



The Downey Patriot

Swedish holiday
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Holiday youth camp
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Friday, December 9, 2005

Vol. 4, No. 33

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



THE DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND—Drew waves of applause as they stepped out with precision and style at the Holiday Lane Parade Sunday, Dec. 4 down Downey Avenue.



DOWNEY WAS MATCHED IN STYLE—By the marching band from its rival, Warren High School, whose young marchers Sunday, Dec. 4 are shown nearing the end of the parade route near City Hall. Both bands were cheered by spectators.

Kehoe retiring after 28 years

By Henry Veneracion

DOWNEY—On Tuesday, Dec. 20, there will be a reception at the Rio Hondo Golf Club Event Center to celebrate Bonnie Kehoe's 28 years of "dedicated service to the City of Downey." Bonnie, who succeeded Jim Jarrett in 2003 as Community Services Department director, is retiring so she and her husband, Ed (who had already retired nine years ago), can enjoy time together playing more golf and skiing, and spend more time with their families who reside up north, in the San Francisco area where she was born. The couple will be moving to their house they acquired nine years ago, when Ed retired. It's on a golf course, located in a western suburb of Phoenix, some 35 minutes from downtown.

"I've been working since I was 16," she said. Part-time work most of it was then, during the summer, but it was real work, mostly to save money for college. She later earned bachelor's and master's degrees in recreation administration at San Francisco State University.

Long history

Hired by the city of Downey in 1977, she crafted, via hard work and a confidence stemming from solid preparation, a steady career ascent, becoming Recreation Division manager in 1983. When her boss, Jim Jarrett, retired in 2002, Bonnie was picked to replace him as director of a department that encompassed the Downey Library, the Downey Theater, Social Services (including the Downey Cemetery), and Recreation (including the Rio Hondo Golf Club). She has been heavily involved, among others, in the planning and development of the soon-to-be realized Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, to rise on the old Boeing site. She has been operating with a complement of 38 full-time and 150 part-time staff, and responsible for a \$6 million budget.

"I've liked the variety the job has entailed," she says. "There have been challenges, and many occasions for problem-solving. I'll miss most, though, being part of the management team here at City Hall, the staff, all the people I've worked with through the years: for example, the department heads, collaborating on projects with the school district, and so on." (At first, Bonnie wanted to be a teacher).

She offered her insight on what the role of Community Services should be: "We are the extra something that makes the community a special place in which to live. The creation of services we seek to provide, always subject to budget constraints of course, to make the community a better place,



THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FEW SHORT OF 76 TROMBONES—At the big parade in Downey Sunday, Dec. 4, but be assured there was enough brass in the marching musical units to do the job.

is the fun part." Thus, she suggests, one criterion in the selection of her successor would be an understanding of this vital role.

Involvement

That Bonnie has succeeded in not only filling the shoes of her predecessor but putting her imprint on a lot of things in Downey (she has served as GOOD president), will be validated when she is expected to get bombarded with additional honors and parting gifts and praise Dec. 20.

Her last official day in office is on Dec. 27. Her executive secretary, Kathy Callarman who has been with her since the start, also is retiring—the following day.

A sense of family, a sense of responsibility, and a sense of service—traditional values all but in a wacky, turbulent time like the present get a pounding from all sides—were her lodestars, lighting her way through it all. She credits her parents for burning these templates in her consciousness early on.

See KEHOE, page 3

Anne Bayer succeeded by Perkins as mayor

By Henry Veneracion

DOWNEY—Upon being voted mayor by his peers for a second time Tuesday, Meredith Perkins, fully aware that this would be his last year to serve in the Council, proposed a more pro-active approach vs. merely a reactive one in tackling Council affairs and outlined a 4-point program for 2005-2006 to crown his years of service to the city.

Perkins joked that perhaps he was voted mayor again probably because he didn't do a good job of it the first time.

He proposed consolidating the four city yards, which up to now have languished by their separate selves in "hard-to-find" locations, calling them perfect examples of slapdash and reactive operations. He said the city should look into taking better care of "our water, which at present is pumped directly from underground." Thirdly, he said, "we must be extremely careful of where we keep city records: they are extremely valuable, and subject to loss in case of catastrophic disasters like an earthquake." These three projects are long-term, he said, and, turning to face the Council, he appealed to them and future Councilmembers to carry them on even after his departure. The fourth project is a year-to-year affair, proposing the launching of the Mayor's Eagle Award, to be funded by him personally, consisting of a plaque and gift certificates.

Councilmember Rick Trejo, himself a former holder of the office, was named mayor pro tem.

See MAYOR, page 3

School Board seats Swenson, Sodetani

By John Adams

DOWNEY—The Board of the Downey Unified School District seated the winners of the Nov. 8 election in gala festivities at the regular Board meeting Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Martha Sodetani and Nancy Swenson were relatively easy victors, and incumbent Barbara Samperi ran unopposed on the November ballot.

The Board received the Official Canvass Certificate and Official Statement of Votes, then new Board President Donald La Plante administered the oath of office to the victors.

The Board also formally declared La Plante as President for the coming year, and approved his recommendations for various committees.

They also approved the certification of signatures for the period of December 2005 to December 2006 or until subsequent Board action.

And they honored attorney Eric Bathen for 25 years of service to the District, by presenting a crystal trophy.

There were also songs by the Warren High School Choir, which will appear in concert at the Downey Theater Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

In other action, the Board:

4 percent wage increase

*Approved the Amendment to the Master Agreement with CSEA Chapter 248, effective July 1, 2005 including a 4 percent pay increase and revised AR 5241.1 accordingly.

*Received a report, then approved positive certification that the district

See SCHOOL BOARD, page 5

New school board vow not to forget 'Betty'

By John Adams

DOWNEY—There was a general sadness and nostalgia at the Downey Unified School District Board meeting Tuesday, Dec. 6th as it was preceded by Boardmember Betty Ferraro's farewell party which was also at the Administration Center.

Ferraro has been a campaigner for children and a bastion in the fight against gangs and drugs for years, and although she promises to return often to Downey, her full attention will be sorely missed.

Sodetani and Swenson

Newly elected boardmembers Martha Sodetani and Nancy Swenson openly paid tribute to Ferraro, as did incumbent Barbara Samperi who ran unopposed and was re-elected in November.

All the Board members expressed sadness that Ferraro was moving out of the district. Samperi, noting that Ferraro had helped her often during the tough budget years, drew quick agreement from the new Board President Donald La Plante, who noted the many years of service Ferraro had rendered the District.

Stauffer Scholar Awards

In other matters, the Board's William Gutierrez said he attended and enjoyed the recent Annual Stauffer Scholar Awards at the Barbara Riley Community Center. 144 DUSD students who got straight A's in 5th and 6th grades during the 2004-05 school year each was awarded seed money for college.

Several members of the Board said they attended a recent educational forum at Cerritos College.

Others in the audience at the Board meeting included former school superintendent Edward Sussman and his wife, former Boardmember Cheryl Andresen, former assemblywoman Sally Havice, and friends and family members of Sodetani and Swenson.



AIRMAN—Priscilla F. Kittelson, a 2005 graduate of Downey High, has completed basic air force military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. She is the daughter of Sally Kittelson of Downey.

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Don't Forget to come!

Christmas musical at First Baptist Church

DOWNEY—The Worship Arts Department of First Baptist Church of Downey, 8345 E. Third St. in Downey, will bring to life the music, clothing and culture of 1941 when it presents “Pearl...a Christmas Musical” Friday-Sunday, Dec. 9-11 at 7:30 p.m., and also at 4 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11.

The story shares the friendship of two children living adjacent in two Los Angeles apartments in 1941, and how they come to teach their Japanese-American and Caucasian families the “benefit of love that knows no color or bias.”

The originally-scripted musical features the First Baptist 50-voice choir, as well as dance, drama, costumes and special effects that will transport the audience into the “happy-go-lucky days of 1941, and how the optimism of the music and culture sustained a nation—and two families—through the darkest of times.”

Complimentary tickets for “Pearl” are available now by contacting the Pearl ticket office, (562) 923-1261, ext. 275.

New Century Singers at OASIS Dec. 12

DOWNEY—Downey Adult School’s OASIS program Monday, Dec. 12 features Whittier’s New Century Singers as they sing their favorite holiday songs in a “Christmas Celebration.”

The class will open for enrollment Monday at 3 p.m., with Dr. Robert Flynn’s piano entertainment. There is no enrollment fee and no preregistration. The program starts at 4 p.m., and dinner is served at 5 p.m.

Downey Dial-a-Ride will provide transportation to attend this class. Call Downey Adult School for information, (562) 940-6200.

‘Mommie & Me’ florist class at DAS

DOWNEY—The Downey Adult School, 12340 Woodruff Ave. offers a “Mommy & Me” Christmas florist class Saturday, Dec. 17, where a child and parent can learn to make a flower arrangement.

The class is taught by florist Terrie Mercurio, and is scheduled from 1-3 p.m. Pre-registration is required. A \$14 fee includes the class, flowers and container. For information, call DAS, (562) 940-6200.

Parking lot sale at Moravian Church

DOWNEY—There will be a “Parking Lot Sale” tomorrow, Dec. 10 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Moravian Church of Downey, 10337 Old River School Road. Information: 927-0718.

Advertisers early deadlines

DOWNEY—Early holiday deadlines for all display advertising were announced this week by Jerry Brady, advertising director of the Downey Patriot.

Because the Christmas and New Year holidays fall on Sunday, the deadline for the Dec. 23 edition will be on Friday, Dec. 16 and the deadline for the Dec. 30 edition will be on Friday, Dec. 23.

For further information, call 904-3668.



MISS DOWNEY AND HER COURT—Graced the Holiday Lane Parade with their beauty and presence Sunday.



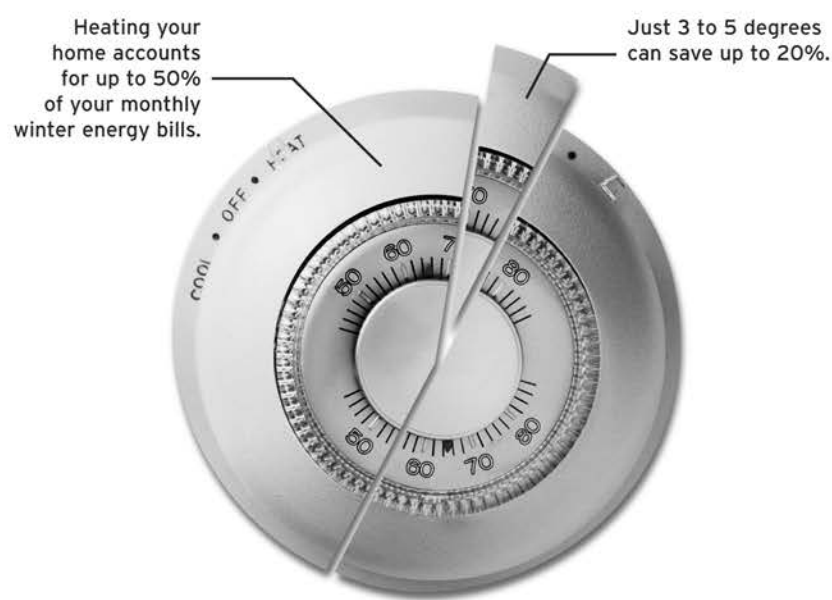
AND THE COLORS WERE DISPLAYED—Often and well by military units such as this one during the Holiday Lane Parade last Sunday.

Holiday meal available for less fortunate

DOWNEY—The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Downey invites “those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to enjoy a holiday meal at this time of the year” to a luncheon from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow, Dec. 10 at 10830 Downey Avenue in the Church hall.

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<p>Glazed Ham (Bone-In 10-12lbs) Fruit Sauce - Candied Yams Freshly Baked Bread Yummy Pumpkin Pie Serves 6-8 guests \$69.95</p>	<p>Prime Rib Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans - Freshly Baked Bread Yummy Pumpkin Pie \$9.95 per person (minimum 6) 9306 Firestone Blvd. At Woodruff, Downey Orders Accepted Until Dec. 22</p>

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Old train station, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, built circa 1880

Reception to Honor George Redfox

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8237 Third Street (DFCU Office), Downey, CA 90241
Exhibit of his historic Downey photographs
Open to the community

Limited seating- please RSVP now: Jan Simon
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(562) 826-8141
www.downeyfcu.org
8237 Third Street, Downey, CA 90241





SECOND TIME AROUND—Erstwhile Downey Mayor Pro Tem Meredith H. Perkins succeeds outgoing Mayor Anne B. Mayer in well-attended Mayoral Transition ceremony Tuesday. It's Perkins' second turn as mayor in this, his last year on the City Council.

Mayor

A tearful Anne Bayer, who received a heap of proclamations and ceremonial gifts from various government officials and groups in recognition of "her leadership and contributions" as mayor for the past year, singled out certain "essential" individuals and groups without whom, she said, "I couldn't have performed my duties as mayor." She made special mention of close friends and associates, the Community Services Department headed by Bonnie Kehoe, Fire Chief Mark Sauter, the CERT staff, Downey Landing staff, and the construction team that worked on Lakewood Blvd.

A standing room only audience witnessed the mayoral transition, which featured professional singer Kathy Bee's rendition of the national anthem and post-session refreshments.

Tennis Club serving up holiday party

DOWNEY – Downey Tennis Club (DTC) is hosting their Annual Holiday party at Rio Hondo Country Club today, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m., bringing together DTC members, their guests, and neighboring tennis clubs.

A buffet will be served and visitors can enjoy music and door prizes. The event is open to the community. Call Jean Jones at 927-4820 for information or reservations.

Kehoe

"We took my mom to a San Francisco Giants game at SBC Field last year on her birthday, and we surprised her with a billboard-size announcement above centerfield that read 'Happy 75th Birthday, Eileen' in big, bold letters. She was, of course, at once embarrassed and, I'm sure, delighted," she said.

I asked her about other plans besides golfing and skiing. "We'll go to Tahiti in April," she said. And in May I might go with a cousin to Ireland. As to what we'll be doing after that, ask me in a year or so. But I'll always be involved, in one way or another, in the community."

To many friends and associates, who have been touched by her professionalism and warmth, Shakespeare's "parting is such sweet sorrow" could be apropos. She will be missed.

Wescom Credit Union acquires Lopez Insurance

DOWNEY – Wescom Credit Union announced this week that it has acquired the Lopez Insurance Agency, a Downey-based property and casualty insurance agency founded by Raul Lopez 25 years ago.

The acquisition was effective Oct. 31. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"The Lopez Agency represented a unique opportunity to acquire an outstanding organization with a long-standing reputation in the community it serves and will be a great addition to Wescom Insurance Services," said Lyle Sandlin, president of Wescom Insurance. "It shares the Credit Union's focus on customer service and brings a loyal customer base, the majority of whom we anticipate will become long-term Wescom members."

The Lopez Agency is the second insurance acquisition by Wescom in the past year. In November 2004, the Credit Union obtained Hallmark Insurance of Downey.

The Lopez Agency will continue to operate from its existing facilities in Downey. Raul Lopez will stay with the company along with all "key" staff members, a Wescom spokesperson said.

The Lopez Agency has 23 employees and offers personal lines of insurance that includes auto and homeowners as well as life and health.



MUCH-HONORED BONNIE KEHOE—Plans to play lots of golf and snow-skiing with hubby, Ed, as well as continue jogging and "walking her dog" when she retires at year-end. "We will have more time to spend with our families up north," she said.

Happy Holidays



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City offers Holiday Camp for youth

DOWNEY—The City of Downey Community Services Department is offering Holiday Camp for children ages 6-14 that will give them the opportunity to make new friends, learn new activities (games and crafts), and take a weekly excursion.

The camp will be conducted by trained personnel at Wilderness Park for two weeks.

Week I will cover Dec. 19-23 with a movie excursion to Long Beach Towne Center. Week II is from Dec. 26-30 with an excursion to Huntington Beach for ice and roller skating. Camp hours are 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with extended hours available to assist working parents. The extended hours program is from 7 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. each day of camp.

Cost for each week is \$75 for the first family member and \$70 for each additional family member. Extended camp fee is \$35 for the week, and \$30 for each additional family member.

Camp fees include materials, supervision, lunch beverage (campers are to bring a sack lunch each day), daily snack and excursion.

For information, call 904-7238.

Women's Golf Club seeking members

DOWNEY – The Los Amigos Women's Golf Club is looking for more women golfers to join their club. Tee time for the group is 8 a.m. every Friday at Los Amigos Golf Course, 7295 Quill Dr.

For more information on joining the club, call 634-2816.



GRAMMY-AWARD WINNER ALICIA KEYS –Chatted with Rio Hondo Elementary student **Michelle Del Rey** during a recent break in production at the Fortune Cafe in Downey. Keys was filming a scene for a movie titled "Smoking Aces," also starring Ben Affleck and Andy Garcia.

Lacrosse for middle school boys

DOWNEY—Downey middle school boys interested in playing lacrosse, the fast-paced, action-packed sport, are invited to a 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 meeting in the board room at Rio San Gabriel Park. To be covered are the basics of the game, equipment, potential practice and game schedules, and financial commitment. Parents should attend as well.

Two years ago, Scott Witkin, a teacher at Downey High, started a lacrosse program with 25 players. This year, the program, which is CIF-sanctioned, includes more than 50 players. Two of the Downey High program's inaugural players, Christian Wheeler and Russell Michael, have gone on to play collegiate lacrosse, Wheeler at UC-Santa Barbara, and Michael at Brigham Young.

Questions may be directed to Dean Michael, (562) 923-9977, or e-mail stillindowney@yahoo.com.

The poets' corner

Christmas 2005

White velvet snow
Sun's golden glow
Trees frosted limbs
Wind singing hymns:
Merry Christmas!

—Terese Akins Anthony,
Lakewood

Swedish 'Lucia' holiday celebrated at Nordic Fox

DOWNEY – Nordic Fox Restaurant will hold two Swedish 'Lucia' presentations on Tuesday, Dec. 13, first at 5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

The name "Lucia" comes from the Latin word "luz" meaning light. Lucia is celebrated on Dec. 13, a day dedicated to St. Lucia of Syracuse, a Christian Saint who lived in the fourth century and was executed as a result of giving all her possessions to poor Christians.

In old times, Dec. 13 marked the longest night of the year. Because of the long night, both man and beast required extra nourishment. Originally, only men celebrated this festival with much food and drink, but in the late 18th century, young girls dressed in white with crowns of candles in their hair carried food to the master and mistress.

The Swedish Lucia since the 19th century has acquired a new content. Lucia is a symbolic figure, greeting us when the days are darkest in order, as the saying goes, to bring back the light.

The Lucia, generally the oldest daughter, carrying a coffee tray with coffee and "saffron rolls and ginger cookies" wakes up her parents and family early in the morning on Dec. 13th and serves the coffee and sweets.

Lucia is now celebrated in just about every Swedish home, community, office, school and club. It may be celebrated in different ways but the most common is the Lucia Procession, consisting of a group of young girls and boys singing traditional Lucia songs. The Lucia wears a wreath of candles – sometimes battery powered – and a long white gown with a red ribbon around her waist. (The red color is said to be a remembrance of St. Lucia.)

Lucia's attendants are dressed similarly; girls carry a candle and boys – called Star boys – wear hats decorated with stars.

Lucia symbolically opens the door to Christmas.

Downey resident LeRoy Anderson will play the traditional Lucia music during the ceremony. For more information, call 869-1414.

Free-throw contest for kids at Apollo

DOWNEY – Downey Elks will hold their annual basketball free-throw contest tomorrow, Dec. 10, at Apollo Park from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. All Downey school and parochial children ages 8-13 can participate.

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School Board

can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*Received the final Title I Report for 2004-05.

*Approved the 2005-06 Test Calendar.

*Approved the Single Plan for Student Achievement.

Gifts to the District

*Accepted with gratitude gifts from the private sector including supplies and backpacks for students' classroom use at Gauldin School from the West Covina Police; cardiovascular fitness equipment valued at \$3,485 for the Stauffer Cyberobics Center at West Middle School from Dan Latham; 280 decks of cards for use at East Middle School from the Bicycle Club Casino; a cash donation of \$5,000 for student insurance at the TLC Center from Kaiser Permanente; a table saw, arm saw and power tools valued at \$2,513 for use by the Maintenance Department and District Shop Classes from Alice Goldberg; and a cash donation of \$2,000 to support social work programs at the TLC Center from Target.

*Approved payment of fees and expenses for convention and conference attendance.

General agreements

*Ratified a general agreement with the Speech and Language Development Center doing business as Morning Sky Residential School for the 2005-06 fiscal year effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

*Ratified a general agreement with The Sycamores for the 2005-06 school year.

*Ratified a general agreement with the ARC of Southeast Los Angeles County for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

*Ratified payments for various Special Education Placements.

*Approved changes to AR 4117, Evaluation, per collective bargaining agreement with the DEA.

*Approved changes to AR 6340, Risk Management Program.

*Approved purchase orders by the Purchasing Department.

*Ratified an agreement for Workability Program/Regional Occupational Program with LACOE for Sept. 1, 2005 through Aug. 31, 2006.

Advertising for bids

*Ratified the advertising for bids for asbestos abatement of classroom buildings at Downey and Warren High Schools, to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Authorized the advertising for bids for new classroom building and modernization at Warren High School.

*Authorized the advertising for bids for new classroom building and modernization at Downey High School to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Authorized the advertising for bids for new classroom buildings of Building C at Downey High School.

Accepted as complete

*Accepted as complete fencing work on a bid by McCullah Fence Co. of Bell Gardens in the sum of \$23,388 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete backhoe work on a bid by Terra Pave of Whittier in the sum of \$11,620 to be charged to the Maintenance, Deferred Maintenance, and or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete paving work on a bid by Terra Pave of Whittier in the sum of \$950 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete projects related to concrete repair and work by 3D Concrete of Downey in the sum of \$22,363 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete work on bid packages on the expansion and modernization at Lewis School in the final sums listed: Doors frames and hardware by T. R. Mulligan of Carlsbad, \$271,000; acoustical ceilings by Elijah Acoustics of Orange, \$100,998; both to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Accepted as complete trade electrical work on a bid by Spike Electric of Anaheim in the sum of \$84,827 to be charged to the General and/or Bond Funds.

*Ratified the awarding of a bid for asbestos abatement work at Downey and Warren High Schools by ENCORRE Services of Glendale for the sum of \$90,375 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

Piggyback bid

*Approved the use of the Coachella Valley Unified School District bid by the DUSD on an as needed basis for portable classroom buildings, with the same advantages and conditions.

*Approved change order 6 for Downey and Warren High School stadiums by Convergent Technologies LP of Fountain Valley in the increased sum of \$17503 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Approved change order 15 for Downey and Warren High School new stadium work, interior and exterior lath and plaster by Church and Larsen of Irwindale in the sum of \$15,852 to be charged to the Bond Funds.

*Reduced the retention amount being withheld against a bid for stadium work at Downey and Warren electrical from 10 percent to 5 percent per the Public Contract Code.

*Reduced the retention amount being withheld on a bid for lath, plaster and drywall work at the stadiums at Downey and Warren from 10 percent to 5 percent per the Public Contract Code.

Adjustments

*Approved an adjustment for the 2005-06 Adult Education Fund Restricted Budget to reflect the increase in the fund balance in specified programs.

*Approved adjustment of the 2005-06 Food Services Fund to reflect decreases in the fund balance in a specified program.

*Approved adjustment of the 2005-06 General Fund to reflect decreases in specified balances.

*Approved extension of the 2005-06 budget for all funds to reflect the 2004-05 unaudited actuals in the 2005-06 beginning budget.

*Acknowledged receipt of a claim dated Nov. 22 submitted by Aida Kross on behalf of Maria Aluise-Kross, a minor, and denied the claim in compliance with the government code.

*Ratified the establishment of several new positions for instructional assistants.

*Adopted a resolution on flexible fringe benefits plan.

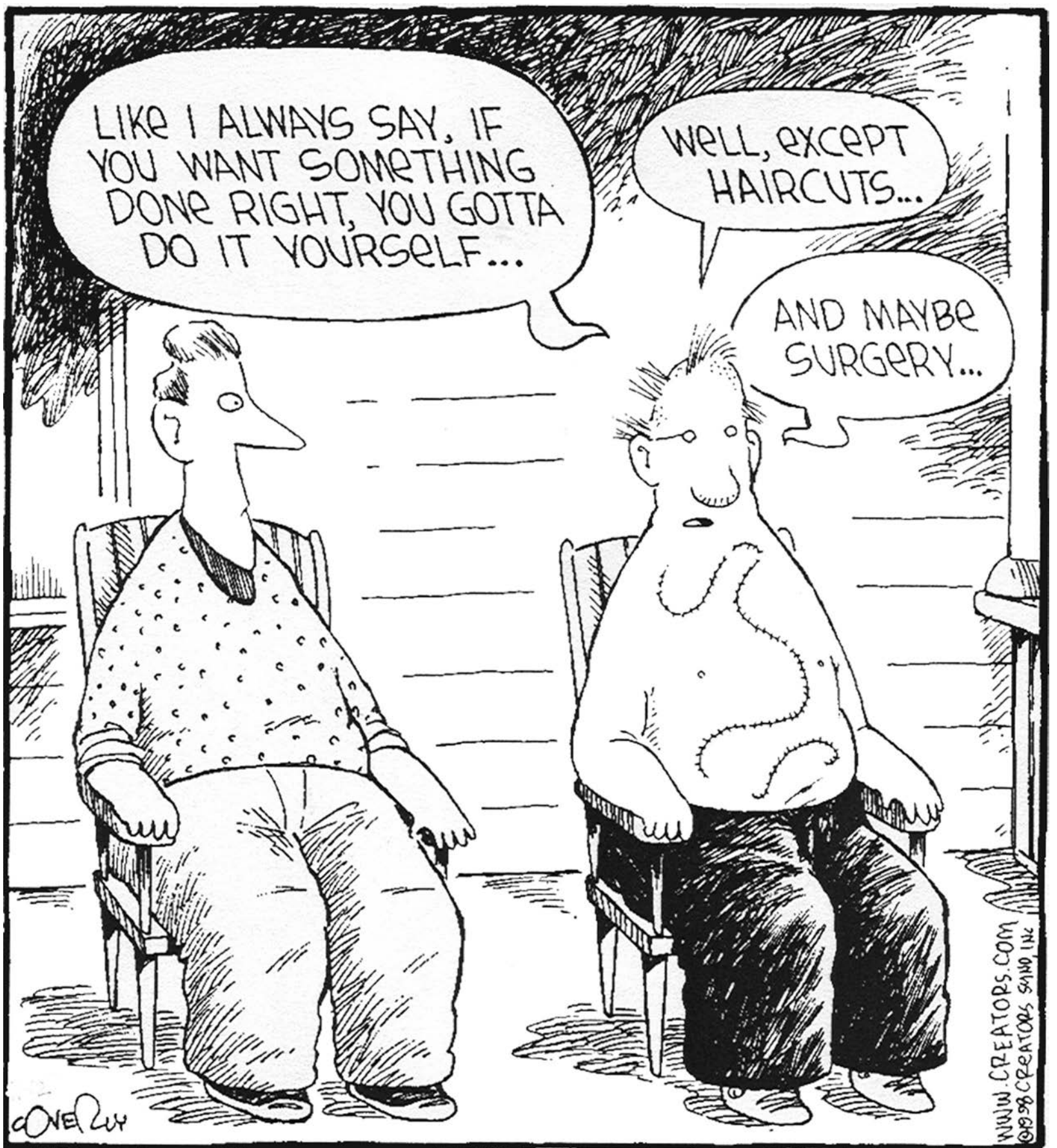
Next public meeting

The next public meeting of the Downey Unified School District Board will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17 at the Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

1st installment of property taxes due soon

LOS ANGELES—Mark J. Saldino, Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector, reminds property owners that the first installment of the 2005-2006 property taxes becomes delinquent if not paid by Monday, Dec. 12. To avoid the assessment of late penalties, payments must be received by 5 p.m. or United States Postal Service (USPS) postmarked before midnight, Dec. 12.

FOR THE RECORD: A photo in last week's Patriot indicated John Lacey of Crystal Properties split a St. Raymond's Church reverse raffle grand prize of \$2,750 with Ellen Mary Michel. He did not. He said he just represented one of the winners, Eric McKean.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Cheap labor and illegal immigrants

Dear Editor:

Much media coverage has been devoted lately to the problem of illegal immigrants and President Bush's solutions to this problem. What is not easily understood is that the only reason why illegal immigrants come to the US is because directly or indirectly we contribute to their odyssey by providing them with jobs.

I, for one, am happy that they are available to do the jobs that any self-respecting American [including me] is not willing to do. If you doubt that, think of when was the last time you had your car washed by a white American.

Illegal immigrants contribute to our well-being by providing cheap labor so that the Wal-Marts of this world, among others, continue to offer us low prices for their wares.

Want to stop illegal immigrants? Start training Americans to take over the car washing, fruit picking, trench digging jobs that still have to be done and prepare to accept the very low wages that illegal immigrants get, or prepare to pay higher prices for your food and many services.

—Jorge Montero,
Downey

City needs a vision

Dear Editor:

Vision is defined as imagination: the formation of a mental image of something that is not perceived as real and is not present to the senses; imagination reveals what the world could be.

If we look over the past century here in Downey, we have had many great accomplishments. The Apollo Rockets, the Space Shuttles, etc. but somewhere along the line the Vision has been lost and we have become a city without leaders who will step up and represent the people of our city. I must say that the city has kept it word and has agreed that something must be done on mansionization, however it still does not go far enough and it does not meet the needs of the majority of the people here in Downey. We want something done this time. I was told by a council member that they did not want a band-aid fix for the problem of mansionization and that is why they hired Downtown Solutions.

Now we have a chance to preserve our neighborhoods and promote quality building and the city is failing to promote a long-term solution. The FAR (floor area ratio) is a good start if it is done right, but if a mistake is made, it will only decrease the size on paper, and not to the public eye. The residences are the people that have to live with these mistakes. As many of you may remember the City Council already voted down a FAR of .6, which included setbacks. Now they have paid \$38,000 for Downtown Solutions to come up with a plan that also includes a FAR and setbacks, except this time they paid money to come up with a slightly modified plan. This does not seem right to me. I can see paying the money to come up with something new, but the wheel is not being reinvented here. We already have it.

In order for this plan to work and for the city to get what they paid for, there needs to be design guidelines included in the plan. Design guidelines simply ensure we will get quality construction that will enhance our neighborhoods and not take away from them. The city owes this to us; after all, they are spending our \$38,000.

Let's get the plan right this time. Let the Vision start now, so we can move on to make this city what it should be.

—George Redfox,
Downey Homeowners Alliance

DAS thanks DFCU

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Downey Adult School and culinary instructor Wei-Ling Louie, we would like to extend gratitude and thanks to the Downey Federal Credit Union as recipient of their 2005 Student Enrichment Funds. We are looking forward to using the funds to purchase some new equipment for our cooking classes as well as instructional videos and DVDs.

Thank you so much for offering this program to our school district and for your commitment and dedication to the Downey community.

—Roger Brossmer,
Principal, Downey Adult School

Special open house at Dismukes House

DOWNEY—A special Open House will be held at the Downey Historical Society's historic Dismukes House tomorrow, Dec. 10 from 12 noon-3 p.m.

It is being presented by Downey History staff and friends, and will feature children's toys, a tree decorated with 19th and 20th Century ornaments and lots of other holiday artifacts and objects.

The Downey Historical Society, and the Dismukes House, are located at 12540 Rives Ave., by the Gary McCaughan Gym. Way back when, the Dismukes House originally stood at the end of 1st St. (now Firestone Blvd.) and College (now Paramount Blvd.).

Redfox photographs on exhibit at reception

DOWNEY—Downey Federal Credit Union, 8237 Third St., is hosting a reception Thursday, Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m. to honor George Redfox, the photography instructor at Warren High School. On exhibit will be Redfox's historic Downey photographs, done in black-and-white.

The reception is open to the community. Seating is limited: RSVP Jan Simon, (562) 862-8141, ext. 246, or e-mail jsimon@downeyfcu.org.

The Downey Patriot



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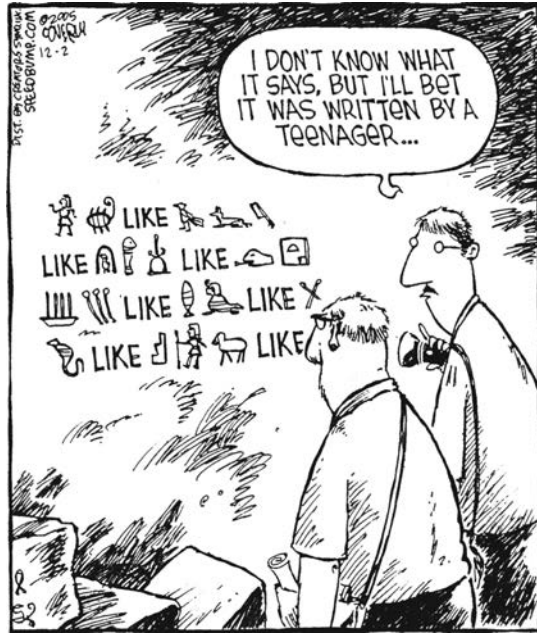
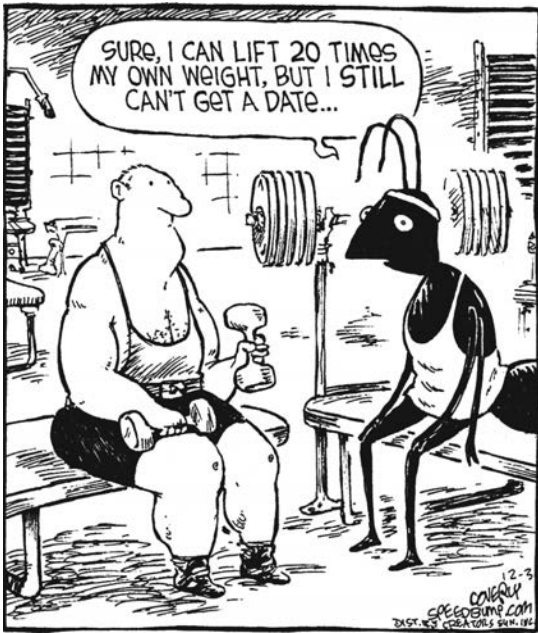
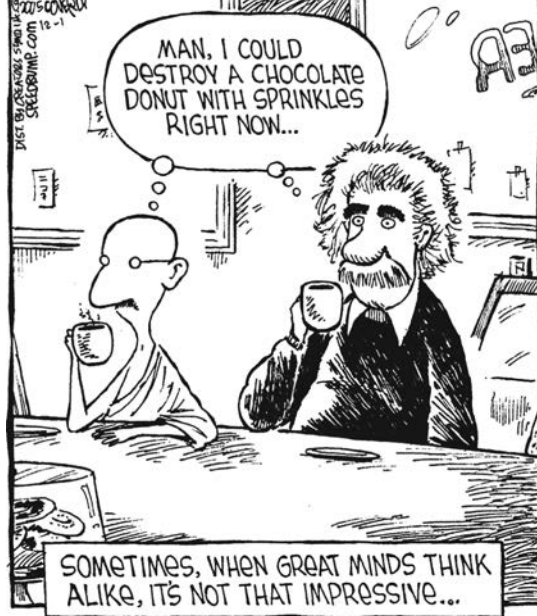
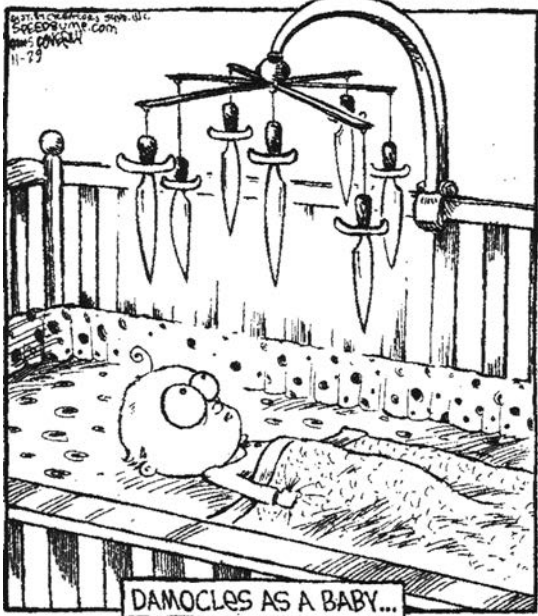
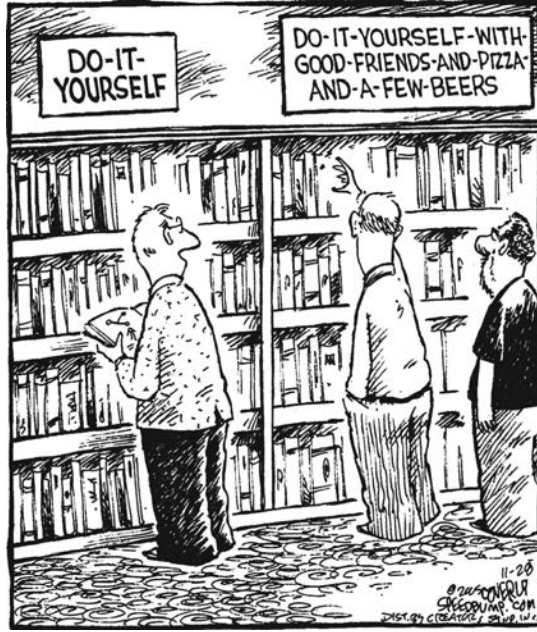
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Downey Community Calendar

Events For December

Fri. Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.: "Pearl, A Christmas Musical" with 50 voice choir at First Baptist Church, 8345 Third St. For complimentary tickets and information call 923-1261, extension 275. Also plays Saturday and Sunday.

Tues. Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.: **Christmas Carols** featuring a free performance by Divine Talents singing at the Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave. For information call 904-7360, extension 32.

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, 7:30 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 Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: 2nd Century Foundation, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
1st Mon., 7 p.m.: American Legion Post 270, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
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 Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
9:30 a.m.: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, for information call Dorothy Parizek 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.
12:00 p.m.: Exchange Club, at Sizzler Restaurant. Call Don Hollister 927-5871
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 "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. (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 Bakers Square. 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

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
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 776-3388.
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

7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Joe Becker at 869-1414.

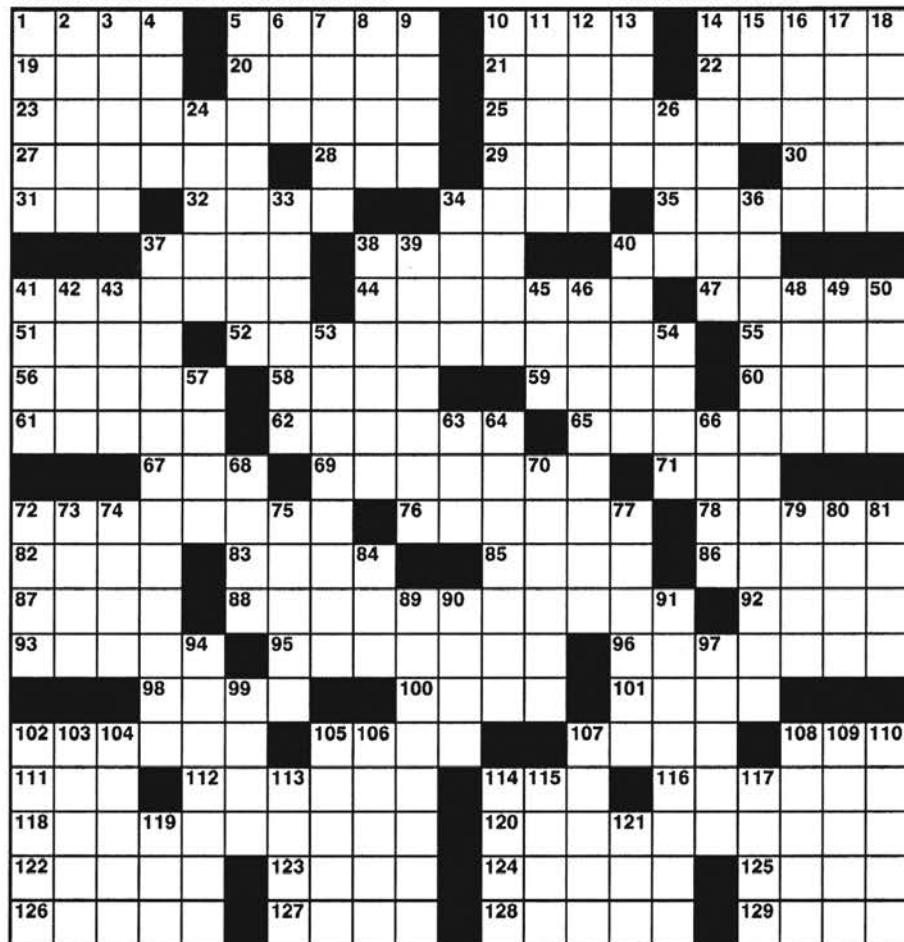
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
TOYBOX: A play-ful puzzle
 by Robert H. Wolfe

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 76 Western set | 4 Casa room |
| 1 Some evergreens | 78 Boot out | 5 Where Joseph saw the future |
| 5 Small quantities | 82 Skating maneuver | 6 Hardwood tree |
| 10 Biblical herdsman | 83 Pants specification | 7 Flip choice |
| 14 Open, as a bottle | 85 Change direction abruptly | 8 Play starter |
| 19 Song for one | 86 Wood shaper | 9 Risked a ticket |
| 20 Rights grp. | 87 Boy, in Bolivia | 10 1969 Indy winner |
| 21 Stellar phenomenon | 88 Misers | 11 Element in fiberglass |
| 22 "Christmas Song" co-composer | 92 Ending for bureau | 12 "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" musical |
| 23 "Get lost!" | 93 Held fast | 13 Flowing rock |
| 25 Auto-warranty subject | 95 '70s dictator | 14 Came out with |
| 27 Like tiles, often | 96 Double- (tall buses) | 15 Negative connector |
| 28 Eye cover | 98 German philosopher | 16 Muscle woe |
| 29 Spin | 100 Await judgment | 17 Pennsylvania sect |
| 30 AOL rival | 101 Pastoral settings | 18 Mint product |
| 31 Comic Louis | 102 Putin's nation | 24 Give up |
| 32 Does the wrong thing | 105 Irish Rose lover | 26 Leather ending |
| 34 Actress Olin | 107 Left on a map | 33 <i>Girl With a Watering Can</i> painter |
| 35 Token of victory | 108 Altar assent | 34 Moon goddess |
| 37 Gen. Robert | 111 One of cable's oldest networks | 36 Only film directed by Marion Brand |
| 38 Lie near | 112 Staircase shape | 37 Car-motor castings |
| 40 Hammer part | 114 New Deal org. | 38 Medicinal plant |
| 41 95 Across, for one | 116 Walk unsteadily | 39 Snap alternatives |
| 44 A little small | 118 "Thanks so much for helping!" | 40 Call up |
| 47 Closely compacted | 120 Spherical projectile | 41 State of the Union |
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| 52 Summit | 123 Canadian gas brand | 43 Wee workers |
| 55 Counting-rhyme starter | 124 Ike beat him twice | 45 Prepare a press |
| 56 Cons | 125 Choral-score line | 46 Police work |
| 58 "What's ___ for me?" | 126 National spirit | 48 Call for |
| 59 Welles role | 127 Astin of <i>Lord of the Rings</i> | 49 Hang-up |
| 60 88 days, for Mercury | 128 Thus far | 50 Fictional governess |
| 61 Lacks | 129 Horse color | 53 Still sealed |
| 62 Ornate style | | 54 Minimal sound |
| 65 Razor asset | | 57 Top player |
| 67 Take in | | 63 Tax tallier: Abbr. |
| 69 Ancient wind instrument | | 64 Waterproof fabric |
| 71 Pea home | | 66 Holiday time |
| 72 Tissue layer | | |

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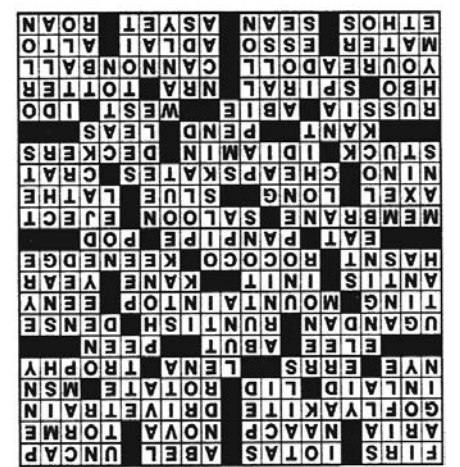
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| 68 Mineral in soapstone | 89 Toy spaniel | 106 Raft material |
| 70 Country on the Baltic | 90 Hook subordinate | 107 In a weak manner |
| 72 Provides with a crew | 91 Takes care of something | 108 Writer Calvino |
| 73 Way out | 94 Erstwhile rulers | 109 River formation |
| 74 Carte | 97 <i>... a Hot Tin Roof</i> | 110 Synthetic fabric |
| 75 Pitched a dream game | 99 California valley | 113 Midmonth day |
| 77 Pine piece | 102 Reason partner | 114 Coll. sports group |
| 79 To be, in Paree | 103 WWII sub | 115 X-ray units |
| 80 Burn a bit | 104 New ___ Wales | 117 Construction beam |
| 81 Vietnamese holidays | 105 Bobbed up | 119 Auto named for Olds |
| 84 Moo goo ___ pan | | 121 Negative for Burns |

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

The AXEL (82 Across) is a jump in figure skating, named for Axel Paulsen, the Norwegian who first performed it in 1882. HBO (111 Across) got its start in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1972, transmitting its signal via microwave towers. Moo goo Gai pan (84 Down) roughly translates from the Chinese as "mushroom chicken slices."



A dose of theater

By Marsha Moode

DOWNEY—The news regularly reports the difficulties young people face in terms of high divorce rates, poor diet and education, among other problems. Many adults make an effort to help, but few come forth with the generosity of Dr. Mary Stauffer.

Stauffer recently sponsored a number of students from Downey High School, Warren, and three middle schools, by purchasing tickets for them to see the Downey Civic Light Opera's recent production of "Good News."

Many had never been to the theater before, but judging by their response, they had a good time and expressed gratitude for Stauffer's generosity. Many sent thank you notes, including Bri DeSoto of Downey High, who wrote:

"Dear Dr. Stauffer, Thank you very much for the tickets that you donated to the dance program and the musical, 'Good News.' My aunt and I were able to attend the musical! We enjoyed it so very much. So I really want to say how grateful I am for your considerable thoughtfulness...It is much appreciated."

Another note, signed by "Franky," reads: "Thank you so much for the tickets. We all enjoyed ourselves...You are a wonderful example to all of us..."

Susie Carnet wrote, "Thank you for donating tickets. I'm glad I had an opportunity to see the musical. I loved it and it was quite funny..."

"The show was fun and beautiful, even though it was my first musical," wrote Juan Paz. "...I loved it and am looking forward to see more musicals..."

Numerous cards went to Stauffer bearing signatures and notes characterized by Megan Kirkpatrick's tribute, "Thank you, Dr. Stauffer, for the wonderful play. It was awesome." And Victoria Sandoval's acknowledgement, "Thank you for giving us the tickets to the play 'Good News.' My family also went and they enjoyed...It was my 1st play..."

Stauffer plans to offer students another block of seats to the DCLO's next production, "Nunsense," which opens Feb. 23, 2006, at the Downey Theater. For ticket information, call (562) 923-1714. Group discounts are available.

Musical group to sing carols at library

DOWNEY—The public is invited to a free performance Tuesday, Dec. 13 in the lobby of the Downey City Library by Divine Talents, a non-profit music education group who have performed for the Holiday Lane Parade, Kids Day and at Stonewood Center Mall. Young singers in grades kindergarten through 8th grade will perform holiday carols inside the library.

The program starts at 6:30 p.m. The Downey City Library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave. For information, contact (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

Afternoon bingo with Woman's Club

DOWNEY—The Woman's Club of Downey meets for bingo every Thursday afternoon at their headquarters, 9813 Paramount Blvd.



HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES – Under the direction of Paula Vruelink, Southern California Dance Theater will celebrate their 11th anniversary of "The Nutcracker" at the Downey Theater Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 16-17. Tickets are \$16.50, \$19.50 and \$21.50. For ticket reservations, call 496-1766.

'The Nutcracker' returns to Downey

DOWNEY – The Southern California Dance Theater returns with its 11th anniversary edition of "The Nutcracker." The ballet will feature new costumes, new scenery and new choreography.

It will be produced at the Downey Civic Theater Friday, Dec. 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17 at 2:30 p.m. Prices range from \$16.50 to \$21.50.

For tickets and information, call 496-1766.

'Nunsense' to play the DCLO

DOWNEY – Marsha Moode, executive director of the Downey Civic Light Opera, has announced the second production of the 2005-06 season. "Nunsense," the side-splitting comedy about a talent show staged by the Little Sisters of Hoboken to pay for the burial of one of their own (accidentally poisoned by the convent chef), has delighted audiences Catholic and non-denominational for decades. Playing dates are February 23 – March 12, 2006.

For ticket information, call 923-1714. Group discounts are available.

'Christmas with the Choralaires' Dec. 17-18

WHITTIER—Tickets are still available for the Choralaires Barbershop Chorus' annual Christmas show, "Christmas With the Choralaires," to be held Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18, at the Whittier Center Theater, located at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave. in uptown Whittier.

The family-oriented show features traditional music of the season including such favorites as "White Christmas," "Jingle Bells," and "Winter Wonderland," as well as many familiar sacred carols, sung in 4-part Barbershop harmony. All members of the family can join in the sing-a-long at the end of the show.

There will be two performances Dec. 17, one at 2 p.m. and the other at 7 p.m. The Sunday performance is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$5 for children under 13 years of age. Free refreshments will be served at intermission. There will be a drawing for door prizes, donated by local businesses. All seats are reserved and the theater doors open 30 minutes before curtain time.

For tickets/information, call (562) 923-5951 or (562) 879-1404, or visit www.choralaires.org, or e-mail tickets@choralaires.org.

Southeast Entertainment touring Vegas

DOWNEY – Southeast Entertainment is taking sign-ups for its three-day, two-night Las Vegas Tour Jan 10-12. The group will stay at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Downtown Las Vegas.

Price is \$120 per person, double occupancy, and includes transportation, deluxe rooms, baggage handling and taxes. The bus boards Jan. 10 at 5:30 a.m. and returns Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.

For reservations, call 923-1755.

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SYRIANA R	(11:15 2:20) 5:25 8:30
AEON FLUX PG13	(10:25 1:30 4:35) 7:40 10:45
IN THE MIX PG13	(10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:10 10:45
YOURS, MINE AND OURS PG	(11:30 2:05 4:40) 7:15 9:50
JUST FRIENDS PG13	(10:30 12:55 3:20) 5:45 8:10 10:35
HARRY POTTER 4 PG13	(12:00 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00
WALK THE LINE PG13	(10:15 1:40) 5:05 8:30
ZATHURA PG	(12:40 3:50) 7:00 10:10
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO PG	(10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 9:05
CHICKEN LITTLE G	(11:30 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30

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SYRIANA R (11:00, 1:50, 4:40), 7:35, 10:25

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HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE PG13 (11:00, 11:45, 2:30, 3:30), 6:20, 7:00, 9:45, 10:30 (ON 2 SCREENS)

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Dorothy Elinor Amren was longtime resident

DOWNEY—Dorothy Elinor Amren, born July 25, 1911 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away on Dec. 1 at Southland Home in Norwalk, where a memorial service was held on Dec. 5. She was 94.

A 57-year resident of Downey, she was retired and a member of Christ Lutheran Church of Downey. She played piano as an accompanist for Downey schools for more than 15 years.

She is survived by son Bob (Jan) Amren; grandchildren Carrie and Michael Amren; and a brother, Richard Nutt.

Pastor Nancy Hamm officiated the service at Rose Hills Memorial Park.



JEAN LOUISE BOE—Was a Downey resident for more than 60 years.

Jean Louise Boe, 62, loses fight to cancer

DOWNEY—Jean Louise Boe, a resident of Downey for more than 60 years, passed away at home Dec. 1, after a battle with cancer. She was 62.

Born Aug. 6, 1943 in New Jersey, she was the office manager at Kohlenberger Refrigeration, Inc. for 20-plus years.

She is survived by her husband, Boe; two sons; two stepchildren; seven grandchildren; a sister; three brothers; and several nieces and nephews.

Miller-Mies handled arrangements.

Final votes tallied for CC governing board

NORWALK—The final certified vote tally in the race for a seat on the Cerritos College governing board, according to the Registrar-Recorder County Clerk's office (RR/CC), has Bob Hughlett winning in the Nov. 8, 2005 elections with 35,556 votes, or 29.99 percent of total.

The other candidates were not far behind, ending up practically in a dead heat. Carmen Avalos came in second, garnering 27,751 votes or 23.41 percent of total.

Incumbent Robert Epple was third, with 27,708 votes, representing 23.37 percent of total.

Downey Unified School District substitute teacher Bob Verderber, who at one point was believed to have improved his chances of winning, wound up in fourth position with 27,537 votes, or 23.23 percent.

Holiday dinner at Christ Lutheran

DOWNEY—Christ Lutheran Church, 7707 Florence Ave. in Downey, is having a holiday catered dinner at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, with live entertainment.

Cost is \$25 per person. The public is invited. For information/tickets, call 927-4421.

'Connections' meets Thursdays

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

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HOLD ON REAL TIGHT! – Joan Warner (center), executive director of the Downey Chamber of Commerce who is retiring at the end of the month, was feted at a retirement “roast” last Friday, Dec. 2, at the Rio Hondo Events Center. Holding on and not wanting to let go are the two organizers of the gala affair, past president Fionnuala Anderson (left) and board member Jan Scott.

Starbucks ribbon cutting Dec. 14

DOWNEY—The ribbon cutting ceremony for Starbucks Coffee Company, 12016 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey, takes place Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Welcoming the guests will be Jennifer Ramirez and partners.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce is again assisting Starbucks with the store’s opening. The celebration includes refreshments from 10-11 a.m. For information, call the Chamber, (562) 923-2191.

Darren Doherty golf tourney Dec. 23

DOWNEY – The 1st annual Darren Doherty Memorial Golf Tournament, to benefit Darren’s high school, St. John Bosco in Bellflower, takes place Friday, Dec. 23 at Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey.

Participation fee is \$100, which includes green fees, golf cart and lunch. Prizes will be offered. Tee time is 8 a.m.

RSVP to Hubert, (562) 787-2905, or e-mail Hubert7340@aol.

Champagne brunch at Downey Elks

DOWNEY—Fail-Safe 4 Felines, Inc. will be hosting a champagne brunch and silent auction at the Downey Elks Lodge on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a donation of \$20.

For reservations and tickets, call 708-2672 or 928-5731.

Fail-Safe 4 Felines is a nonprofit organization.

Chorus presents ‘A Christmas Song’

BELLFLOWER—The Bellflower Civic Chorus presents its annual Christmas Concert, “A Christmas Song,” at the William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16660 Civic Center Drive in Bellflower, Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18, both at 2:30 p.m.

To be sung in the first half of the program are such traditional carols as “Do you Hear What I Hear?”, “O Holy Night,” “Who’s that Baby?”, and “Angels We have Heard On High.” Also, to mark the season of Hanukkah, the chorus will render “Happy Hanukkah, My Friend.”

The second half of the concert will feature a more contemporary sound with some fun songs, including “A Holly Jolly Christmas,” “I’m Getting Nuttin’ For Christmas,” “Jolly Old St. Nicholas,” and “’Twas the Night After Christmas.”

Concert narrator will be Gregg Nighswonger, with Bill Jones directing and Chris Squires on piano and synthesizer. Adding their own instrumental talents will be Dan Kilduff on bass and Jan Pospisil on drums.

All seating is \$5. For information/advance ticket sales, contact (562) 866-4664 or (323) 569-5930.

The Chorus has existed for more than 35 years and meets Tuesday evenings at Simms Park in Bellflower

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DOWNEY – The American Cancer Society Downey Rio Hondo Unit needs volunteers to help in the office. Training is provided. For information, call 776-0201.

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Unique gift idea offered

DOWNEY – Downey Civic Light Opera is offering special gift certificates for this season's two remaining musicals, "Hello Dolly" and "Nunsense."

Marsha Moode, executive producer for DCLO, said "Free parking and Broadway-quality productions in the Downey Theater make our gift certificates a holiday surprise friends and family will really appreciate and enjoy next year."

The Downey Civic Light Opera season runs from the fall through late spring.

For information, call 923-1714.

Fashion show featured

DOWNEY – Downey Christian Women's Club invites the community to their buffet luncheon held the second Wednesday of every month at Los Amigos Country Club at 11:45 a.m.

Price for the lunch is \$12 and men are welcome to attend.

A fashion show by Glory M'lou's Boutique will be the special feature of the Dec. 14 meeting, titled "Blessings of Christmas." Also, Arlane Hart will speak on "Peace after Tragedy."

Reservations are requested by calling Ginnie at 927-8488 or Delores at 868-7135.



MORE AID FOR KATRINA VICTIMS—Financial Partners Credit Union employees reached out recently to Hurricane Katrina victims through the American Red Cross with \$7,000 check. From left: Earl Washington, FPCU board chair; Stephanie Milano, American Red Cross director of public support; Alisa Montero, FPCU accountant; and Nader Moghaddam, FPCU CEO.

FPCU employees donate to Red Cross

DOWNEY—In an outpouring of support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the employees of Financial Partners Credit Union have donated \$7,000 to the American Red Cross.

Said FPCU CEO Nader Moghaddam: "I am extremely proud of our employees' efforts to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It is through our caring actions that we see a shining example of selfless service and good citizenship."

The credit union reached out as well to help employees of Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne who are stationed at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. "With many of the employees being displaced, Financial Partners made a cash donation and offered emergency loans to those employees most impacted by Hurricane Katrina," said Alan Bergman, director of accounting at Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne and Financial Partners board member. "We wanted to provide whatever support possible to help the Rocketdyne employees."



GOOD DONATION—Brent Shubin, second from left, accepts check, payable to GOOD, from Curves owner Dionne Bassano, who ran a fundraiser at Curves for Gangs Out of Downey. DFCU marketing director Jan Simon is at extreme left, while an unidentified Curves employee is at extreme right.

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Word of MOUTH

by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

While dental experts previously thought that adults generally begin develop gum disease in their late-30s or early 40s, new research shows that twenty-somethings are showing more signs of periodontal problems, especially in and around their wisdom teeth. Periodontal disease is a progressive condition, in which bacteria attack gums and the roots of teeth. When researchers recently studied approximately 400 people in their 20s who planned to keep their wisdom teeth, they found that about one-quarter of them had periodontal disease with no obvious signs of symptoms of the disease. This is the first time wisdom teeth have been systematically examined in a large study, offering one more factor to take into account when considering having your wisdom teeth extracted.

Most problems with wisdom teeth develop in people between the ages of 15 and 25. It makes good sense to start preventive measures against dental disease as soon as possible. When was the last time you had a complete dental exam? We make a thorough evaluation of existing and potential problems. Nothing is more economical serious problems. Call us today at (562) 923-3714 to schedule a convenient appointment for the highest quality dental care. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307. We wish all of our friends and readers a wonderful Holiday.

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MARGIE RICHEY – Was happy to have received a 35-year realtor lapel pin from the Downey Association of Realtors recently. Margie and Ray Richey were broker and owners of two real estate offices in Downey for many years. Their office, now known as Red Carpet Heritage Realty, was purchased by Chris and Bev Baumann in 1998; Margie continued on as an active realtor. To contact her with a real estate question, call and ask for her at 923-5401 or 861-2109.

‘Nifty After Fifty’ gaining in popularity

DOWNEY – The physicians of Downey-based CareMore Medical Group have opened the area’s first fitness center for mature adults in Brea.

The 2800 square-foot center, called Nifty After Fifty, features the latest in modern strength training and fitness equipment. The center is designed especially for older adults and provides clinical supervision and personalized attention from clinical staff members trained in physical therapy and fitness.

History

Several years ago, Sheldon Zinberg, M.D., chairman of CareMore Medical Group, which serves mature adults throughout southeast Los Angeles and Orange County, began a program called WISH for Fitness, whereby frail elderly were given prescriptions by their physicians to begin a physician supervised strength training program at a Downey fitness center. The improvements in physical and emotional health of the patients were duly noted and studied.

“Even the most frail or chronically ill patient who participated in the program saw a 100 percent increase in their usable strength in six weeks,” noted Dr. Zinberg. “For mature patients, this translates into important independent functions such as being able to get out of your chair or opening your own bottle of Snapple,” he added.

Based on the results of following 450 seniors through the program, Dr. Zinberg and his colleagues opened a fitness center in Downey last year for all mature adults. Dr. Zinberg noted the success of the effort and decided to open Nifty After Fifty.

Illnesses

Most of the mature adults working out at CareMore’s senior fitness center in Downey have some sort of chronic illness, such as heart disease, osteoporosis, lung disease, diabetes, cancer and other serious ailments.

“That is the point of the program for these seniors. We want to demonstrate that even through you may have a disease, that does not mean that you have to sit on the couch and waste away. The common denominator is weak muscles. If we can improve your strength, you can improve your state of overall health,” said Dr. Zinberg.

Retired teachers group plans party

WHITTIER—The California Retired Teachers Association (CRTA), Division 31, invites retired teachers to its Holiday Celebration Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Greenleaf Masonic Center, 12001 Beverly Blvd in Whittier. The program starts at 11 a.m.

There will be a sing-along, Scholarship bake sale, games and prizes, and lunch. Entertainment will be provided by the barbershop quartet, “The Winning Combination.”

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Christmas luncheon

SANTA FE SPRINGS—The National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees (Southeast Chapter, which includes Downey) will hold its annual Christmas Luncheon Monday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. at Maggie’s Pub restaurant, 11900 Telegraph Rd. in Santa Fe Springs. For information, call Chapter president Bob Kner, (562) 943-5513.

Newcomers celebrating Christmas early

DOWNEY—The Downey Newcomers Club will celebrate Christmas with a short business luncheon of filet mignon Monday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Golf Club. Cost is \$10.

Installation of officers takes place, with Santa Claus arriving to wish all a Merry Christmas and making himself available for picture taking with members. For reservations, call Paula Lou Roberts, 861-2545.

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Spacious custom 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath home with 2,275 sq. ft. of living space. Sparkling pool and spa, formal dining room and family room open to kitchen. Granite counter tops throughout and picture perfect family kitchen. Direct access from garage. Large master suite with private bath and walk-in closet. Listed at \$885,000.00 - Call Carol for the best deal.



JUST LISTED - NORTH DOWNEY

Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath home plus newly refurbished pool and spa. Hardwood and tile flooring, central air and remodeled baths. Immaculate and in move-in condition. Priced to sell at \$649,900. Call Carol now for the best deal.



DOWNEY - MOVE IN CONDITION

Completely remodeled home in immaculate and move-in condition. Spacious open floor plan with room to expand. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, family room with fireplace plus central air. Drive thru 1 car to 2 car garage. Plus a bonus room. Priced right at \$719,000. Call Carol today!



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By Colin Clarke
Counting Your Chickens!



It's a common predicament: you need to sell your home and at the same time buy and move into another, possibly in another city. Since it's not likely that you'll close on both homes in the same day, how do you proceed? Buy first or sell first? It's a classic "chicken or the egg" scenario. If you sell first, you're pressured to move, perhaps into temporary quarters. But if you face something like job relocation, there may be little choice. If you buy first, you might be paying two mortgages for some time. But if you can't afford two payments, you'll probably have to sell first to qualify for a loan. What a headache! There's a beast called a "contingency contact" wherein you called make an offer on a home that is "contingent" upon selling your current home. Experience has shown, however, that sellers will not be enthused by such an offer. Why should they take their home off the market while waiting for the possible sale of your home? The best bet is to go ahead and list your home for sale as soon as possible, and start looking at other homes. When your home is under contract, get your loan pre-approval and choose from the houses you've already selected as your top three. Then make your offer and make your plans to start moving!

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Downey: Located in a prime area of North East Downey. Features 4 Bed, 2.75 Bath, 2,642 SqFt, 10,010 Lot. Never windows, stucco, paint, crown molding, copper plumbing, completely remodeled kitchen and baths. Let's make a deal, shows like new! \$1,145,000.



Norwalk: Great area. 2 Bed, 1 Bath, 912 Sq Ft of living space. Large 6720 Sq Ft Lot. Copper plumbing, recessed lighting, and hardwood floors throughout. Un-permitted 3rd bedroom. Priced to sell!!! \$440,000.



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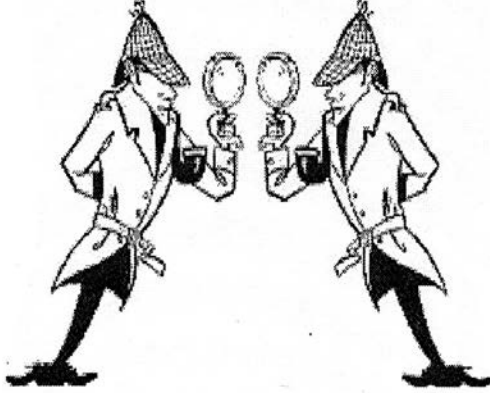
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The 3 car garage and driveway gives plenty of parking space. The property does have a pool with diving board in back yard. This home and property is perfect for a large family and/or someone interested in building. There are lots of other features this home has to offer.

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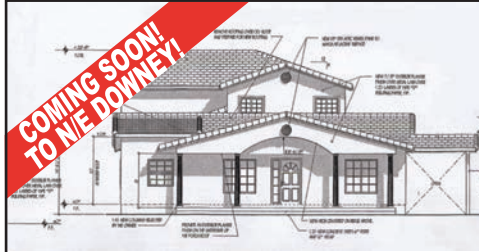
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Coming Soon!

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To Be Priced under: \$400,000



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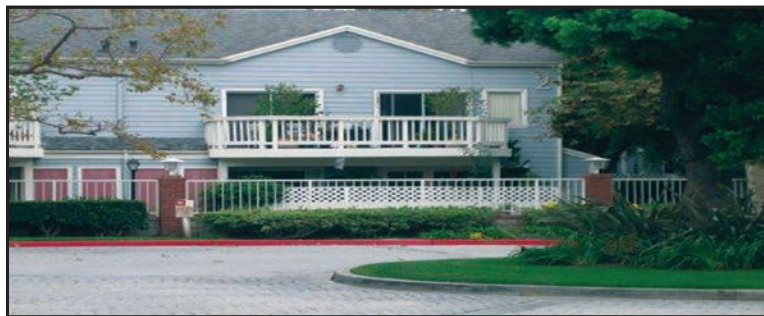
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New Construction In Orange Estates

Custom Built Beauty! 4 bedrooms, 3-bath pool home in Orange Estates of North Downey. This newly built home features a large living room with travertine flooring, formal dining room, new kitchen with granite counter tops, large master bedroom with balcony, and a master bathroom with jacuzzi and separate shower. The floorplan lends itself to entertaining guests and the home has 3 bedrooms upstairs and 1 bedroom downstairs. The backyard has a pool, covered patio, and a 2 car detached garage. \$999,000

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Fantastic Buy!

2 bedroom, 1 bath top-level condo with 2 car detached garage in Norwalk near AMC Theater. Unit is light and bright and features a living room and dining area with vaulted ceilings, kitchen with tile counter tops, and a balcony off living room and master bedroom. Also features central air and heat. Priced to sell at \$335,000.

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Beautiful Spanish-style 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home rebuilt in 1993 in the wonderful NE section of Downey. The property has a 2 car det. garage, long driveway with carport, and large pool-size yard that's perfect for entertaining. The custom-built home has an impressive living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining room and den, and a downstairs master bedroom with large bathroom. The upstairs has another master bedroom, 2 other bedrooms with Jack-&Jill bath, and bonus room with balcony. Price: \$1,149,000.

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Nice Area, Nice Price!

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home in Pico Rivera (near Downey) with high ceilings in living room, and light & airy kitchen. The back yard features a nice covered patio and an above-ground jacuzzi. Property has a 2 car attached garage with laundry hook-ups in garage, and the driveway has plenty of room for many cars to park. Reduced Price: \$464,950.

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Room To Grow

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