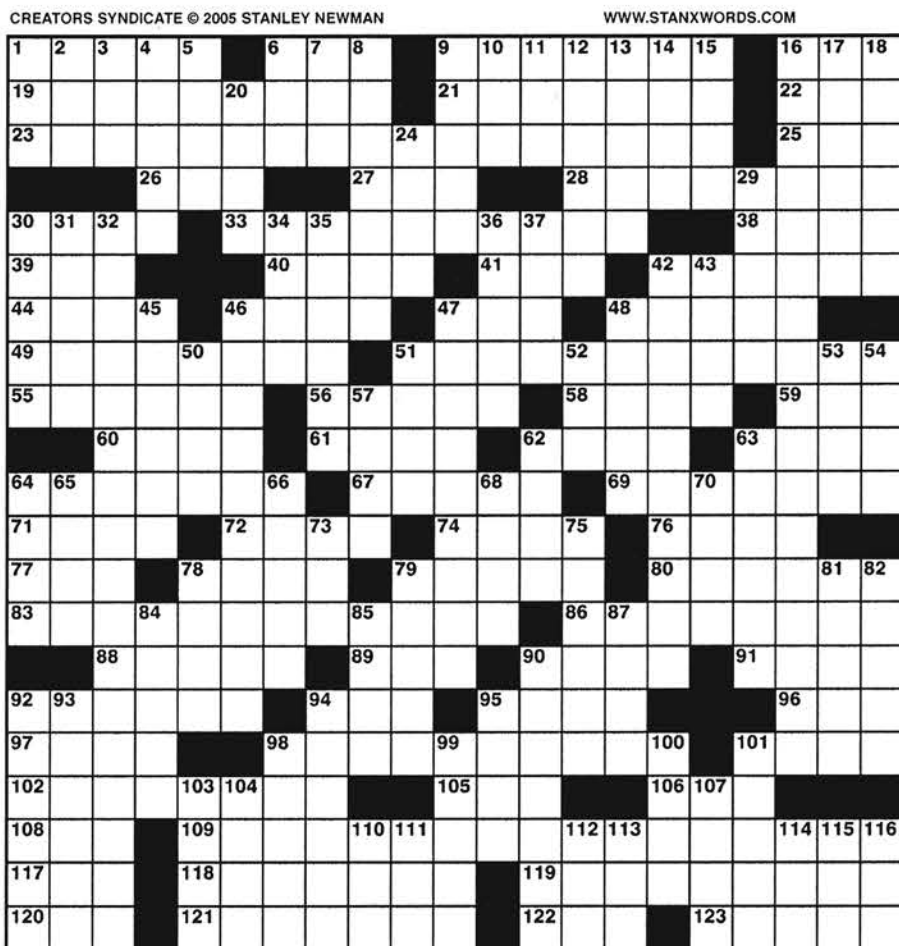
7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.

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)
 ON COURSE: With winter rules no longer in effect
 by Merle Baker

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



Syphax plays Sundays at the Nordic Fox

DOWNEY—Robert Syphax, singer, guitarist, and composer will play easy listening music of the 60s and 70s Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Nordic Fox Restaurant in Downey.

His favorites include James Taylor, Jime Croce, America, Eagles and Don McClean.

Syphax has opened for such well-known acts as Oingo Boingo, the Go Go's, and Josie Cotton.

There is no cover but reservations are suggested as seating is limited. The Nordic Fox is at Third Street and Paramount Blvd. in Downey. Call 869-1414 for reservations and information.

French farce on Long Beach Mainstage

LONG BEACH—"Don't Dress for Dinner," Robin Hawdon's adaptation of Marc Camoletti's boulevard comedy *Pyjamas pour Six* which played to SRO audiences in Paris for two years, will be presented by Long Beach Playhouse Mainstage Theatre, 5021 East Anaheim St. in Long Beach April 15-May 28.

Its storyline: Bernard is hoping to entertain his chic, Parisian mistress, Suzy, for the weekend. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to furnish gourmet delights, is in the process of packing his wife, Jacqueline, off to her mother, and has even invited along his best friend Robert as a suitable alibi. It's foolproof, what could possibly go wrong? Just about everything!

Regular Friday and Saturday evening performance are at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees are April 24, May 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20, and \$18 for seniors; student ticket prices are \$18 Friday and Saturday with valid student ID. For information, call (562) 494-1014.

Marvel replaces Taylor in *Antigone*

LOS ANGELES—The 2003 Pulitzer Prize winning play 'Anna in the Tropics' opens in June at L.A. Theatre Works in Los Angeles.

The Nilo Cruz play captures 1929 Florida at a time when cigars are still rolled by hand and "lectors" are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is cause for celebration, but when he reads aloud from Anna Karenina, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics and the American dream prove a volatile combination.

Ticket information is available by calling (800) 708-8863. All performances are held at the Skirball Cultural Center.



WAITRESS LAURIE HEDLUND— Joins entertainer Rob Syphax in a musical number at the Nordic Fox, 10924 Paramount Blvd., Downey. Syphax sings and plays acoustic guitar with hits of the '60's and '70's every Sunday evening at the local eatery. For information, call 869-1414.

L.A. Arboretum botanical art show

ARCADIA—The Botanical Artists Guild of Southern California will present "Inspired by Nature: Paintings and Drawings by Botanical Artists," an exhibition of contemporary watercolor paintings and drawings by California artists at the Los Angeles Arboretum, April 23-May 1.

Botanical art is a centuries-old form of illustration showing the structure and growth patterns of plants. The number of galleries and shows featuring contemporary botanical art has grown, reflecting the growing level of interest in the art form.

The L.A. Arboretum and Botanic Garden is located at 301 N. Baldwin Ave. in Arcadia (626) 821-4624. Admission to the botanical art show is free with general admission to the garden: \$7 for adults \$5 for seniors and students with ID, \$2.50 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 are free.

'Fiddler on the Roof' auditions April 21

DOWNEY—Auditions for the Downey Civic Light Opera's (DCLO) production of "Fiddler on the Roof," will be held Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Downey. For information, call 923-8061.

Meanwhile, DCLO executive producer Marsha Moode announced the schedule of musicals for the 2005-2006 season. In October 2005, "Good News!" will be presented for the first time. The zany 1927 college musical features standards like "Varsity Drag," "Sunny Side Up," "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," and the "Best Things in Life are Free." In February 2006, "Nonsense," a "side-splitting" comedy, will be brought back by popular demand after an 11-year interval. Concluding the 2005-2006 season will be Jerry Herman's musical, "Hello Dolly," featuring the popular tune title, "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," and "Before the Parade Passes By."

To order tickets at a bargain price, call 923-1714. The Box Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 1-5 p.m.

'Tea' playing soon in Long Beach

LONG BEACH—International City Theatre, located at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center at 300 East Ocean Blvd., presents "Tea" April 29-May 22. The play, written by Velina Hasu Houston, explores the immigrant experience about five Japanese war brides adjusting to life in post-World War II Kansas alongside their American GI husbands.

Tickets are \$32-\$42. For tickets/information, call (562) 436-4610, or visit www.iclongbeach.com.

Season at Boston Court opens April 16

PASADENA—Zebulon Projects presents Grammy-winning jazz saxophonist Ernie Watts and his quartet at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16, and solo recording artist Kenny Rankin at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17, to open the 2005 Music at the Court season in the Marjorie Branson Performance Space at Boston Court, 70 North Mentor in Pasadena.

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Plaza Hotel & Casino Downtown Las Vegas
\$98⁵⁰ p.p. Dbl. Occ. Departing: Downey High School at 6:00 am
Jun. 28, 29, 30, 2005
Includes room, transportation, taxes & baggage handling

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FEVER PITCH PG13 (11:30 2:10 4:50) 7:30 10:10
SAHARA PG13 (10:40 1:35 4:30) 7:25 10:20
SIN CITY R (10:45 1:45 4:45) 7:45 10:45
BEAUTY SHOP PG13 (10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30
BEAUTY SHOP PG13 (11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
GUESS WHO PG13 (12:00 2:40) 5:20 8:00 10:40
MISS CONGENIALITY 2 PG13 (10:45 1:35 4:25) 7:15 10:05
THE RING 2 PG13 (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30
ROBOTS PG (10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20
THE PACIFIER PG (11:45 2:15 4:45) 7:15 9:45

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FEVER PITCH PG-13 (11:35, 2:15, 5:00), 7:45, 10:20
SAHARA PG-13 (11:15, 2:10, 5:10), 8:00, 10:45
SIN CITY R (11:00, 2:05, 4:55), 7:50, 10:35
BEAUTY SHOP PG-13 (11:10, 1:50, 4:25), 7:00, 9:35
GUESS WHO PG-13 (11:25, 2:00, 4:40), 7:20, 10:00
MISS CONGENIALITY 2 PG-13 (11:40, 2:10, 4:50), 7:30
ICE PRINCESS G (1:45), 7:05
THE RING TWO PG-13 (11:05, 4:30), 9:55
ROBOTS PG (11:20, 1:40, 4:10), 6:50, 9:25
THE PACIFIER PG (12:00, 2:25, 4:45), 7:15, 9:45
MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG-13 10:10 PM

Times for Friday-Thursday, April 15-21, 2005
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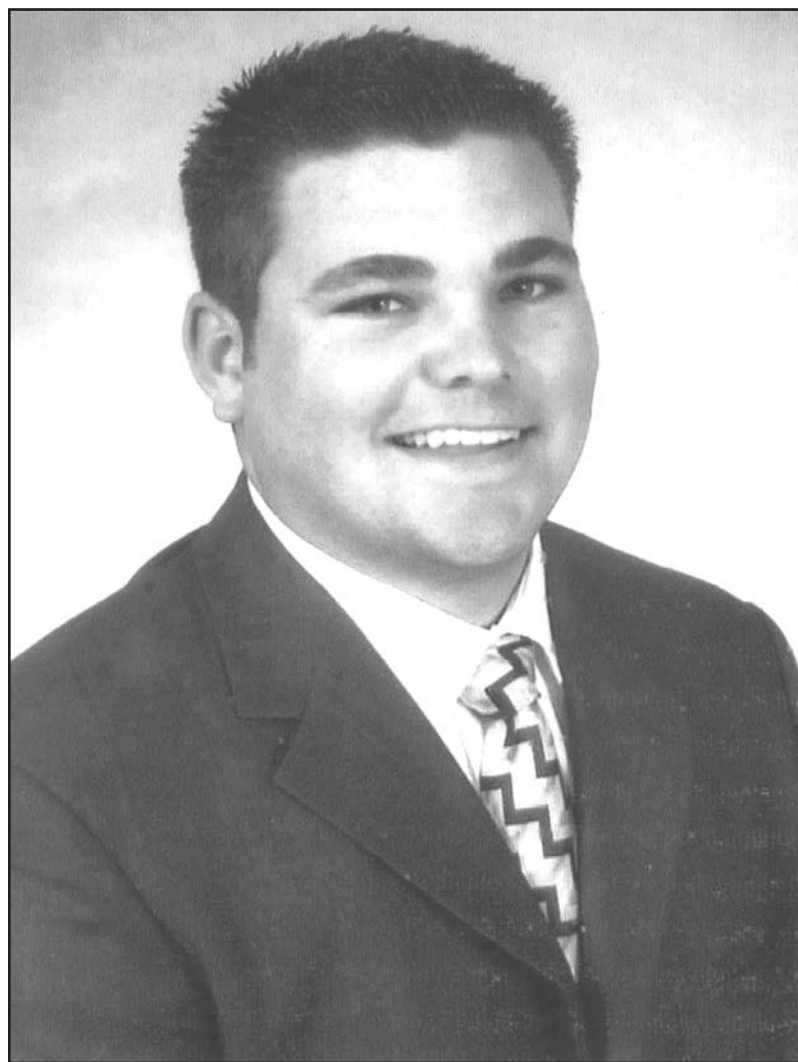
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RYAN LANG—Has left for Fort Worth, Texas to serve a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Warren grad latest LDS missionary

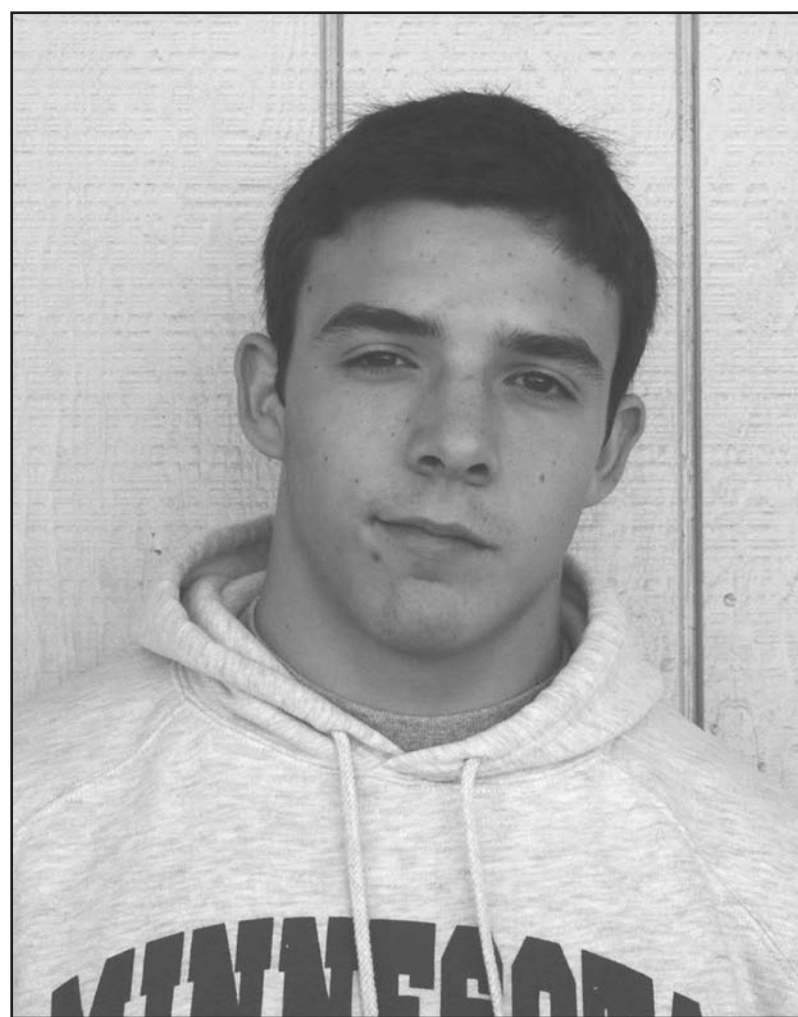
DOWNEY—Warren High School grad Ryan Lang, the son of Jon and Lisa Lang and grandson of Mary Lou and the late Jim Lang, all of Downey, left last week to serve a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Fort Worth, Texas Mission.

Ryan is the eighth young man currently serving a mission from the Downey First Ward (similar to a parish) which serves the northwest quarter of Downey. The young missionaries are scattered across the world. Troy Decorato is serving in upstate New York, Matt Hall in Ontario, Canada; Paul Grow in Auckland, New Zealand; and Bruce Lang (not related) in Manaus, Brazil. Ryan's brother, Josh, is working with people in western Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic. Randy Steadman is also in the Dominican Republic serving in the eastern part of Santo Domingo, Kevin Pellegrino serves in the Guayaquil North Mission of Ecuador. Another young man, Landon Wiest, former member of the group whose family moved to Pasadena, is serving his two-year mission in Fredriksberg, Denmark. Two other peers, David and Michael Grow, are serving their nation as U.S. Marines.

The young men are products of Downey schooling and most were before-school students in the church's seminary program.

Ryan, 19, attended Rio Hondo Elementary, Griffiths Middle School, and graduated from Warren High in June of 2004, where he was a member of the wrestling team. He was a member of Troop 406 and attained the level of Life Scout.

His father, Jon Lang, is the president of the Downey Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and oversees the operation of six wards and a young singles branch.



NICK HUIZAR — Reached the third round of nationals, making him one of the top 50 wrestlers in the nation.

Student-athlete grapples with best in the nation

By Benjamin Gutierrez

DOWNEY — Once in a blue moon, a student-athlete is able to participate in the most difficult competition to fight for the title as national champion. This blue moon has risen, as Warren High School sent its first national-ranked wrestling champion, Nick Huizar, to a national competition last week in Cleveland, Ohio.

Huizar was the second wrestling athlete to go to State, but only the first to have advanced to national competition, where he was among 827 wrestlers from around the country, 66 in his weight class.

The road to nationals was a long one. First, he placed in the top three in the San Gabriel Valley League, then placed in the top five in CIF to qualify for masters, where he had to be the top eight out of 550 represented schools in Southern California. Still, he had to be one of the top eight wrestlers in the final state meet to achieve his ultimate goal. And, with perseverance and a lot of sweat, Huizar overcame all of the obstacles and qualified for nationals.

Tim Brogden, Huizar's wrestling coach, described Nick in three words: dedicated, determined and intense. Brogden explained that Huizar's 51-13 record is extraordinary for a high school wrestler, emphasizing that he has only lost to one person who did not go on to compete for a state or national championship.

"I'm extremely excited for Nick," Brogden said. "He has worked very hard over the past four years to accomplish this."

That hard work, with an odd pre-match ritual, has been Huizar's secret to success. "Before a match, I listen to angry music and jump around in circles," he said.

In the end, Huizar was defeated in the third round of nationals, making him one of the top 50 wrestlers in the country.

Antique auction in Pasadena April 19

PASADENA—The John Moran Auctioneers will conduct its Antique & Fine Furnishings Estate Auction on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. in the Pasadena Conference Center, 300 E. Green St. in Pasadena. Preview of the auction items takes place at 3 p.m. or online at www.johnmoran.com.

The auction will feature more than 350 quality items, including antiques and fine furnishings, that have been removed from local estates and homes. Clocks, carved furniture, silver flatware and services, paintings, tables, chairs, chests of drawers, Oriental rugs, mirrors, lamps, art glass, crystal, china services, figurines, and more will be sold to the highest bidder.

Admission is free; catalogs are \$10. For information, call (626)793-1833 or log on to www.johnmoran.com.

SEAACA accepting toy donations

DOWNEY — The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA), 9777 Seaca St., is accepting donations of toys for their animal population, part of their ongoing program called Environmental Enrichment.

The program's goal is to reduce the stress of newly arriving pets. Call 803-3301, ext. 223 or 221, for more information.

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Business Breakfast Meeting April 20

DOWNEY—Action Faith Ministries is sponsoring a business breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 20 at Rio Hondo Country Club, 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, where pastor, teacher, international motivational speaker and business owner David Sarinana will present "Success through the force of facts." Information: 862-7720.

Downey Newcomers Club scholarships

DOWNEY—The Downey Newcomers Club scholarship committee, consisting of Mary Hammerle, Ferne Mulder and Paula Lou Roberts, is now reviewing applications from students of Columbus, Downey and Warren High Schools for DNC \$200 scholarships.

One student from each high school will be selected on Thursday, April 28. The amount of \$200 will be awarded upon the winning students' acceptance and enrollment this fall in the college of their choice.

AYSO sign-ups at Furman Park

DOWNEY—Registration for Downey AYSO is held daily at Furman Park from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and continues through June. Visit www.aysodowney24.org for more information.

Picture this: On a city street in the Outer Mission district of San Francisco, hope is building. More than 150 seniors wait to see if they'll be among the lucky few chosen for a place at 5199 Mission Street, a building of 36 beautiful new low-income apartments for seniors. For many, it means the end of living in garages, basements — and having to choose between medicine, food and rent. All because neighbors are uniting and saying "yes in my back yard" to affordable housing. Nearly 36 million people live in poverty. But today, hope has a new home. For easy ways you can help, visit www.povertyusa.org.

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Professor gets personal lesson in geography

NORWALK – In his more than 14 years at Cerritos College, geography professor Bob Kreger has nearly perfected his ability to put his students' "mind's eyes" in the midst of a certain geographic location through his descriptive storytelling.

He's been able to teach this way because he's actually been to the many places he describes to his students, and after spending nearly six weeks in South America this winter during his sabbatical, Kreger's catalog of expertise on geographical locale has just been expanded.

Geography – the study of the concept of "place" – is a discipline within Cerritos College's Earth Science Department. As one of only two full-time geography professors at the campus, Kreger's experiences at the college have certainly been varied. But nothing could have prepared him for the adventures he encountered when he stepped off a plane in Quito, Ecuador in Mid-December, 2004.

"I had taught about the geography of South America for most of my career at Cerritos College," he explained, and had developed "a healthy geographic curiosity" about the region. Since he and his wife had connections in La Paz, Kreger was elated when his proposal for a sabbatical spent traveling and photographing several countries in South America was accepted.

"The first thing I did was spend nearly four days in Ecuador visiting Quito, the capital, several smaller towns nearby and the equator," Kreger explained. "La Paz was our primary base of operations. Our friends in the area were very hospitable; they even quarreled a little over who would get to house the American guests."

Later, Kreger traveled to Arica, Chile. "Arica is an interesting city," he said. "There's a duty-free zone, where visitors can buy a variety of products – both legal and illegal. It's also a bustling coastal city and a popular destination for travel."

Kreger said the physical landscape of Arica includes several striking dichotomies. For example, along with the region's vast stretches of desert, there are hundreds of acres of olive and mango trees watered from deep wells and irrigation ditches the Chilean government learned to develop through a scientific exchange program with Egypt.

Kreger next spent a few days in Peru, where he visited Lake Titicaca, the highest fresh water lake on Earth. His relatively brief tour of Peru also included visits to the Incan city of Machu Pichu, the Spanish colonial city of Cuzco and more of the Andes Mountains, all of which Kreger said, "were interesting and beautiful."

Back in Bolivia, Kreger spent time in both Santa Cruz and La Paz. While La Paz is the political center of the country, Santa Cruz remains the economic nucleus of the country.

"There's a bit of competition between La Paz and Santa Cruz," Kreger said. "Bolivia as a whole is divided into nine different states called 'departments.' These departments don't readily share their resources, so there is a marked contrast between Bolivia's geographic regions."

Kreger also enjoyed a three-day stay in San Borja, an outpost on the fringes of the Amazon Jungle. The area, due to its proximity to the jungle, is hot and humid – quite the opposite of La Paz. While in San Borja, Kreger visited the village of Carra Carra where he met a few Chimani Indians, whose culture he said remained virtually uninfluenced by Western Culture until very recently.

"The situation with the Chimani is very similar to the way it was with the U.S. and Alaska [in regard to the way the U.S. interacted with the indigenous peoples of Alaska]," he said. "In 1952, Bolivian land reforms gave vast areas of land back to the Indians, which they now control for their benefit."

Kreger's visit to Carra Carra was made possible with the aid of a local building contractor, Manfred, whose company is building a new road to the Chimani village with funding from the International Monetary Fund. Kreger said many of the locals were interested in meeting a white man – apparently a rare experience for them since they live in such an isolated area.

Kreger visited the Salar de Uyuni, a 12,000 square-kilometer plain of salt that stretches flat, or "plano," as far as the eye can see. Hundreds of centuries ago, it existed as an inland ocean. Then the ocean had several islands, which are now isolated rock formations used by the four drivers as landmarks. Kreger said the salt bed is incredibly hard – like solid rock.

He described it as one of the most unique places he had ever seen.

One of Kreger's favorite excursions in Bolivia was his tour of Cerro Rico, the single largest deposit of silver found in the world. It is located just outside the city of Potosi. "I was told by my guide that there remains as much silver inside the mines of Cerro Rico as has ever been removed," Kreger said. "That's a lot of silver; enough to build a bridge of solid silver from New York to Madrid, Spain."

"Extensive mining of the silver began when the Spanish arrived," he continued. "Of the 450 mines found at Cerro Rico, 125 remain actively worked by nearly 10,000 miners that are organized privately and work as cooperatives."

Kreger and 10 other visitors toured a few of the active mines together on one of his last days in Potosi. "The only drawback of the tour," he said, "was that we weren't really told what to expect. First we were told to change into rubber outfits and boots. Then we had lighted helmets and battery packs strapped onto us."

"Then," Kreger said, growing animated, "we were told we could buy soda, grain alcohol, coca leaves, and detonation cord or dynamite as gifts for the miners." Kreger laughs. "Let's just say we were heavily encouraged to buy gifts for the miners. It was expected of us as visitors."

"Finally," he continued, "we spent most of the tour basically crawling on our hands and knees through the mines. During the five-hour tour we crawled down to a depth of 450 meters below the earth's surface. It was a bit spooky, but we still had to crawl out eventually."

Kreger said it was fortunate that he toured the mine on a Friday; normally, the workers labor heavily during the week, scratching out ore by hand and pushing it out of the mine in a cart. But on Friday, they relax a bit more. "As we walked through the mines, the workers were approachable and friendly."

One of the most meaningful experiences of Kreger's adventure at Cerro Rico was when he, the 10 other tourists, the tour guides and a few of the miners sat in a circle deep in the mines sucking on coca leaves and drinking grain alcohol. This is an important symbolic ritual for the miners on Fridays when they pay tribute to "El Tio" (the protector of the miners) and to "Paccha Mamma" (Mother Earth).

"Everyone was telling stories and laughing there in the mine deep underground," he said, recalling the party-like atmosphere. "This was the custom for the local workers – everyone sat around and sipped out of the same jug. It was a bonding moment for all of us, and I got to see a side of the culture I never would have seen otherwise."

Kreger departed South America and arrived back in the U.S. on January 19. He said he looks forward to creating a web site featuring trip photos and explanatory text. He took more than 800 digital photos while on the trip and said he'll be using many of these photos in class as he lectures about what his experiences taught him.

Looking back on his adventure, Kreger said he's sorry he couldn't have had more time to see more of the other regions of South America. "But I did get to experience most of the major climates and visit both large and small places in Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Bolivia," he said, smiling.

"That clearly made it all worthwhile."

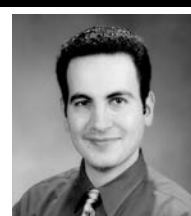


TEAM USA OF DOWNEY – Went undefeated recently in winning the East Los Angeles 7th and 8th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament Championship. For information on joining the team, contact Coach Gallegos at TeamUSA@winning.com. Top row, left to right: Coach Gallegos, Danny, Mathew, Paulo, Ricky, Michael, Gabriel and Arnold. Middle row: Dillion, Richard, Ryan, Gio, Michael and Jessie. Bottom row: Edgar and Robert.

Grand opening of new yoga center

DOWNEY—Guru Yogi Ramesh, who conducts regular yoga classes at the Riley Center and will hold a yoga demonstration tomorrow morning as part of the city's Family Health & Fitness Fair, will celebrate the grand opening of his Universal Yoga Center at 5 p.m. at 15317 Paramount Blvd., Suite # 204 in Paramount. The new location is between Rosecrans and Alondra Boulevards.

For information call 1-877-367-9642, and ask for Guru Yogi Ramesh. More information can be obtained from www.universalyoga.org. His e-mail address is yogaenergy@comcast.net.



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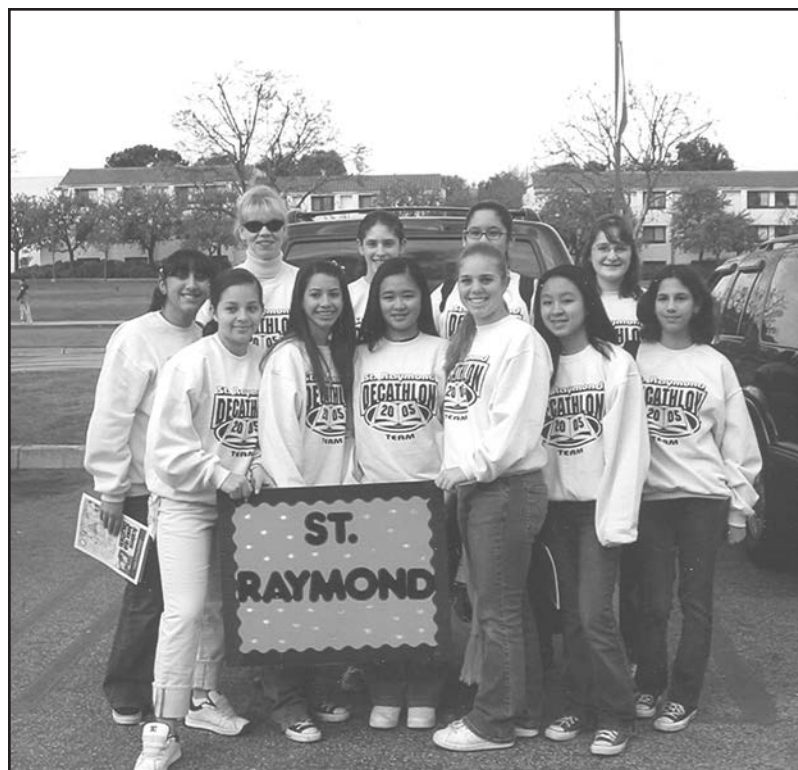
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"ALL GIRL TEAM" – Of St. Raymond's School took first place in Deanery #17 of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Academic Decathlon, held last month. Pictured are, back row, left to right: Amanda Haddad, Coach Ms. McCreedy, Jeannette Alonso, Victoria Mariscal and Angela Ragusa. Front row: Stephanie Perez, Brittney Cobian, Nicole Morabe, Macy Kiefer, Allison Igtanloc and Hanna Addesi.

Top teachers and students to be honored

DOWNEY—Downey Unified School District's top elementary, middle school, and high school teacher and student, as selected by a vote of the principals involved, will be honored at a 6:30 p.m. dinner Thursday, April 21 by Downey Unified Masonic Lodge #220 at the Temple at 8244 Third St.

The honorees are: Unsworth Elementary School teacher Wendie Graf and student Cejay Anderson; Griffiths Middle School teacher Jenny Pridham and student Kristena Hall; and one set from Warren High School, teacher Ann Courtney and student Monique Cole, and another set from Columbia High School, teacher Virginia Rooney and student Linda Quinonez.

Theme of this year's ceremony, to which the community is invited, is "Public Schools—Lighting the Way for America's Future."

Dinner reservations are a must, by April 19. For information, call Bob Udoff, 862-4578, or Scott Morrissy, 425-4676.

Stroke Awareness Day at Downey Regional

DOWNEY—Community members are invited to Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC), 11500 Brookshire Ave., Saturday, April 16 for a free seminar on "Stroke and Diabetes—Are you at risk?" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Private consultations and stroke screenings will be given on a first-registered, first-served basis. Endocrinologist David Berger, M.D., medical director of the DRMC Diabetes program, will speak and answer questions. Other speakers include DRMC diabetes educator Elsa Saucedo discussing "Signs and Symptoms," clinical dietitian Kum Kum Sinha on "Dietary Information," and social worker Michelle Harvey on "Advanced Healthcare Directives—When your loved one is in the hospital."

The seminar is made possible by the partnership of the Roxanna Todd Hodges and DRMC's Memorial Trust Foundations, to bring knowledge and awareness of stroke to the community.

Seating is limited and registration is required. For more information/to register, call 904-5162.

'Imelda: A New Musical' opens May 11

LOS ANGELES—East West Players, purportedly the nation's premier Asian American theatre, has decided to extend its upcoming staging of "Imelda: A New Musical" an extra two weeks. The much-anticipated production of the story of the former First Lady of the Philippines will now run from May 11 through June 19. It will be the final show of East West Players' 39th anniversary season.

In the musical biography, Imelda Marcos emerges as aggressive and naïve, and ultimately discovers that her husband's newfound power is a means to obtain everything she was once denied.

"I have always thought that the life of Imelda Marcos would make a great story for a play," said East West Players artistic director Tim Dang, who directs the production. "While growing up in Hawaii in the 60s and 70s, I always heard news of what Ferdinand and Imelda were doing, good or bad, glamorous or controversial. But Imelda, who became infamous for her alleged collection of 3,000 pairs of shoes, was larger than life. [The play] is another opportunity to showcase the stellar artistic talent of the Asian American community and add a uniquely Filipino story to the stages of American theatre."

All performances are in the David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, located in Little Tokyo at 120 Judge John Aiso St. in Los Angeles. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (except May 14). General ticket prices are \$38 in the orchestra and \$33 in the balcony. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.eastwestplayers.org or calling (213) 625-7000. Senior, student and groups discounts are available.

Open house at Good Shepherd Lutheran

DOWNEY—Good Shepherd Lutheran School, 13200 Clark Ave. in Downey, invites the public to its School Open House and Literature Fair Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m., featuring a free hot dog supper and a tour of the classrooms.

The school, with K-8th grade, boasts small class size, excellent academics, and before and after school care, along with a strong home-school partnership. It has been serving Downey and the surrounding areas since 1956.

For more information, call (562) 803-4918.



CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD—Speaks with Thaddeus Philips, City Librarian for the Downey City Library, at the 10th annual Grants Workshop held on April 8 at the Gas Company's Energy Resource Center in Downey. The free workshop was aimed at guiding community-based organizations and municipalities in the 34th district obtain grants. On hand to provide assistance at the workshop were such agencies as the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development; the Governor's Office of Emergency Services; and The California Endowment, a private health foundation.

CC to host 2005 Chamber 'Mega Mixer'

NORWALK—Cerritos College and the Cerritos College Foundation will host their 9th annual 2005 Chamber Mega Mixer, easily among the community's major business and networking events, Thursday, May 5 from 5-7 p.m. at the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd. in Norwalk.

The event is free and features 8 city Chambers: Downey, Bellflower, Cerritos, Lakewood, La Mirada, Norwalk, Paramount, and Santa Fe Springs, with networking opportunities, business card exchanges, door prizes, and 50/50 Opportunity Drawings, as well as a festive cuisine prepared by the college's award-winning Culinary Arts Program.

Members of the local Chambers can take advantage of the Exhibitor Opportunity to buy a station to market their products and services. Stations are \$125 each: a six-foot table, two chairs and linen will be provided. Over 300 business leaders representing the eight Chambers are expected to be in attendance. Only 40 tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a table, call Janice Cole at 860-2451, ext. 2526, or email jeole@cerritos.edu. A credit card will be required to reserve a table. Payment for tables is required by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4. Checks should be made payable to the Cerritos College Foundation; cash, money order, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard are accepted.

Williams ABWA speaker April 20

DOWNEY—Dr. Janie Williams, who holds masters degrees in counseling and education, as well as a Ph.D. in nutrition, will speak to the Eldorado Chapter of the American Business Women's Association on Wednesday, April 20 at their monthly meeting at the Rio Hondo Country Club, 10627 Old River School Road in Downey.

Williams is a 16-year member of ABWA, a "2004 Top Ten Business Woman," and has sponsored 97 members. A resident of Laguna Woods, she is an avid golfer.

Networking begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For information/reservations, call Nada Singh at (562) 439-1782.

'Bananas' topic at EZRA Center

DOWNEY—The 10 a.m.-12 noon program at the EZRA Center for Mature Adults meeting Tuesday, April 19 at Temple Ner Tamid, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., will be on "Bananas," to be presented by a top notch speaker, Professor John Kirchner.

Registration, coffee/tea and refreshments start at 9:45 a.m. For information, call the Temple office, 861-9276.

National Day of Prayer observed May 5

DOWNEY—Sanctioned by a proclamation from Downey City Mayor Anne Bayer, the Christian Businessmen's Committee (C.B.M.C.), which meets Thursdays at noon at Sizzler's Restaurant in Downey, will lead the observance of the 54th annual National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5 under the flag pole at City Hall. A crowd of more than 200 is expected at the hour-long ceremony.

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Safety seat checkup at auto museum

LOS ANGELES—April 16 is Safety Seat Checkup Day, when parents can combine the fun of a family outing at the Petersen Automotive Museum with the serious business of ensuring their children's safety.

Under the sponsorship of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. and coordinated by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., the national nonprofit organization dedicated to child passenger safety founded in 1980, free safety seat inspections will be provided from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by teams of nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and other trained volunteers in the Museum parking lot at Fairfax and Wilshire in Los Angeles. Each safety seat at the event will be inspected to make sure it fits the child properly, is correctly installed, and is in the safest possible location in the vehicle. Families participating in the checkup will be given discount coupons to visit the museum.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. conducts free car seat checkups throughout the year at various locations as part of a training program for health and safety professionals. At checkups last year, 90 percent of the seats checked were not safe for the child or needed adjustment. Even well-educated, safety-conscious parents often make unsuspected mistakes that can result in serious injuries to their children. According to the California Highway Patrol, more than 80 percent of the small children killed in car crashes would have survived if they had been properly buckled up.

California law requires children to ride in a safety seat or booster, in the back seat, until they are at least age six, with some exceptions. However, most children need to use a safety booster seat until at least age eight to lift them up so the shoulder and lap belts are properly positioned.

During Special Enforcement Week that started on April 3 and ran thru April 9, law enforcement officers focused their efforts on writing tickets for children under six riding in the front seat, babies on laps, children riding loose, and all ages in the back of pickup trucks. Special Enforcement Week was co-sponsored by the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County and SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

UCLA seeks research volunteers

LOS ANGELES—UCLA researchers are seeking pregnant women to enroll their newborn in a trial to reduce insulin-dependent diabetes in the genetically at-risk, also called TRIGR. Insulin-dependent (type 1) diabetes must be present in one of the newborn's immediate family members (either the mother, the father, or a sibling) in order for the baby to be eligible for the study.

Researchers hope to learn whether avoiding intact cow milk proteins in the first six to eight months of life can decrease the incidence of type 1 diabetes by age 10 in genetically at-risk babies.

The National Institutes of Health and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundations are sponsoring this multi-center, international collaborative study. A total of 4,516 subjects will be screened over a period of four years and eligible subjects will then be followed for a period of 10 years.

For information, call (310) 825-5487, or e-mail research coordinator Lisa Rogers at lrogers@mednet.ucla.edu.



MATTHEW HERRICK – Has been hired as the new vice president of branch sales and operations at Financial Partners Credit Union.

Credit Union hires new vice president

DOWNEY – Financial Partners Credit Union has hired Matthew Herrick as vice president of branch sales and operations, putting him in charge of the sales and service performance of Financial Partners' branch network.

Herrick said his goal is to cultivate a high performing sales and service team, and pledged to analyze how to save members time and money.

"Our focus on building strong relationships with our members through proactive selling and providing world class service means we will be able to identify and fulfill more of our members' financial needs," said Herrick.

Herrick brings with him 10 years of experience in financial services. In his most recent position at Kinecta Federal Credit Union, he led his team to become top producer of loans financed in partnership with Southern California franchise automobile dealers. He also participated in reengineering the lending division at First Financial Credit Union, shortening the time it took to process mortgage, home equity, automobile and other consumer loans.

"Matthew is a great addition to our team," said Lori Reeves, senior vice president of member sales and service of Financial Partners. "His experience implementing a member-focused sales culture will prove very valuable to the credit union."

Downey Art League meets April 26

DOWNEY—Linda Gunn, said to have been influenced by her grandfather who was one of the first Disney animators and a mother who introduced her early to the arts, will be the guest demonstrator at the next monthly general meeting Tuesday, April 26 of the Downey Art League at Furman Park, Bldg. #1, 10419 Rives Ave. in Downey. Joining them will be the Traditional Art League (TAG) of Paramount. The meeting is from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Fail-Safe 'Tea Affair' at Elks Lodge

DOWNEY – Fail-Safe 4 Felines, Inc. is hosting their Third Annual Tea Affair April 24 at the Downey Elks Lodge from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea room delicacies, tea room modeling, prizes and a best hat contest will be available for a donation of \$25.

Uncle Denny's Critter Sitters is sponsoring the event. For tickets, call Sheranne at 708-2672.

Curves raises money for hospital

DOWNEY – The Curves at the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue collected more than \$1,500 at its Workout Against Cancer last month to be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, said owner Dionne Bassano.

The same Curves also collected 1,763 pounds of food, which was donated to the Downey Food Bank at Apollo Park.

Church prepping for 'A Wild West Fest'

DOWNEY – St. Raymond's Catholic School and Church will present "A Wild West Fest," May 20-22 on its campus at 12348 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

Food, games, rides, contests, raffles and other fun is planned for the annual festival.

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.

'Man of La Mancha' at Cerritos College

NORWALK – "Man of La Mancha," a dramatic dinner musical reenacting the life story of Don Quixote, will be presented by the Cerritos College Department of Theatre and the Associated Students beginning April 30 at the Burnight Center Theatre.

Show-only performance dates are May 1, 5 and 6. Dinner theatre dates are April 30 and May 7 and 8. Performance times vary.

For ticket information, including a Mother's Day show-only promotion, call the theatre box office at (562) 467-5058.

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My hats off to the tenacious Downey Patriot for being the best source for Downey's news and business development.

Sincerely,
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By Colin Clarke
The Recipe For Success!

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