



The Downey Patriot



**Firefighters
get buzzed**
See Page 3



**Fun hats
go on parade**
See Page 4



**Somebody
to be proud of**
See Page 2

Friday, March 30, 2007

Vol. 5 No. 49

11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey, CA 90241

Finding value the Second Tyme Around

■ Quaint little shop in Downtown Downey offers old-fashioned treasures at old-fashioned prices. The best part is, it's all for a good cause.

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Walking into the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop located on Downey Avenue is like opening a treasure chest.

It's your typical thrift store, with the usual obscure items (think wrapping paper and tire chains) mixed in with used furniture, outdated music (think Tom Jones 8-track) and clothing from all decades.

While pacing throughout the store, I couldn't help but wonder where these items came from. I imagined where the luggage had traveled to. I pondered who might have eaten off the set of fine china. And I envisioned a group of little girls playing with a plastic tea set.

How interesting it would be to trace these items to their original owners. If the \$6.50 vintage typewriter could talk, would it tell me it was used by a procrastinating student or a talented author? If the Barbra Streisand album priced at 50 cents could talk, would it tell me it was played relentlessly or only once at a wedding? And if the black, shiny stilettos at \$5 could talk, would they tell me they were worn on a date or to numerous dance competitions?

Looking at these items was like looking into the past. They hold value not only because they allow us to get a glimpse of how people lived, but also because the proceeds they accrue are donated back into the community.

Since opening 29 years ago, the Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop has given its proceeds to programs throughout the community. Operated by the Assistance League of Downey, volunteers, who are active members in the League, sort through donations, price them and organize them accordingly.

The Assistance League of Downey then uses the proceeds to fund such programs as Operation School Bell, which provides school appropriate clothing and hygiene packages for children of low-income families, and Housing of Medical Emergencies (H.O.M.E.), which provides temporary low-cost housing to families who have loved ones in rehabilitative care at Rancho Los Amigos. Both programs, in addition to many others, are owned and operated by the Assistance League of Downey.

The store receives donations everyday and on this particular day, business was booming. One gentleman nearly cleared out all of the kid's shoes



The Second Tyme Around Gift Shop on Downey Avenue is owned and operated by the Assistance League of Downey. The store is a thrift shop featuring hundreds of second-hand items at reduced prices, with all revenue going to support the organization's efforts in the Downey community. Photo by Brooke Karli

(priced anywhere from \$1 to \$4 a pair) so that he could send them to an orphanage sponsored by his church. A woman sorted through kitchen appliances to help a neighbor in need. And a theatre student fished for just the right costume.

The store itself is very well organized, with areas designated for clothing, books, music, shoes, accessories, jewelry, furniture, appliances and more. Fitting rooms are also available and assistance is provided by workers.

When asked by a customer if the store's wall clock was for sale, volunteer Jackie Vinckier replied, "Not everything here is for sale. Almost...but not everything."

Originally affiliated with National Assistance League in 1956 as Las

See SHOP, page 4

Resident charged with lewd acts on a child

■ Antonio Gomez was middle school teacher in Los Angeles and may have volunteered with local youth sports teams.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Downey resident and Los Angeles middle school teacher Antonio Gomez was arrested and charged this week with 11 counts of lewd acts on a child.

Although he was never a teacher in the Downey Unified School District, police said he may have been a volunteer with local youth sports organizations. Police said there may be more victims.

Gomez is a teacher at Stevenson Middle School in Los Angeles. Since his arrest, five more girls, all students or former students ranging in age from 13 to 16, came forward and filed incident reports, according to Detective Kathie McCarthy of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Police served a warrant on Gomez' Downey home where they found items that suggested he may be involved in coaching youth sports, McCarthy said.

Gomez may have been a coach, or helped to coach, his children in local leagues, McCarthy said, although she declined to identify which ones, citing the ongoing investigation.

One Downey AYSO official told the Patriot that Gomez had two sons enrolled in the league but that

he was not a coach.

Dorothy Pemberton of Downey

Ponytail

said

Gomez was

not affiliated

with that

league. She

also

emphasized

that

Ponytail

uses Live

Scan

finger

printing

services on

all of its

coaches and

volunteers

to protect

its girls.

Gomez, 35, came under investi-

gation in February for "acts related

to current or former students,"

according to police. Detectives

believe he may have also been

involved "in other illegal acts with

minors."

Gomez is currently free on

\$100,000 bail and has been placed

on unpaid leave by the Los Angeles

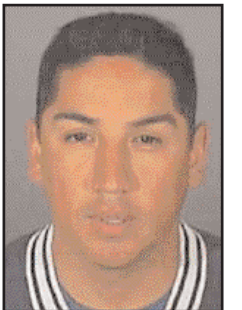
Unified School District.

Anyone with information on

the case is asked to call Det.

McCarthy of the LAPD at (213)

485-2921.



GOMEZ

Time Traveler Old newspapers reflect events like today's

BY JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

Newspapers have hardly changed at all if you use a copy of the long ago Los Angeles Evening Express that was uncovered during the demolition of a Downey church and turned over to the Downey Historical Society as a model.

The newspaper dated April 26, 1930, was found by workers for a construction company who were working on the foundations of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in 1991.

Sports, crime, politics, immigration and ship departures all stud the pages of the Evening Express, which claimed to be the oldest daily newspaper in Los Angeles with a founding date of March 27, 1871.

Take that, you mighty Los Angeles Times!

A history buff could spend hours digesting the headlines of the old newspaper. The names leap out to anyone with a taste for the past.

"Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York confined to home with what his doctors describe as complete physical and mental breakdown," reads one story.

"Capone's kin face prison," screams a headline, adding that Big Al's brother has been convicted of tax fraud.

Then there is the picture of the Hostetter Industrial District in Los Angeles, and a story about how home building in Los Angeles is the second fastest in the nation.

The editorial page carried an in-depth study of the problem of admitting seasonal Mexican labor into the U.S.

Sound familiar?

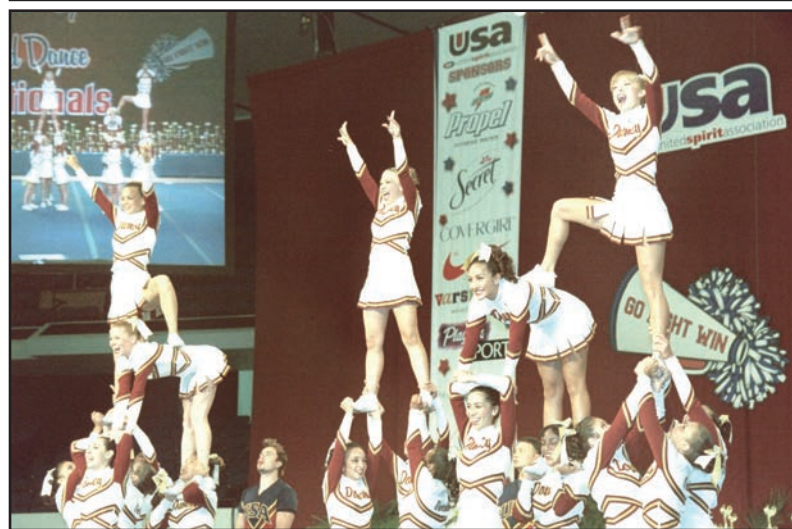
The sports pages glittered with a story on how former USC grid star Fay Thomas was slated to pitch baseball that day for the Sacramento Solons who were playing Los Angeles.

Remember the old Pacific Coast League?

My own memories of the great Pacific circuit date only to Steve Bilko and Frankie Baumholtz, but I'm sure there are those who still recall Thomas as well.

The Evening Express was big on sea arrivals and departures. The Point Sur tug "Peacock" arrived, as did the San Francisco vessel "Wapama" and

See TRAVELER, page 4



Downey High School's varsity cheerleaders made it to the finals at the recent USA High School Spirit Nationals held at the Anaheim Convention Center March 23-25, eventually finishing fourth out of 16 squads. It was the first time the girls had competed in the competition. Downey's JV cheerleaders took home fifth place in their division. Varsity cheerleaders include Brittany Barela, Samantha Brady, Jazmine Cardona, Michelle Chavarin, Erika Gonzalez, Dania Jimenez, Winnie Lolong, Paula Meechai, Julie Minjarez, Lisette Neira, Dina Provatas, Rose Robles, Victoria Velasco, Natalie Williams, Skye Fodor, Paulyna Melendez, Sarina Pounce and Bianca Torrico.

Guerra defends self in council comments

■ Councilman denies accusations hurled by Lennie Whittington, whom Guerra calls a 'bully to the community.'

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – City Councilman Mario Guerra defended himself vehemently against verbal taunts and accusations from a member of the public at a charged city council meeting this week.

Downey resident Lennie Whittington, during public comments, hurled insults at Guerra, mispronounced his name (calling him "Guerrero") and said he would look into possible violations of the Brown Act when Guerra told fellow council members he was bringing up the issue of term limits at the March 13 council meeting.

The Brown Act restricts publicly-elected officials from holding undis-

See COMMENTS, page 4

Ancient and modern Mexico explored

CONTRIBUTED BY MARK KELLER
DOWNEY THEATRE

DOWNEY – The Downey Theatre will present the ninth film of its 2006-07 "Armchair Adventure" Travelogue Series, "The Other Side of Mexico!," this Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The film was produced by Fran and Brooke Reidelberger; Fran will narrate the film live.

"The Other Side of Mexico!" features the ancient and modern sections of Mexico City; agriculture in Michoacan plus a variety of arts and crafts including copper, "catrina" dolls and hand-carved wooden masks; a religious pageant called "candelaria"; the story of Christ's life on earth hand-painted on the ceiling of a tiny 16th Century church; the dance of "The Little Old Men" in the small village of Capacuaro; Highway 120 through the Sierra Gorda mountains; the beginning of the Mission Trail and a fanciful "garden" created by a mad Englishman; the artists of San Miguel de Allende and its large North American population; and Guanajuato with its tunnels, trams and strolling troubadours.

Also included in the film are Guadalajara's modern facilities and mariachi bands; Mexico's largest fresh water lake, Lake Chapala; the towns of

See MEXICO, page 4

Downey native living Army life

DOWNEY – Thirty-eight-year-old Sergeant First Class Steven R. Neubauer, raised and educated in Downey, is now in his 18th year in the U.S. Army. He is currently stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, serving as a Drill Sergeant, and is hoping to be promoted to Master Sergeant in the near future.

He was originally assigned to For Drum, New York, then to the 38th Parallel in South Korea for one year. He then went to Fort Hood, Texas, and was later stationed with his wife and family for three years in Kaiserslautern, Germany, during which he was assigned to the Bosnian Conflict. He later served in Desert Storm.

Most recently he was stationed with his family for four years at Schweinfurt, Germany. He was assigned to Iraq for one year, for which he received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service for his participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned to the United States in the summer of 2005 and is expecting to be sent back to Iraq shortly.

Neubauer went to Carpenter Elementary, South (Sussman) Middle School and graduated from Downey High School in 1987. He is the ninth child of a family of 10.

He and his wife, Mary, have two children, Kristina, 18, and Nathan, 16.



Sergeant First Class Steven R. Neubauer, pictured with his mother, expects to serve six more years in the U.S. Army. Currently in the United States, he expects to depart for Iraq shortly. It would be his second tour there.

Egg hunts for kids at Downey parks

DOWNEY – The City of Downey will have their annual “Eggstravanga” festivities for kids on Saturday, April 7, at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman and Golden Parks.

The free activities include egg hunts, crafts and face painting. The Easter Bunny will also be on hand for pictures for \$2.

Activities start at 10:30 a.m. while the egg hunts will start at 11:30. Egg hunts will be divided into three age groups children 12 years and under.

Members of the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey Courts will help volunteer at the parks, as will the Volunteens and Downey Police Explorers.

Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis is co-sponsoring the event with a \$500 donation that is helping to purchase candy.

For more information call the Downey Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.

Fail-Safe presenting Lasagna Night

DOWNEY – Fail-Safe 4 Felines, Inc., a nonprofit organization working to control Downey’s unwanted cat population using non-lethal means, is presenting a Lasagna Night at the Downey Elks Lodge on April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

The all-you-can eat lasagna dinner includes a full salad bar, dessert table, door prizes, raffle and 50/50. Cost is a \$20 donation.

For tickets or reservations, call (562) 708-2672.

Warren’s open house packed with fun

DOWNEY – Warren High School’s open house April 4 will include department and classroom activities and presentations, and campus organization and athletic information booths.

The open house will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



The Easter Bunny will be available for pictures with kids at this year’s “Eggstravanga” event at Downey parks April 7. The photo above was taken last year.

Photos released of suspected gang shooter

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Downey police have released photos of two suspects they believe are responsible for the murder of a 22-year-old Sun Valley man in Downey two weeks ago.

Police responded to a shots fired call about 3 p.m. March 13 near the intersection of Imperial Highway and Paramount Boulevard, said Sergeant Jeff Calhoun with the Downey Police Department. There they found two male adult victims suffering from multiple gunshot wounds inside a compact car. The pair were transported to St. Francis Hospital in Lynwood, Calhoun said.

Shahin Soudmand, a 22-year-old Sun Valley resident, later died, Calhoun said.

Witnesses told police that the victims were involved in a verbal altercation with suspects in a dark-colored Honda, Calhoun said. The suspects followed the victims to the Paramount Boulevard signal, Calhoun said.

When the victims stopped at the light, one of the suspects exited his car, approached the victims’ vehicle, and began shooting from a handgun, Calhoun said. The suspect then fled and possibly re-entered the Honda.

The shooter is described as a male Hispanic, 25-35 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 180 pounds with short black hair, green eyes and wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

The second suspect, the passenger, is also described as a male Hispanic, 25-30 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches tall, 240 pounds, black hair, wearing gray slacks and a black button-down shirt.

Police described the vehicle as a black or dark green 1994-96 Honda Accord with “racing style” tachometer, red roll cage and chrome wheels. Because of the heavy traffic at the intersection where the shooting occurred, police suspect there may be more witnesses.

Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call Detective Steve Aubuchon at (562) 904-2368.



Suspected shooter



Suspect's car

Local businesses experience fraud

DOWNEY – According to Downey Fire Captain Darren Moon, a group of solicitors have been accepting funds from local Downey business owners in the name of Downey Fire Paramedics.

The group has been distributing literature with the names “Code 3 Fire & Paramedic Sports” and “New Life Sports Clinics.”

The group has no affiliation with the Downey Fire Department or any other fire department. An ongoing investigation is being conducted.

If any local business has given to this cause, contact Moon at (562) 904-7346.

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Camarillo	805.465.1053	Laguna Hills	949.470.8160	San Marino	626.588.3760
Cerritos	562.916.7260	La Verne	909.593.4944	Torrance	310.891.6240
Chino Hills	909.631.2560	Long Beach	562.668.5050	Tustin	714.368.2100
City of Industry	626.961.3486	Manhattan Beach	310.727.5660	Ventura	805.677.2300
Covina	626.331.0651	Mission Viejo	949.347.7014	West Covina	626.859.4200
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Century 21 Spotlights

Century 21 My Real Estate Pays Tribute To Rio Hondo For Showing Character Counts In Their Annual Pennies for Patients Vice Principal Dr. Rani Bertsch, who heads up the program for Rio Hondo, is greatly supported by speech teacher Summer Israwi and student council co-presidents Melanie Weyers and Ernesto Rojas. The drive continues thru March 30. Our entire Rio Hondo family, students, staff and community are working diligently to honor the six pillars of good character, especially caring by supporting the “Pennies for Patients” program, a part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

DOWNEY'S BEHIND THE SCENE SUPERSTARS

Author giving insider's view of Disneyland

■ David Koenig provides a 'behind the ears' look at Disneyland at upcoming presentation.

DOWNEY – Disneyland historian and author David Koenig will speak and sign books at a special event in honor of National Library Week.

Koenig will give a multimedia presentation at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center on April 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Downey City Library, the free event will give an insider's view of the Magic Kingdom from the park's opening in 1955 through its 50th anniversary celebration.

Koenig is the author of "Mouse Tales: a Behind the Ears Look at Disneyland." He has also written two follow-up books, "More Mouse Tales" and "Mouse Under Glass."

Koenig's presentation will include some of the events that over the years have transformed how we visit Disneyland.

"Much of the Disneyland experience remains the same – that extra bounce you get in your step while strolling down Main Street, that calm you find on the sun-drenched decks of the Mark Twain, or the 90-minute wait for 90 seconds on a flying elephant," Koenig said. "Yet a walk in the park has changed drastically since Walt first invited us in. And it's not just all the attractions that have been added and subtracted over the years. More so, it's how we visit the park."

A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, Koenig is the senior editor of the business journal, "The Merchant Magazine." Copies of his books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. To reserve seats call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32 or visit the library.



KOENIG

Spring break fun for kids

DOWNEY – "Spring Break Fun at the Parks – Spring Spectacular" will be offered at local parks April 9-13. The program is free and offered by the City of Downey Community Services Department.

Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman, Golden and Rio San Gabriel Parks will each host daily activities from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., while Brookshire and Crawford Parks will have activities from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Children ages 6-12 will enjoy lunch with the activities leader (bring your own lunch), arts and crafts, outdoor activities and a "Spring Fling Party."

Children are free to come and go at any time but are encouraged to stay the whole day.

Registration is required and can be completed at the parks before April 9, Monday through Friday, from 3 to 5 p.m. Registration will be accepted until the program concludes. Flyers regarding the program are available at park sites and City Hall.

For information, call (562) 904-7238.

Husband and wife singing country songs

DOWNEY – The Downey Adult School OASIS program will welcome back the Towers, a husband and wife team singing popular country songs, at its April 2 meeting.

Flo and Dale Towers will also sing "oldies but goodies" at the program which starts at 4 p.m. Enrollment for the class is free and starts at 3 p.m. An optional full-course dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

Downey Dial-a-Ride can provide transportation to the class. For information, call (562) 940-6200.

Downey resident awarded scholarship

DOWNEY – Downey resident Kathrine Son has received a \$2000 scholarship from the Women and Philanthropy program at Cal State Long Beach. Son was one of nine returning students to receive the honor.

"We are very happy to support these nine individuals in their efforts to continue their education," said Barbara Holden, program director. "It's a very diverse group not only because of the individuals, but also through the areas of the university academic community it represents."



Goodwill employees, the Downey Chamber of Commerce and other city dignitaries helped celebrate the grand opening of Goodwill in Downey.



The Downey Firemen's Association hosted St. Baldrick's Day at Downey Fire Station Headquarters last week in an effort to raise money and awareness about childhood cancer. Fifty participants from the community, including Downey Fire Department personnel and their families, shaved their heads to raise money. Many local businesses also sponsored the event which ended up raising over \$24,000.

Goodwill opens new Downey location

DOWNEY – Goodwill has opened their first-ever Downey store on Imperial Highway. The store is the agency's 49th in the tri-county area.

The Downey store, 9131-D Imperial Hwy., features 9,000 square feet of selling space with a new merchandising look designed to make shopping more enjoyable. Among general upgrades are tile flooring, wall treatments as well as space planning.

The store employs 20 local residents, including Store Manager Andrea Munden. Munden brings extensive experience in merchandising and retail management having worked for a major grocery store chain for 20 years.

Goodwill offers gently-used merchandise including apparel for men and women, electronic equipment, collectibles, home décor, tableware, accessories and more.

Goodwill also trains and employs people with disabilities or "vocational disadvantages." Retail revenue helps fund education, career training and employment programs that help people find jobs, earn a living and support their families.

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The Downey Firemen's Association would like to thank the following sponsors for their help in raising over \$24,000 for pediatric cancer through the St. Baldrick's Foundation:

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st. raymond's catholic church

staging techniques

city of downey community services

St. Baldrick's

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Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer

COMMENTS

Continued from page 1

-closed, private meetings.

Guerra said he only told other council members that he was bringing the subject up – he didn't ask for opinions, he said – and encouraged Whittington to investigate the matter.

(Guerra called The Downey Patriot before the March 13 council meeting and informed this newspaper of his intent to discuss term limits. He also told this paper he had informed his colleagues that he would discuss term limits without soliciting opinions. The Patriot found no signs of Brown Act violations.)

In unrelated comments at this week's council meeting, Guerra said the new Goodwill thrift store in Downey is also an e-waste disposal unit, capable of handling old computers, fax machines and electronic equipment.

He said he visited the St. Baldrick's fundraiser last week hosted by the Downey Fire Department, where firefighters shaved their heads to raise money for cancer research.

He said he recently met with the directors of the Central Water Basin and was informed Downey was subsidizing the west basin. Thirty-three percent of \$900,000 is going to Exxon. "We need to be outraged about this," he said.

Guerra commented on his recent return from a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C. where he said he asked for \$2 million for the Columbia Space Science Learning Center. Guerra said the city is also seeking an additional \$950,000 "to make it green."

Guerra said the Center may also receive a real moon rock to display.

Councilman Kirk Cartozian, in his comments, said he enjoyed participating in last Saturday's Arc Walk for Independence at Stonewood Center. He said Downey is "lucky to have Arc in our home."

He also said he attended a March 21 meeting of the California Contractors Association in Compton, where he received an update on county health facilities. Rancho Los Amigos was not mentioned during the meeting, which Cartozian said might be a "good thing."

Councilman Dave Gafin said he also enjoyed the Arc Walk and reminded the community of his town hall meetings, which end this month.

Mayor Rick Trejo said he took his family to the Arc Walk and enjoyed it as well. Councilwoman Anne Bayer had no public comments.

Tour will travel to Sequoia for four days

DOWNEY – Experience the wonder of springtime in Sequoia National Park with Downey Adult School's Great Western Tours on May 29.

The tour will embark on a four-day, three-night trip, spending two nights at the Wuksachi Lodge (located inside the park) and one night at Wonder Valley Ranch.

Price of the trip is \$579 per person (double occupancy) or \$759 per person for a single. The tour includes deluxe motorcoach transportation and three nights hotel accommodations.

To register, call Downey Adult School at (562) 940-6213.



The Soroptimist Club of Downey held its annual Women of Distinction breakfast March 22. Pictured, from left, are the honorees: Kendra Huff (Violet Richardson Award); Marsha Moode, Deborah Massaglia, Pat Heineke and Georgianna Higson (Women of Distinction Honorees).



Downey Newcomers Club will host their annual hat parade April 9 at the Los Amigos Country Club starting at 9 a.m. There will be prizes for prettiest, funniest and most original hat. The photo above shows some of last year's participants. For reservations, call Vicki at (562) 923-0471. Reservations are also being taken for the Newcomers Fashion Show at the Rio Hondo Events Center. Reservations for that show are due by May 1 and available by calling (562) 869-1044.

The Poets' Corner

Time

What is time?

It is that one commodity that is given equally to all,
And it is only how we choose to allocate it
that makes a life unique.

We pledged to each other,
first in your church, then in mine, and ten years ago in ours.

Sixty years ago today, Roy, I circled your finger with a ring,
as a promise of unbroken love, as a promise of care,
and as a pledge of my fidelity.

Today I repeat that promise and again take you to myself
as God's special gift.

Before we married you gifted the kitchen with a clock,
it served well until last April.
Next you gifted the night stand with a lighted dial to better serve
diminished sight. In between there was a Mickey Mouse wrist
watch for you
and a pendant watch for me.

Today I gift you with that wrist watch, and perhaps
it will continue to mark well our remaining numbered days.

— Julia Asmus,
Bell Gardens

Royalty

Pretty kitty sitting tall
Surviving all from the wall -
Looking regal with shining hair -
Soaking in the sun without a care.

Suddenly with screeching sound,
He warns a stranger lurking 'round.

I take a look and there I see
A small, young cat among the trees!

— Martha Morrissey,
Downey

Diabetes sessions start in April

DOWNEY – People who have had diabetes for years, as well as those recently diagnosed, are invited to a four-session, 10-hour program on the Management of Diabetes presented by Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC). The next series of classes will be offered on Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Through the DRMC Diabetes Education Institute, persons struck with diabetes have the resources enabling them to manage their diabetes, improve their quality of life and delay or prevent complications.

Diabetes classes are held inside the DRMC conference rooms. There is a \$10 materials fee for the series. To register, call (562) 904-5580.

TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

the "Charles L. Wheeler, Jr.," from Portland and San Francisco.

San Pedro was a beehive of activity.

The departures included the North German Lloyd liner "S.S. Columbus" with 348 on board, 137 of whom were going to Europe. There wasn't a hint in the Los Angeles of 1930 that another World War was in the offing. Pearl Harbor was just a point from which ships arrived.

Perhaps most poignant of all, and most meaningful today, was a story on how one loses identity in the U.S. Census. It noted that residents of Los Angeles became mere numbers through the census count then under way. Sound something like the complaints of contemporary census counts linked to federal funding and reapportionment?

Things weren't so different in 1930, now were they?

Originally published March 3, 1994


SHOP

Continued from page 1

Siervas Auxiliary of Southern California chapter, Assistance League of Downey officially became a chartered chapter in 1975. Their mission states, "Assistance League of Downey is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who, in addition to their fundraising efforts, provide for and administer vital, quality services for people in need in the Downey area."

The Second Tyme Around Thrift Shop is located at 11026 Downey Ave. and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information on how to join Assistance League or to make a donation, call (562) 869-0232.

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H3815_07007E (10-06)

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Miles of Smiles

By Brooke Karli

This year was my first time participating in the Arc Walk for Independence and I can honestly say I didn't know what to expect.

I can tell you, however, that I didn't expect as many people to show up. I didn't expect the entertainment – Laker girls, clowns and live music, the food – breakfast courtesy of Acapulco, or master of ceremonies – Gene Gleeson from K-ABC7.

The event was well-routed with firemen passing out waters, photographers taking pictures and volunteers cheering on participants.

The walk itself consisted of meeting many new faces, varying from city officials to Arc “consumers.” People walked as individuals or as companies, and while some walked or ran the one or three mile courses, others were pushed along in their wheelchairs or strollers.

It was \$10 for registration, but you couldn't leave the event without buying a red Arc Walk t-shirt or wristband. Between registration, merchandise and sponsorships, the event raised \$100,000.

All around, I was pleasantly surprised to see thousands of people – approximately 2,400 – show up and lace up their tennis shoes for a great cause. I rejoiced even more when I was greeted by the smiles of Arc consumers. They had been looking forward to this event for quite some time and thanked me for my participation.

But in all fairness, they are the ones to thank. They are the wonderful people that remind us that life is what you make of it. They understand they have *disabilities*, but know that their circumstances do not take away from their *capabilities*.

As Arc continues to thrive amongst our community, I hope our community will in turn continue to support them one step at a time.

Letters to the Editor:

Eminent domain makes sense

Dear Editor:

Many weeks after reading letters, attending city meetings and listening to peoples concerns about Harvey's/Johnnie's Broiler, my first thought was why doesn't the city just claim eminent domain?

Well, low and behold I found a letter that addressed the situation and was well-written by John Eng (Letters to the Editor, 3/23/07). The marketability to keep and run Harvey's where it is at presently is why it may have had problems. We all can only speculate, and now that the damage has been done, let's repair it and move on.

So, purchase the property under eminent domain, develop it to create either a commercially viable venue, or develop it into a small street park, such as other cities have, and name it Harvey's Corner or something. Move the “original” Harvey's further down Firestone Boulevard towards Downtown Downey and turn it into a vintage diner that will accomplish the saving of the Google architecture and memories of the past while sparking a new architectural feel and new memories of the future while endorsing our city history, future, as well as endless possibilities. It could give Downey that “shot in the arm” that we have been waiting for.

Whatever the choices, the possibilities are endless if people just learn to work together. A little thinking outside the box doesn't hurt.

Another great possibility in this city would be turning the Rives Mansion into a B&B...how long before that becomes a sublet apartment house?

— Katherine Bode,
Downey

Szechy says thanks

Dear Editor:

I just want to say a sincere thanks for the complimentary article in the March 16th issue of The Downey Patriot. (“Nora Szechy: far from an ordinary girl”, 3/16/07)

It was far beyond my expectations. I was looking forward to reading a paragraph or two but certainly not most of Page 13! As a result, I have had many phone calls and e-mails of congratulations from readers of The Downey Patriot.

Staff writer Henry Veneracion was extremely kind and courteous. He did a most thorough interview and I marvel at his memory as he took few notes.

—Nora Szechy,
Downey

Corrections

- A story in our March 9 issue incorrectly stated the time the Downey Little League Challengers baseball program meets. They play at Furman Park on Saturdays from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Photos in last week's issue did not properly attribute photos of the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey Courts. Photos were courtesy R.D. Salyer, Art Montoya and the Downey Rose Float Association.



Is it for sale or isn't it?

Dear Editor:

Here lies another letter to the editor to rebut the words stated by Christos Smyrniotis, longtime property owner of the illegally demolished Broiler.

Upon checking local Downey commercial listings, I have more than once come across two different versions of a listing of a parcel of land at SWC (southwest corner) Firestone Boulevard and Old River School Road, formerly known as Harvie's Broiler.

In the first property description, the listing states that 90,000 sq. ft. of land are available for lease at \$0.16 per sq. ft. which calculates out to roughly \$15,000/mo. For the whole parcel of land, minus its substantially demolished building. Today – and this is not the first time I have seen this – to my dismay I came across a retail development advertised at the SWC Firestone Boulevard and Old River School Road, utilizing the Johnnie's moniker as well as the Broiler, with original signage intact and retail shops incorporated into the east-facing corridor.

Nowhere – and I mean nowhere – does it mention that this property is for sale in any retail listing in the City of Downey. According to the March 16, 2007 edition of The Downey Patriot, Mr. Smyrniotis stated that he “was willing to sell the property but since the illegal demolition took place has not received any offers.” I beg to differ: the property has never been listed for sale since the illegal demolition took place. And from what I understand, it is tied up in a long-term lease agreement to another individual that prosecutors have filed criminal charges against for nearly demolishing the historic former drive-in restaurant without building and safety permits.

According to other televised and online publications, the lessee, Ardas Yanik, is not a resident of Downey. Yanik seems to have no long-term regard for the citizens' wish to reestablish the Broiler as it was originally designed by Harvey Ortner. Additionally, Yanik faces up to six months in jail on each count, plus fines, and is to be arraigned on April 4 in Downey.

If this property is listed for sale anywhere, please have Mr. Smyrniotis publicly present this through his realtor as a complete parcel of land. The last publicly known listing was in 2004 for \$4.5 million. At that time, there was a complete building on site requiring minimal repair to the inside to retain its historic value and attractiveness to developers. According to an undisclosed source, Mr. Smyrniotis rebuffed a nationally recognized operator who expressed a serious financial interest in the property at that time.

So, how much does Christos Smyrniotis want for this damaged piece of property which is in litigation as we speak?

— Kevin Preciado,
Downey

Mistaken identity?

Dear Editor:

Years ago a motel, restaurant and a bar providing live entertainment was built at Lakewood Boulevard and Imperial Highway and named Tahitian Village. The design of the building and landscaping was Hawaiian.

The Tahitian Village, sadly, eventually, for reasons I don't know, deteriorated with a bad reputation.

Perhaps Harvey's Broiler was mistakenly identified as being known as a prostitute hang-out instead of rightfully the ill-repute Tahitian Village known to have prostitutes.

—Catherine Reed,
Downey

What disadvantage?

Dear Editor:

I didn't know if I should be amused or appalled as I read the article entitled “Guerra calls for revision to existing term limits”. (The Downey Patriot, 3/16/07) Mr. Guerra states, “It is a death penalty for some really good people here and it puts our city at a disadvantage.”

First of all, Mr. Guerra is incredibly arrogant to suggest that there are so few good people in Downey that the good people should be given extended service on the City Council. I am guessing Mr. Guerra considers himself one of those good people in light of the fact he felt himself qualified to run for the position he now holds.

Secondly, if we have been disadvantaged by the term limits which termed out these good people, then why did Mr. Guerra wait until he was elected to bring this before the Council? Since the public is invited to attend and bring issues before the council, a more appropriate suggestion to revise term limits would have come from the citizen Guerra instead of the newly elected Councilman Guerra. I also fail to see how these term limits are a disadvantage to our city.

Lastly, it is all too obvious that elections are often won by the candidate with the most money support and/or popularity and not necessarily by the individual who is the best prepared to serve, especially at the city level. Mr. Guerra's idea to revise the term limits such that an individual could serve 12 years, take 4 off, and then serve another 12 years would potentially afford an ill-qualified individual who happened to be popular, a rather lengthy time at the helm. Why bother with the token 4 year period off?

Should the council be so generally arrogant as to put this before the voters, I hope the other good people of Downey choose to decline Mr. Guerra's self-centered, self-serving, power-grabbing suggestion.

— Ramona Dominguez,
Downey

Loyal to Mexico?

Dear Editor:

An open letter to Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard: You are now clearly on record as supporting amnesty because of your support of H.R. 1645. That will not be popular among the voters in our district.

H.R. 1645 outlines a path by which, in exchange for the highest honor our country has to bestow, illegal aliens have to pay \$2000, pass a criminal record, pay at least some of any income taxes he/she had chosen not to pay while working illegally, and learn some English. That's ridiculous.

Not only does H.R. 1645 outline a path to citizenship for most illegal aliens, it includes the awful AgJOBS amnesty (which would turn foreign-born agricultural workers into little more than indentured servants) and DREAM Act amnesty (which does nothing but put a school uniform on amnesty).

Your support of this bill aligns you with the most radical, open-borders fringe of the Democratic Party. It's going to be very disappointing to most of the voters who put you in office.


Rep. Roybal-Allard has now shown her true colors and like President Bush, who last week promised Mexico he would make it even easier for them to come here illegally, take American jobs and even use the federal government to help them send their Yankee dollars home.

Voters of Downey, do you want to live in a Mexican village like South Gate or Bell Gardens have become? This is exactly what you'll be getting more of when you vote for Roybal-Allard.

Are there no politicians left who are loyal to their electorate, the United States, and not loyal to Mexico?

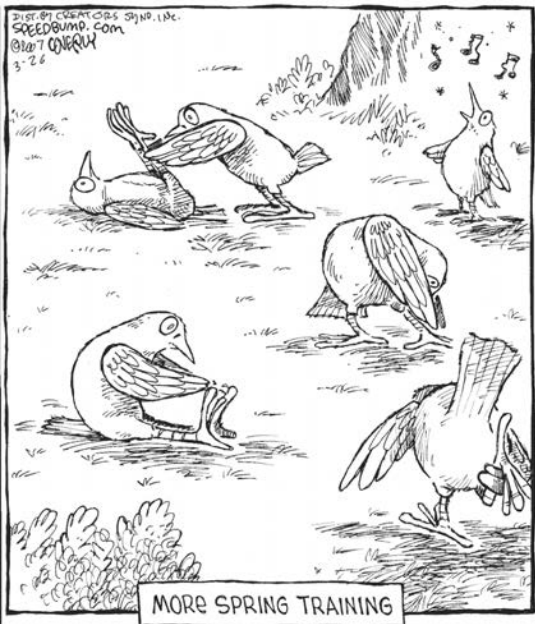
— Bill Spetnagel,
Downey

The Downey Patriot

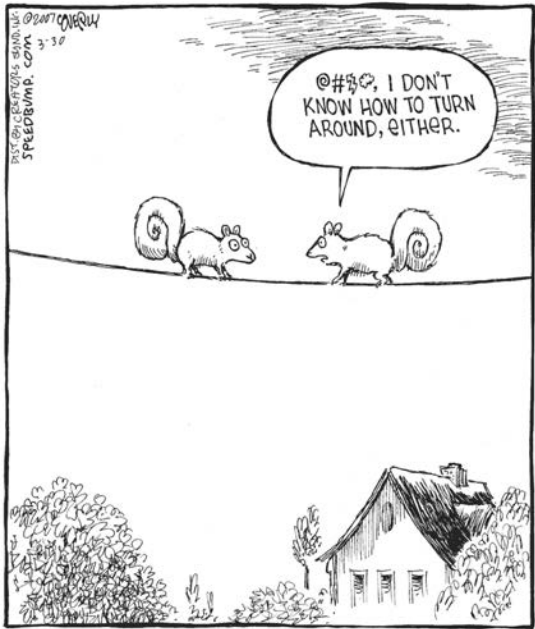
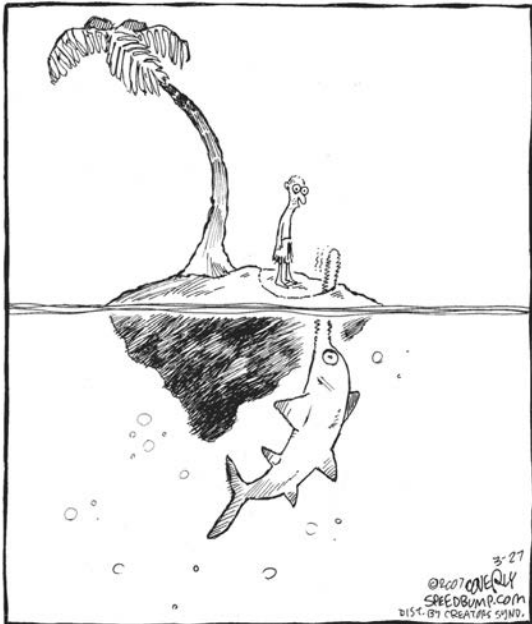
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 Phone (562) 904-3668 * Fax (562) 904-3124
 Hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 www.TheDowneyPatriot.com
 The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens.
 Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by
 Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

March 30, 1867: The United States purchases 600,000 square miles of what is now the modern state of Alaska for \$7.2 million, or about 12 cents per acre.

1981: President Ronald Reagan is shot in the chest in an assassination attempt outside a Washington hotel. Three others were also wounded.

1983: Greece officially adopts the eight-hour-per-day, five-day workweek.

1999: Tobacco maker Phillip Morris is ordered by an Oregon jury to pay \$81 million to the family of a man who died of lung cancer after smoking Marlboros for four decades.

Downey Community Calendar

Events For March/April

Sun. April 1: **"The Other Side of Mexico!" travelogue**, Downey Theatre, 2:30 p.m.
 Tues. April 3: **Lasagna Night** at Downey Elks Lodge, 6:30 p.m.
 Thurs. April 5: **Concert** at the Downey Museum of Art, 7:30 p.m.

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 Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 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 Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
 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 Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
 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.
 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.
 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.
 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., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
 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.
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
 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.
 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 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 622-7655.
 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
 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

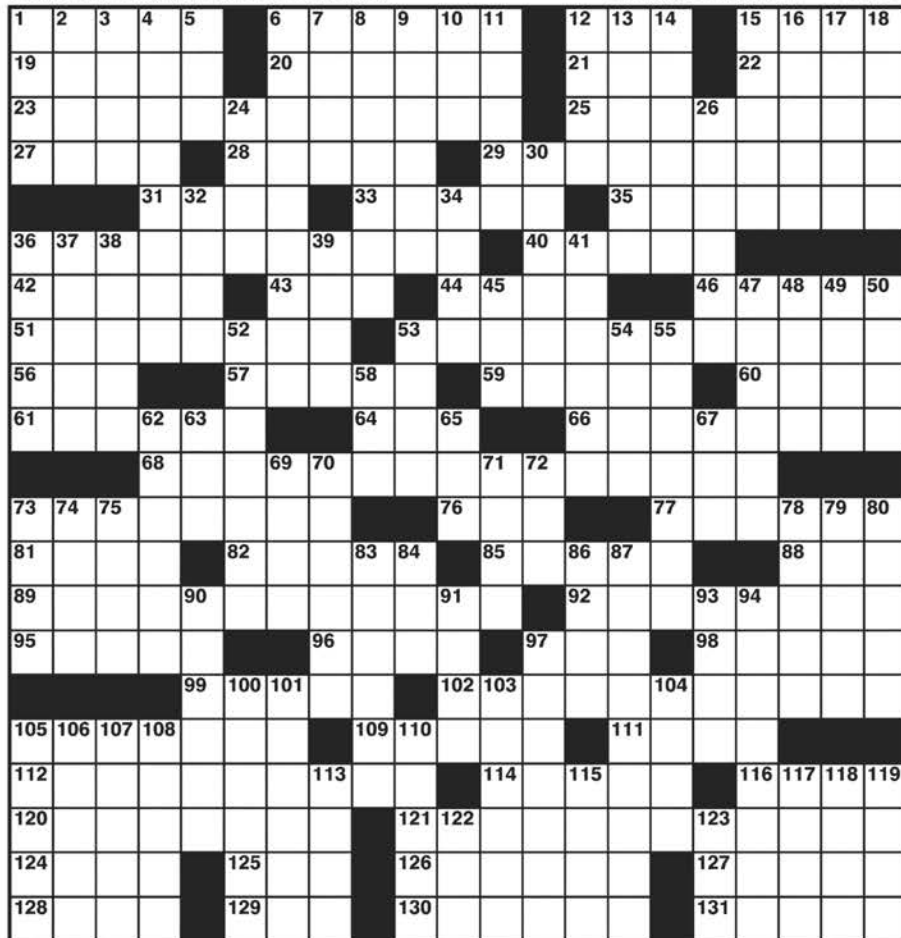
7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Harry Sacks at 319-1063
 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
HIDDEN FRUITS: Nine of them, to be exact
 by Merle Baker

- ACROSS**
- 1 On the ball
 - 6 "The ___ is willing ..."
 - 12 TV adjunct
 - 15 Staff symbol
 - 19 Hot drink
 - 20 Find on the radio
 - 21 Promise to pay
 - 22 Baltic country: Abbr.
 - 23 Houdini, notably
 - 25 Not too heavy
 - 27 Plant starter
 - 28 Burns partner
 - 29 Pro-athlete retiree of '99
 - 31 Golfer Ballesteros
 - 33 Color anew
 - 35 Thomas Gray, for one
 - 36 All, in Arles
 - 40 2000 presidential candidate
 - 42 Wheel shafts
 - 43 Neighbor of Ger.
 - 44 PC connections
 - 46 Rodeo rope
 - 51 Takes back
 - 53 Bobby Vee tune of '60
 - 56 Norse god of war
 - 57 Prudential rival
 - 59 Grenoble's river
 - 60 Insignificant
 - 61 Add spice to
 - 64 Browser bookmark
 - 66 Stress
 - 68 Lake mishap
 - 73 Smoothing stuff
 - 76 Snapshot
 - 77 Accelerate
 - 81 Water bird
 - 82 Not yet familiar with
 - 85 Feudal vassal
 - 88 Suffix for infant
 - 89 Civil unrest
 - 92 Loan requirement, sometimes
 - 95 Basil-based sauce
 - 96 Singer Coolidge
 - 97 Yoo follower
 - 98 Moves like the Blob
 - 99 Beat
 - 102 Obey an order
 - 105 Increased
 - 109 Grumpy cohort
 - 111 "¡Buenos ___!"
 - 112 Woodworker's purchase
 - 114 Suit material
 - 116 Criteria: Abbr.
 - 120 Orchestral piece
 - 121 "Don't get me wrong ..."
 - 124 Muffin topper
 - 125 Right away
 - 126 Emulated Groucho
 - 127 With 131 Across, patron of young girls
 - 128 Carnival sight
 - 129 Size range: Abbr.
 - 130 Peter Wimsey creator
 - 131 See 127 Across
- DOWN**
- 1 Passes easily
 - 2 Misplace
 - 3 Behold: Lat.
 - 4 Car with a rumble seat
 - 5 Connect to secretly
 - 6 Chess outcome
 - 7 Knitting stitch
 - 8 Scrubs characters
 - 9 Held in check
 - 10 ___ a Wonderful Life
 - 11 Hotsy-___
 - 12 Loathsome
 - 13 Arranged hair
 - 14 Perturb
 - 15 Fried Green Tomatoes... author
 - 16 Books, to Brutus
 - 17 Mythical bearer of the heavens
 - 18 Wrongful removal
 - 24 Gutter site
 - 26 ___ del Fuego
 - 30 29 Across' sport
 - 32 Supermodel Benitez
 - 34 Strike out
 - 36 Queen of Hearts dessert
 - 37 Kind of daisy
 - 38 Extreme
 - 39 Depose
 - 41 Not up
 - 45 It means "bird"
 - 47 Sentence server
 - 48 A long time
 - 49 Polo of Meet the Parents
 - 50 Draft selections
 - 52 Mexican saloon
 - 53 Sunset
 - 54 Coffee, Tea ___?
 - 55 Uses a couch, maybe
 - 58 Greek letters
 - 62 Try to hit, as a fly
 - 63 Western Hemisphere org.
 - 65 Sass
 - 67 Humble dwelling
 - 69 Flush
 - 70 Take care of, in a way
 - 71 Cunning
 - 72 Here in France
 - 73 "We'll tak ___ o' kindness ..."
 - 74 Interest-reduction cause?
 - 75 Morrow and Lowe
 - 78 Singer Ezio
 - 79 ___ Gold (Peter Fonda film)
 - 80 Intrinsically
 - 83 Vacuum tube
 - 84 World Series mo.
 - 86 MBA subj.
 - 87 Boy Scout accomplishments
 - 90 Noggin
 - 91 Door fastener
 - 93 Tiny bit
 - 94 Attends alone
 - 97 Out of control
 - 100 Reversals
 - 101 Western drum
 - 103 Lipton alternative
 - 104 Opera set in Egypt
 - 105 British racing site
 - 106 Wild Asian dog
 - 107 Director Stanley
 - 108 Orlando attraction
 - 110 Challenging tests
 - 113 Place for mixing
 - 115 Part of EMT
 - 117 Duplicate
 - 118 Hamlet, e.g.
 - 119 Grounded speedsters
 - 122 Grazing locale
 - 123 Code-breaking org.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 3/25/07



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.

ESCAPE ARTIST (23 Across) Harry Houdini was born Ehrich Weisz in Budapest in 1874. The first World Series, a best-of-nine contest that began on OCT. 1, 1903 (84 Down), was won by the Boston Americans. Stanley DONEY (107 Down) directed such memorable films as "Singin' in the Rain" and "Charade."





Easter Worship Directory

These Downey area churches welcome you to Holy Week and Easter Sunday services...
If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship the risen Christ at a church of your choice!

ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
10354 DOWNEY AVE. 862-3268



Join Us For
Easter Services and
Celebration
Sunday April 8

8am: Festive Choral Eucharist Brunch
10am: Festive Choral Eucharist Childcare Egg Hunt Brunch

The Disciples of Christ of Downey
Meeting as Three Congregations
Invite You to our Combined Easter Celebration



- Downey Memorial Christian Church
- Familia de Fe Cristina
- Iglesia Unida en Cristo

Sunday April 8, at 10:30 am

8441 Florence Avenue, Downey * 562-869-7291
Find us at www.downeymemorial.org

"God's Masterpiece"
Florence Avenue Foursquare Church www.fafc.org

Thursday, April 5th 7:30 pm
Friday, April 6th 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 8th 6:00 pm

Cost is FREE! Childcare provided for 6 & under

HE IS RISEN!

Easter Sunday Services:
6:00 am Sunrise
10:30 am Worship Service
Light & Life Downey
9245 Florence Ave
(at Woodruff)

Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church



Celebrate Easter with us
Saturday, April 7 at 11:00AM
"How To Hang On When Others Aren't"
Pastor Mitch Williams
9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013
www.downeychurch.org

Desert Reign Assembly has moved to Downey and will be giving **FREE** Easter Baskets to needy children!

First Come, First Serve
Sat. April 7, 11am - Noon
Sun. April 8, 8:30am - 9:30am
Let's Get Acquainted Reception
Sun. April 8, 8:30am - 9:30am

Under the tent at our future Church Site
Good Friday Service:
April 6 @ 7:14 pm
Easter Sunrise Service:
Sun. April 8 @ 6:30am - 7:30am
Easter Service:
Sun. April 8 @ 10am

11610 Lakewood Blvd., Downey 90241
(562) 803-9093 www.desertreign.org

Holy Week

April 1-8, 2007

Palm Sunday - April 1
Worship and Holy Communion
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 5
Soup Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 6
Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.
Special Kids Good Friday Service

Easter Celebration - April 8
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Breakfast Served in Between Services

Trinity Lutheran Church

11507 Studebaker Road, Norwalk, 562.864.3713



holy week at christ lutheran
7107 Florence Ave. Downey 90240

Palm Sunday, April 1, Worship at 10 am
Holy Thursday, April 5 Worship at 7 pm
Good Friday, April 6 Meditation at 7 pm
Easter Celebration, April 8 at 10 am
Celebration of our Risen Lord!
Embracing the community with Christ's inclusive love!

Maundy Thursday Communion

April 5, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Scripture

Candlelight

Special Music

Tolling of the Bell

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*Middle School gathering at 9am only.

Revolution Downey

Easter Sunday at 9am & 11am
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Launching
Easter
Sunday
2007

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Choose from 2 locations and 5 identical services every Sunday! Enjoy the same high-energy music, practical message from the Bible, great children's ministry, and casual atmosphere at either location. Your window of opportunity to fall asleep will never open!

Good Friday - Communion

Friday, April 6th at 12:00pm (Noon)
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson - Music by The Gutierrez Brothers
No Childcare for this service - Habra traducción en Español

Spanish Easter Service

Friday, April 6th at 7:00pm
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Message by Pastor Manuel Lopez - Special Music by Hermanos Medina and Maria Dolores, and a Special Drama Presentation

He's Alive Jubilation - for kids (2yrs through 6th grade)

Saturday, April 7th at 10:00am
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
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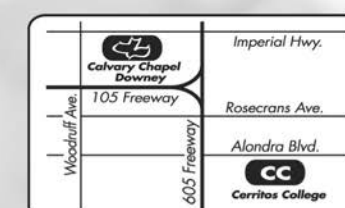
Sunday Morning Easter Services

He Is Risen - Easter "Sunrise" Service

Sunday, April 8th at 5:45am
at Cerritos College Stadium
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson - Music by Rodrigo Rodriguez
Habra traducción en Español. Solo traiga radio portatil F.M.
(If it rains, meet at the church)

Sunday Services

Sunday, April 8th at 8:30am & 10:30am
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson - Music by Rodrigo Rodriguez
Sunday School for Nursery through High School.
Habra traducción en Español



Calvary Chapel Downey
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Michael Hall was the third and final candidate to audition for the position of Artistic Director of the Downey Symphony. He led the symphony at a concert last week at the Downey Symphony.

Trombone and tuba duo performing at museum

■ Michael Vlatkovich and William Roper will perform at Downey Museum of Art next week.

DOWNEY – Veteran brass players of the L.A. improvising scene, Michael Vlatkovich (trombone) and William Roper (tuba) will perform at the New Music Series at the Downey Museum of Art next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10, \$5 for seniors, musicians and students, and \$2 for students of the Downey Unified School District.

Vlatkovich, trombonist, composer and arranger, is one of the leading talents among Los Angeles improvisational players. Located on the West Coast since 1973, he is an emotionally charged performer, comfortable in a variety of jazz and world music styles.

He has performed extensively in the United States, Canada and Europe.

"Vlatkovich is an arresting writer who works with many different forms – numerical compositions, tangos, waltzes, big band swingers, and more. He also assembles musicians accomplished enough to interpret his pieces with verve and imagination," according to a review by the L.A. New Times.

The Seattle Weekly said of Vlatkovich: "Maybe it's the similarity to the slide whistle, but something about the trombone seems to attract musicians who, despite their amazing virtuosity, still retain a mischievous sense of humor. Vlatkovich and his ensemble play thoughtful, melodic free jazz with a wry air... a little marvel of joyous, minimalist improvisation – consistently swinging but never confined by time."

The DMOA New Music Series is curated by composer, arranger, professional violinist and Downey resident Harry Scorzo. The series concerts are held the first Thursday of each month, but check with the museum for exact schedules.

For more information call (562) 861-0419.

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Review

Upbeat batons predict all is well with Symphony

BY BILL PETERS
CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – It was a night of batons at the Downey Symphony's final concert of the 2006-07 season last Saturday evening at the Downey Civic Theater. A program of the music of Grieg, Glinka, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven presented two new baton holders to the Downey Symphony stage, and a future opportunity was secured by a winner of the 2007 Baton Auction. All three presented an aura of the upbeat condition of the local symphony.

Entering the Downey spotlight for the first time were eight year-old Elena Santana, whose parents won the opportunity to lead the symphony for their daughter at last year's baton auction, and Michael Hall in his debut performance here. Hall is vying for the position of Artistic Director of Downey Symphony, an opening created by the passing of Thomas Osborn, the symphony's conductor, last July.

A third baton position was awarded to long-time symphony supporter and Downey Symphonic Society board member Joyce Sherwin. Sherwin was the winning bidder of the 2007 Baton Auction held during intermission at Saturday's concert. Funds raised in the auction are used to advance music and education programs of the symphony.

Perky Santana, dressed in a red satin gown, stood her ground firmly as she led the orchestra in a metered performance of Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from Peer Gynt.

Hall's appearance was as the third and final candidate for the post of Artistic Director of the Downey Symphony. Hall holds the position of Associate Conductor of Pacific Symphony in Orange County. He is an active guest conductor in the U.S. and Canada, often as a candidate for a post. He has accepted guest appearances with as many as seven orchestras this season.

The concert opened with the overture to "Ruslan and Ludmilla", followed by Long Beach Symphony Concertmaster Roger Wilkie appearing as violin soloist in Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra. The evening concluded with Beethoven's fifth symphony.

In the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, Wilkie demonstrated his disarming ease and skill as a violinist. He developed warm tones and striking strength throughout. Some cues between Wilkie and Hall were missed, but the overall impact of the famous concerto remained.

The evening concluded with a snappy version of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Hall had remarked before the concert that he intended to bring a bright interpretation and that in its rehearsals the orchestra had worked on presenting a seamless sound as the music is developed from one section to another as the piece dictates. He succeeded in both objectives but his reading bordered on the impatient.

In addition to Sherwin's winning bid in the Baton Auction, Pauline Hume of the Downey Symphonic Guild presented a check for \$15,000 to Downey Symphonic Society board vice-president Lorine Parks for on-going music programs. The Guild is dedicated to ensuring the growth and survival of the Downey Symphony and its programs. The Downey Symphonic Society promotes symphonic music and provides artistic, organizational and fiscal development for the Symphony.

New on DVD this week	Local Concerts this week
<p>MOVIES</p> <p>3 Needles Aurora Borealis Backstage Black Christmas Charlotte's Web Copying Beethoven Death of a President The Good Shepherd Moonlight Opal Dream Rank Romantic Volter</p> <p>TELEVISION/MISC.</p> <p>Entourage - Season 3, Part 1 Jump In! Law & Order - Season 5 Roseanne - Season 7 Twin Peaks - Season 2</p>	<p>FRIDAY, MARCH 30</p> <p>Static X - Galaxy Theatre Art Laboe - Gibson Amph. Hoodoo Gurus - HOB Anaheim Wayne Brady - Pechanga</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Art Laboe - Gibson Amph. Goo Goo Dolls - Wiltern Josh Groban - Staples Center DJ Mark Rae - El Rey Theatre Tierra, Thee Midnitters - HOB Ana. Sebastian Sidi - OC Pavillion</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Ataris - HOB Anaheim California Metal Fest - Galaxy Th.</p> <p>MONDAY</p> <p>Fonseca - HOB Anaheim Blue October - HOB Hollywood Ratatat, 120 Days - Henry Fonda Th.</p> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Brand New, Son Volt - El Rey Th. John Legend - UCLA Don Carlos - HOB Hollywood Mars Volta - Orpheum Theatre</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Puppet Up! - Grove of Anaheim</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Sevendust - HOB Anaheim</p>

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It takes a long time to say goodbye

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

It was almost five years ago to the day when life threw me a curveball. More accurately, life beamed me with a fastball, high and tight, striking me directly in the heart.

The pain stings to this day. I had just started working at the Patriot. In fact, it was my first week. I was supplementing my income by working part time at KFC, delivering greasy chicken and fried potatoes in my beat up Acura Integra.

On my breaks I would practice writing fake news stories and polish up on my columns, wondering if my audience would one day grow larger than my own two eyes. Well, my own two eyes and my mom.

It was that week that I received a phone call that would change my life forever. The restaurant was closed and I was mopping up the lobby floor when my cell phone rang.

It was my friend, Jessica. "Did you hear what happened?"

Hey, what's up, Jess. No, what happened? You sound serious.

[Uncomfortable silence. I could tell she was struggling to tell me something.]

"It's Blanca... She passed away, Eric. In a car accident."

What? Are you joking? That's not funny, Jessica. Stop playing.

"I'm serious, Eric. Mary and Sabrina died too."

[Silence. Uncomfortable, nervous silence.]

Jess, if this is a joke, it's not funny. You're joking right?

"No, I wish I was. I wouldn't joke about this... Are you O.K.?"

Yeah, I'm O.K. It's just... Wait a minute... what?

"Blanca and them were driving back from Mexico and..."

Yes, they were in Mexico for spring break. I knew that already Jessica! Tell me what happened!

"They were on a one-lane road and they tried to pass the car in front of them and they flipped. Brandon tried giving Blanca CPR but it didn't work... She died."

WHAT??

What?!

What?

"Everybody's meeting tonight at Mary's house if you want to go. I think the funerals are this weekend."

The rest of the conversation has been blocked out of my memory. They were drowned by the tears.

I'm sad to say Blanca's passing caused me more anguish than that of Mary's or Sabrina's. We were all friends, but Blanca and I were closer; she was the one that would call me at work just to say hi. And it was she who made up the rule to always smile when we saw each other, because we made each other happy.

She used to take her two hands and literally "turn my frown upside down", making us both burst out laughing. She lived and loved to make people happier.

And now she was gone. At age 17 she was gone from this world. A shame.

It took me a long time to accept the fact that I would never see her again. I went through a long period of mourning, filled with mixed

feelings of anger, resentment and denial.

I never expressed these feelings to anyone, mainly because I didn't want to be a bother.

It was in this capacity that I visited my local church, St. Mary's in Uptown Whittier, months after the accident. To say that it's my church would be correct, because it's where I completed my First Communion and Confirmation. But to say that I belonged might be a stretch because I rarely attend services, except for Christmas and Easter.

I sat in a pew and looked up at the cross. I didn't pray, I spoke. I spoke at length and I spoke from the heart, listening carefully for an answer that would not come. I told God that life wasn't fair and I blamed Him for making it that way.

Why must He take someone who brought such good to this world? And at such a young age. It was an age-old question.

And then I cried. Yes, I cried again. It came out of nowhere. I cried a river of heavy tears until they rolled down my cheek and onto my shirt. The tears streaked my face with a salty stain.

Kneeling now, I bowed my head and cried into my arms. Time flew. Or perhaps it stopped. I'm not sure.

I felt a gentle hand on my shoulder and looked up to find an older lady looking down at me. She was Asian. Her eyes were sad but seemingly understanding.

She did not speak, but kept her hand on my shoulder. I wiped my tears and nodded my thanks.

She squeezed my shoulder and walked away. She never said a word.

I walked out of that church with a renewed sense of purpose. I was no longer sad and I was no longer alone.



Cynthia Lewis, "Giggles," on the left, and Joyce Payne, "Joy," helped entertain kids at the Easter Bunny arrival at Stonewood Center last week. Children are invited to visit Stonewood and have their picture taken. Photo courtesy Co-Op Cache Consulting

TRAVELOGUE

Continued from page 1

Chapala, Ajijic and Jocotepic with their large contingent of North American retirees; the south side of Lake Chapala where acres of raspberries are cultivated and flocks of white pelicans spend the winter; the town of Tequila and the uniquely Mexican beverage by the same name; 14 generations of knife-makers in Sayula and a rollicking Mexican rodeo (not bullfighting!); tranquil Colima with its active volcano; and a journey to the Rosario Monarcha Reserva to see the winter home of millions of monarch butterflies.

Fran Reidelberger has been climbing mountains to see what's on the other side since his childhood days in Nashville, Ill. Motivated by the opportunity to travel at an early age, Fran joined the U.S. Navy to see the world. While stationed at Pearl Harbor for two years, he began a 14-year career in daily newspaper work. He started as a cub reporter for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and ended as editor of the Decatur, Ill. Herald and Review. He won a number of awards for writing, editing, newspaper design and creative use of news photos.

Fran is married to the former Brooke Metcalf, daughter of the late James W. Metcalf, a highly-regarded travel film producer and lecturer. Brooke was a magazine photographer and travel consultant. Together the Reidelbergers joined the travelogue profession in 1977. When not traveling the world they make their home in Grayling, Mich.

"The Other Side of Mexico!" is the ninth "Armchair Adventure" of a 10-film series. The series features full-color, feature-length travelogues with live, in-person narration by the travel adventure producer. All films are on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Downey Theatre.

Tickets may be purchased on the day of performance only beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the box office. Adult tickets are \$7 and senior/student tickets are \$6 (cash or check only).

For information, call the box office at (562) 861-8211, Monday through Friday, between noon and 4 p.m.

Benefit concert set for March 30

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Music Department will present the ninth annual Scott Henderson Memorial Scholarship Concert on March 30. The performance will feature the students of the Cerritos College Applied Music Program with all proceeds collected benefiting the Scott Henderson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

General admission is \$10; seniors and students with current I.D. get in for \$5.

The show will start at 7:30 p.m. at Cerritos College's Burnight Theatre.

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THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2 R (12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15)

THE LAST MIMZY PG (11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30)

* REIGN OVER ME R (11:00, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45)

SHOOTER R (10:50, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:40)

TAMT PG (12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45)

PREMONITION PG-13 (12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05)

300 R (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10)

WILD HOGS PG-13 (11:40, 2:10, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05)

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TMNT PG (10:45 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00
PRIDE PG (11:00 1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40
SHOOTER R (10:15 1:15 4:15) 7:15 10:15
THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2 R (10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30
DEAD SILENCE R (10:30 12:55 3:20) 5:45 8:10 10:35
300 R (10:15 1:05 3:55) 6:45 9:35
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Cougars are basketball champions

DOWNEY – The Cougar basketball team of Good Shepherd School was crowned league basketball champions last week after defeating Montebello Christian School 32-30.

After celebrating on the court, Good Shepherd led a prayer involving both teams at center court.

The team finished with a record of 11-1 and each player received a league champion T-shirt. A victory luncheon is planned for next Tuesday at noon.

Their coach is James Pedroza.

Easter Storytime for Downey children

DOWNEY – Preschool children and their parents can celebrate spring at the Downey City Library with an Easter Storytime on April 3 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in the Cormack Room.

Children ages 3-5 will listen to stories about bunnies, eggs and candy. Each child will also make an Easter craft to take home.

For information on the free program, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Kids Day scheduled for May 12

DOWNEY – This year's Kids Day will take place May 12 at Furman Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City of Downey Community Services Department has announced.

This will be the 20-year anniversary of the event, which will carry the theme, "Shaping a Healthy Future for Downey's Youth."

Monetary donations, products and in-kind services help make the event possible. All of the awards, entertainment, refreshments and carnival supplies and prizes are obtained through the support of the community. Sponsors will be recognized at the Hall of Fame event May 2 at the Downey Theatre, in the winter Community Services Guide and in numerous press releases.

For information on how to contribute, call (562) 904-7238.

Passover Seder dinner April 3

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid of Downey is planning a Second Night Passover Seder dinner on April 3 at 6 p.m. The service will be conducted by Rabbi Len Muroff and Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill.

Early paid reservations are required for the traditional kosher-style dinner, which will be catered. A special Passover Haggadot will be used for the service.

The community is invited to attend. For reservations, call the Temple office at (562) 861-9276.



The Cougar basketball team, back row, left to right: Attila Jely, Corey Thies, Katie Busch, Charles DeLaCruze and Erick Sanchez. Front: Manuel DeLaRosa, Andrew Dixon, Josh Volgelsang and Robert Ornelas.



The East Middle School boys baseball team are district champions, finishing their season a perfect 6-0. Their last game was last Thursday, where the team pitched a no-hitter. Front row, left to right: Scorekeeper Elysha Guerrero, Henry Castillo, Jared Gibson, Vinny Quigg, Yamel Delgado, Garrett Neilan, Ryan Medina, E.J. Mercado and scorekeeper Sandy Fernandez. Back row: Coach Belman, Sam Archaga, Christian Rodriguez, Franz Jacinto, Josh Guerra, Jon Grana, Chris Cruz and Coach Becker. Not pictured is bat boy Jose Quinones.

Annual Street Faire set for April 28

DOWNEY – The 14th Annual Downey Street Faire will take place on April 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. along three blocks of Brookshire Avenue north of Firestone Boulevard.

The fair will include over 200 vendors, a Kid's Zone, a Classic Car Show at Downey High's north parking lot, and food courts located at Downey High's north and south parking lots.

Entertainment will include the Southland Harmony Chorus at 9 a.m., Jaguar at 9:45 a.m., Sebastian Sidi at 11 a.m., On Stage Dance Center at 12:15 p.m., Flight at 1:30 p.m., Class 6 Band at 2:45 p.m. and Ultimate Karate Center at 4 p.m. Avianna, Daughter of Isis will perform in between acts.

This year's sponsors are: Platinum – Colin Clarke and Century 21 Jervis & Associates; Diamond – Downey Regional Medical Center; Silver – Banco Popular, Big Blue House Real Estate, CalMet Services, Inc., CareMore Health Plan, Press-Telegram, Stonewood Center and Wescom Credit Union; and Bronze – All American Home Center, Alliance Physicians Medical Group, Inc., Call Yellow, Downey Savings & Loan, On Stage Dance Center, Security Land Escrow and Southland Credit Union.

Friends of the Faire sponsors are: Century 21 My Real Estate Co., Don Dixon & Associates, Inc., Downey Bible Church, Reformed, Laurie's Personal Pet & House Sitting, Law Office of Steven J. Hoffman, Los Amigos County Club, Mitchell Personnel, Marian Perumean, Penske Toyota and Santa Claus – Mark Keller.

Admission and parking for the event are free.

Bus offers free ride to Festival of Books

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library will sponsor a free bus trip to the UCLA Festival of Books on April 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival offers lectures, book reviews, storytelling and writing workshops by over 400 authors.

Also featured will be book signings by some of today's leading authors in addition to cooking demonstrations and poetry readings. The trip is ideal for booklovers who want to avoid the hassle of driving and parking on the Westwood campus.

The bus will leave 8 a.m. from the parking lot at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center and arrive back at 5 p.m. Bus transportation and festival admission are free but some events require advanced tickets.

Bus passengers must sign and turn in a liability waiver upon registration.

For reservations call the Adult Information desk at (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

Desert Reign announces Easter plans

DOWNEY – Desert Reign Assembly of God announces a weekend of Easter celebrations at their new location at 11610 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey.

Although construction will be taking place at the Stats location, a white tent will house the services.

Easter celebrations begin on Good Friday, April 6, with a service at 7:15 p.m., followed by an Easter basket giveaway on April 7 from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to only bring children that will not receive an Easter basket this year.

Easter Sunday, April 8, consists of a "Son Rise" service from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., followed by a "Let's Get Acquainted Reception" from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The day will conclude with an Easter service at 10 a.m.

The community is welcome to participate in all events. For information, contact the Desert Reign office at (562) 803-9093.

Downey Moose Lodge welcomes speaker

DOWNEY – Eugene C. Huggins, Supreme Governor of the Loyal Order of Moose, will speak at the Downey Moose Family Center No. 663, tonight at 6 p.m., for an enrollment of new members in his honor.

Huggins became the Supreme Governor, the chief presiding officer of the Moose fraternal organization, on Feb. 14, 2007. He has served on the Supreme Council since 1995 and was bestowed the Pilgrim Degree of Merit, the organization's highest honor, in 1994.

The Downey Moose Family Center is located on 12021 Garfield Ave. in South Gate.

For information about enrollment, contact the Moose Lodge office at (562) 633-5370.

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Warren Girls League: A tradition of 'Service and Sisterhood'

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – In the fall of 2002, 90 girls crammed into a classroom to start what would become one of the largest clubs on campus in Warren High School history.

The group would be called "Girls League Association" and would provide opportunities for girls – and boys – to accrue community service hours while participating in events throughout Downey.

The idea came from advisor Sara Nielsen, who was inspired by her high school's Girls League advisor, Lorraine Sawyer. Graduating from Whittier High School in 1994, Sara participated in Girls League all four years of her high school career, with her senior year marking the group's 77th anniversary.

Warren's Girls League is now five years strong with over 175 members, all of which must meet the 3.0 GPA requirements, along with satisfactory citizenship and attendance. Currently, 15 members serve on the Executive Board and eight teachers serve as the club's advisors. The group also provides equal opportunities, welcoming males to all meetings and events.

According to one of their handouts, the purpose of Girls League is to further the spirit of good fellowship and democracy, promote higher ideals of service and good citizenship, and promote higher ideas of womanhood and sisterhood.

As a group, they surpass 2,000 hours of school and community services each year. Although a specific amount of hours is not required, Girls League bylaws require that the organization complete one on-campus and one off-

campus service per month. On average, Girls League completes anywhere from five to eight different service projects per month. Service hours are recorded and applied to college applications and Distinguished Graduates requirements.

Hours are accrued by volunteering time, or donating money and items, to local causes. Annual events established by Girls League include the Mother-Daughter Tea, Fashion Show and Boutique, the Father-Daughter Event, and ongoing on-campus fundraising such as the Coffee Shoppe, which is a student operated shop that provides beverages at low costs to students and faculty. The Shoppe is the League's primary source of income and funds the Service Bear Scholarship Program.

The Service Bear Scholarship Program provides four \$500 scholarships to senior Girls League members who have achieved Emerald Service Bear status, meaning that over the course of the academic year, they have served 35 hours or more specifically to Girls League service projects. In addition, recipients must have participated in a variety of projects, exemplifying initiative and strong character. Other awards include Sapphire Service Bear (15 hours), Ruby Service Bear (25 hours) and Diamond Service Bear (50 hours).

"Every minute we give makes a difference to our school and community," said Sara. "It is essential that we set our sights high and aim to both meet and exceeding our personal and group goals."

Off-campus organizations that Girls League supports include the City of Downey (Kids Day and Street Faire), Downey Regional Medical Center (Disaster Drill),



Members of Warren High School's Girls League take a break from modeling the latest fashions at their annual Mother-Daughter Tea, Fashion Show and Boutique. This year's Tea was held on March 18 and honored the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Downey Retirement Center, Downey Food Bank and HELPS, Exchange Club of Downey and the Downey Healing Field, ARC of Downey, Keep Downey Beautiful, Academic Booster Council, and support for PTAs at Gallatin Elementary, Rio Hondo Elementary and West Middle School.

"Being a clown at the Arc Walk was so fun," said Junior Representative Deyana Beshir. "It was great seeing the beautiful smi-

ling faces of the Arc members."

Girls League also sponsors major fundraisers for Su Casa Women and Children's Crisis Center, City of Hope, St. Jude Children's Research Center, American Cancer Society and National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

"My favorite fundraiser has been the Mother-Daughter Tea," said senior Merna Ibrahim. "All the money went to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and I

couldn't have had more fun or learned as much."

On-campus activities include classroom and office cleanups, tutoring programs, assisting with school-wide projects and goals, supporting school programs and awards ceremonies, providing luncheons for faculty and staff members, and operating the Girls League Coffee Shoppe.

"Working at the Coffee Shoppe makes my day," said junior and League Treasurer Sinhui (Esther)

Chang. "It provides us with the opportunity of learning skills that we can apply beyond high school."

Although Girls League is one of the hardest working groups in our community, they make sure to hold events such as ice cream socials, movie nights and scrap-booking parties for them to sit back, relax and munch on some chocolate-covered goodies.

For information on Girls League, contact Sara Nielsen at (562) 869-7306, ext. 5860.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help students place first in decathlon

DOWNEY – Sixteen seventh and eighth graders from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School competed in the Los Angeles Archdiocese Junior High Academic Decathlon on March 17 at the L.A. Sports Arena.

The students competed in a logic quiz, super quiz and eight separate academic topics including math, English, the Gospel of St. Mark, medieval Europe, current events, fine arts, the science of mammals and literature. Eighth grade teacher and decathlon coach Gina Pilloni started working with the team in September in preparation for the day-long competition.

As a team, students answered questions related to logic, sudoku, national parks, Broadway musicals, the Catholic Mass and the human brain.

The team took first place in their deanery, a group of local schools. Other winners were Luke Perez, who placed second in social studies, Alexandra Gonzalez, ninth in science, John Andrew Basadre, sixth in reli-

gion, Anthony Pimentel, fourth in math and Steven Carlos, seventh in literature.

"We are so proud of our students," said Principal Steffani McMains. "Their dedication and enthusiasm paid off. Many of the team members will leave our school this year for high school. While we will miss them, we are grateful that they have set the standard so high for academic achievement."

This is the second year Our Lady of Perpetual Help has participated in the Academic Decathlon.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help's junior high academic decathlon team took first place at this year's Los Angeles Archdiocese Junior High Academic Decathlon. Pictured are: Coach Gina Pilloni, Principal Steffani McMains, Luke Perez, Elisabeth Davis, Alexandra Gonzalez, Anthony Pimentel, Steven Carlos, Gabriel Basadre, John Andrew Basadre, Benjamin Galdamez, Yesenia Cortes, Monique Garcia, Amanda Brown, Gillian Miguell, Maricar Nones, Ricky Da Silva, Gabe Casagrande and Diego Romero.

Temple honors one of their own

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid will be honoring organist Norberto Guinaldo at an Eclectic Music Recital on April 22 at 4 p.m.

Guinaldo, who has been the temple organist for 45 years, will be performing, as well as the Vox Profundis Choir. A reception will follow the concert.

General admission is \$20 and reserved seating is \$30. Sponsorships are welcome: Silver – \$75, Gold – \$100 and Platinum – \$150.

Temple Ner Tamid is located at 10629 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey. For information, call the temple office at (562) 861-9276.

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Word of MOUTH
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.
Gum disease, not tooth decay, is the leading cause of tooth loss among adults. Tooth loss related to periodontal (gum) disease has much to do with the fact that the mouth is a breeding ground for bacteria, which continuously form a sticky film called "plaque" around the teeth. In gingivitis, the first stage of periodontal disease, the gums become inflamed. Left untreated, gingivitis can result in the gums pulling away from the teeth, thereby creating a pocket that traps more bacteria lying beyond the reach of the toothbrush. Eventually, the infection can erode the bone that holds the teeth in place. With regular exams and treatment, gum disease and its associated problems may be averted.
You may not even be aware that you have gum disease because often there is no pain. If you have concerns or questions about any subject relating to the well-being of your teeth and gums, call us at (562) 923-3714. Please don't let unwarranted fears keep you from maintaining your dental health. Your chances of needing expensive treatment in the future because of neglect today are a far greater concern. The key to dental health is routine preventive care. Trust is the cornerstone of a good and safe dental practice. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where we are currently accepting new patients.
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Council OKs April 28 Chamber Street Faire

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The City Council at its regular public meeting Tuesday approved the Downey Chamber of Commerce's request to close Brookshire Avenue from Firestone Boulevard to just north of Civic Center Drive for its annual Street Faire scheduled for Saturday, April 28.

The well-attended event requires a street closure from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Participating are exhibitors, member businesses, crafters, antique dealers, city departments and various community service organizations. The atmosphere is festive, with music blaring from at least two vantage stages.

Prominent participants include the Fire Department, which will provide a first aid station at the site and fire extinguishers for booths using propane, and the Police, Public Works, and Community Services departments. All food booths are approved by the L.A. County Health Department.

The Downey Unified School District has given the Chamber permission to use the parking lot at Downey High School on Brookshire Avenue., as well as the lot at the Aquatics Center. There will be a barricade at the north end of Brookshire.

In other action, the Council:

- Set the public hearing for April 10 for an appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of Tentative Parcel Map No. 07-68693, which is a request by Manuel Gomez of

Civil Land Engineers to subdivide the parcel into two lots on property located at 7960 7th Street and zoned R-1 5,000 (Single-Family Residential);

- Approved an agreement with Moreland and Associates to perform Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) audit services. This refers to the 9 percent tax charged per transient when he/she rents a hotel room in the city. There are 25 such hotels in the city, ranging from 11 to 219 rooms;

- Adopted a resolution adopting class specifications and establishing salary ranges for Program Supervisor and Program Coordinator positions;

- Adopted a resolution approving the reappointments of Carl Jackson and Doris Patterson to the Public Facilities Financing Corporation for City Council Districts 3 and 4;

- Introduced an ordinance approving certain agreements between the city of Downey and the city of Downey Community Development Commission related to on-going services and public works projects. The services agreement provides for a process that, in accordance with the adopted budget, would provide funding from the City to the Commission for its on-going operations;

- Introduced an ordinance amending Section 4118 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to on-street parking of vehicles for sale. A key provision is the estab-



Councilman Mario Guerra met with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard last week, discussing plans for the construction and opening of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center. Guerra also met with NASA and Smithsonian Air & Space officials. Roybal-Allard was the lead sponsor of legislation approved by Congress in 2004 to name the learning center in honor of the seven Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts who lost their lives on Feb. 1, 2003.

- lishment of a two-hour time limit parking restriction for all vehicles that have "for sale" signs on them to discourage said practice, and thus minimize undesirable impacts to the affected local residents;

- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 3186 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to the speed limit for Woodruff Avenue;

- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 3186 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to the speed limit for Cherokee Drive;

- Accepted and appropriated after school education and safety

program (ASPIRE) grant funds in the amount of \$661,050; and added three program coordinators and one secretary to the city's staffing levels;

- Appropriated supplemental after school education and safety program grant funds in the amount of \$156,461; and

- Adopted a resolution directing the Planning Commission to initiate a study that will consider amending the Downey Municipal Code regarding political sign regulations.

GOOD luncheon tickets limited but still available

DOWNEY – Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), which has gained national recognition for its determined efforts to combat gang activity in Downey, will hold its annual luncheon April 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rio Hondo Events Center.

David Lopez, reporter for CBS-2, will emcee the event.

Invitations will be available during the month of March and the event is expected to sell out shortly after the invitations are made available.

The luncheon, attended annually by over 400 community leaders and supporters, will again highlight the work being done by the community-based organization.

Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer for the Los Angeles County Probation Department will be this year's keynote speaker. Taylor was appointed to his position last year and manages the largest probation department in the world.

With his 42 years of professional law enforcement experience, he is considered one of the country's leading experts on crime in our society.

For more information on attending the luncheon, call Barbara Lamberth, Downey Federal Credit Union CEO, at (562) 862-8141, ext. 223, or Stan Hanstad, Assistant Superintendent, Downey Unified School District, at (562) 469-5461.

Free dance classes for children

DOWNEY – The Athletic Arts Academy in Downey invites children ages 3-14 to explore the creative world of dance through a series of free Monday evening classes.

Students will learn the fundamentals of dance and choreography in this one-of-a-kind enrichment experience. Students will explore a variety of dance styles including tap, jazz and folkloric, and opportunities to perform in shows, competitions and annual showcases will be available.

The class entitled "Dance I" is designed for children ages 3-5. Students will have fun with unique choreographed routines designed to develop rhythm, timing and grace. "Dance II" is for kids ages 6-8. Students will learn to refine their dance and performance skills. "Dance III" is designed for children ages 9-14. Advanced choreography and performing skills will be taught in this class.

Classes begin Monday, April 2. "Dance I" will meet from 4:15 to 5 p.m.; "Dance II" from 5 to 6 p.m. and "Dance III" from 6 to 7 p.m. All classes will be held at the Sky Dance Studios, 12405 Woodruff Ave., in the Eclipse Room.

To register, call Gretel at (562) 745-5869 or visit www.athleticstudio.com.

Golf Classic tees off June 4

DOWNEY – The 22nd annual Downey Regional Medical Center Golf Classic will be held June 4 at Candlewood Country Club in Whittier, the hospital announced this week.

Presented by the Memorial Trust Foundation, the Golf Classic will raise funds to support the "Rising to the Challenge" capital campaign to build a new patient care tower for the community hospital.

Co-chairing the event are Gina A. Bates, DRMC Director of Contracting, and Rick Lopez, Vice President, Bank of the West.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For golf reservations or more information, call (562) 904-5055.

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Denise Takano holds fast to District's vision

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

Two acronyms infuse Denise Takano's existence: USC and DUSD. She received her bachelor's (Phi Beta Kappa) in elementary education ('76) and master's (Phi Kappa Phi) in teacher education ('77) at USC; husband Fred is a USC pharmacy grad; son Scott, 26, is an alum from USC's school of medicine; and daughter Liane, 24, is a USC graduate as well.



So you can just imagine what would have transpired in the close-knit Takano household had USC made it to the Final Four!

From the time she began teaching at Lewis Elementary in 1976, up to her appointment in 2004 as DUSD's director of elementary education and teacher support programs, Los Angeles born Denise has not worked – and would not want to work, she says – anywhere else, but at DUSD.

The reasons include her passion to achieve well-articulated goals – both hers and the District's.

Denise knows DUSD's K-5 curriculum, instruction, and assessment – her main areas of responsibility – provide the very crucial early foundation for a child's education, which ideally becomes a lifelong endeavor. DUSD's goal for every student, embracing all levels, is that nothing is left to chance. "Curriculum is thoughtfully designed to focus on rigorous content and performance standards with emphasis on providing the lifelong values, attitudes, and skills that lead to success in higher education and in life," says Denise. "Instructional materials are current, accessible to all students, represent the highest quality, and are aligned with student academic content standards and course outlines taught using instructional practices that are proven to be highly effective in promoting student learning... Student progress is carefully monitored using a variety of standards-based measures, (while) assessment data are analyzed and used to guide instruction for continuous improvement."

This vision is aligned with that of the State of California. The State's educational objectives and standards, says Denise, are among the "loftiest, most comprehensive and challenging" found anywhere: "In fact, only three states in the entire country have received an 'A' appellation in this regard – Massachusetts, Indiana, and California."

Continued instructional and staff development is part of the equation. "We have quality teachers to teach, and an outstanding, hardworking staff to help provide all kinds of support. Just to take one example," she says, "take my gifted Senior Secretary, Ana Thorne. We collect the relevant tallies, and she designs the report format. We have a reputation for putting out quality graphics. She makes the reports look beautiful. She's just incredible. The same may be said of my other staff members. I also have a program specialist, two teacher specialists and a clerical assistant, all doing wonderful work."

Thus, when one hears about the supervision of such monitoring measures as the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program or the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) – especially designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities – realize that they bear the imprint of Denise and her staff, always in collaboration, of course, with Dr. Sara Cairns' department (secondary education), teacher leaders, and DUSD administrators.

She takes particular pride in her simultaneous role as teacher support programs director, providing support to K-12 teachers. Two key and exciting challenges, she says, are the PARS (Peer Assistance and Review) and BTSA (Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction) programs. The latter, she says, is a huge program. She started out by helping break in just seven teachers into the DUSD culture. Today there are 113 teachers in the program, all needing acculturation, all needing guidance and training, and all undergoing initial professional development. "The thrust of course is helping them become stronger teachers...to help our students learn. My task is eased because of the excellent people I work with," she says.

Denise also pays tribute to the wonderful cooperation and help provided by community leaders and city government in the all-important task of educating, and nurturing, the youth. Dr. Mary Stauffer's contributions through her foundation's 529 scholarships is well-known. So is her unqualified support for the city-wide Character Counts! crusade, involving all sectors of the community, led by DUSD. TLC's (True Lasting Connections) efforts, as well as Downey Community Services' stellar



Staff members of the Elementary Education and Teacher Support Programs in Downey Unified are shown above. Seated are, left to right: Denise Takano and Mimi Yusem, Teacher Specialist. Standing, left to right: Dalyn Miller-Geiser, Program Specialist; Sue Drake, Clerical Assistant; Ana Thorne, Senior Secretary; and Judy Glaister, Teacher Specialist.

ASPIRE and GOOD's (Gangs Out Of Downey) gang-busting projects, are inspiring instances, to mention only a few, that address youth concerns. The Downey Symphonic Society's program, which introduces youngsters to the wonders of classical music, is another. She credits Ana Thorne for recently coordinating volunteers in guiding 1,600 5th graders into seeing the concerts at the Downey Theatre.

Denise's insights into the workings of the District and of the educational process have been honed by eight years of teaching at various school settings and twenty years, from 1984 to 2004, as principal at Carpenter, Imperial, Lewis, and Rio San Gabriel – with a minor exception here and there – all high-achieving schools.

She has thus taken to her work like a duck takes to water. She was lucky to have good teachers early on, she says, and she knew she wanted to be one.

Asked what she does to relax after the rigors of her job, Denise says, "I enjoy spending time with my family." Obviously the family watches USC games, especially USC football. "It's important to have a balance in life," she says. "If you work very hard, you have to rest."

The special satisfactions she gets from her job, Denise says, are "working with our teacher leaders, creating 'products'/services that help our teachers and students perform better, and knowing that you're somehow making a difference towards student achievement."

Gifts can make Grad Night special

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Grad Night Committee is soliciting donations for their 19th annual Grad Night, this year scheduled to take place June 21.

Gift certificates, merchandise and/or monetary gifts will help provide Warren students with a supervised outlet to celebrate their graduation. Their theme this year is "Rock Around the Clock."

Gifts can be sent directly to Warren High School in care of Grad Night 2007. The Grad Night Committee is a non-profit organization. Their tax I.D. number is 95-6006586.

For more information call Reggie Donahue at (562) 756-2427.

Good Shepherd School enrolling students

DOWNEY – Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Downey is now accepting enrollments for grades K-8th for the 2007-08 school year. The Christian school also offers pre-school and after-school daycare services.

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

Bus trip to fund scholarships and charities

DOWNEY – The Downey Emblem Club will be taking a bus trip to Pechanga on April 18 for their spring fundraiser.

Money accrued from the trip will go towards scholarships and charities.

The bus will be departing from the Downey Elks Lodge parking lot located at 11233 Woodruff Ave. in Downey at 8 a.m. and will be returning around 5 p.m.

Cost is \$6 for members and \$11 for non-members.

For information, contact Mary Guzman at (562) 622-1003 or Nancy Watson at (562) 413-6414.

DUSD open house schedule released

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District has released the school open house schedule for 2007:

Gallatin ES	April 3	6 to 7:30 p.m.
Warren HS	April 4	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Griffiths MS	April 5	6:30 to 8 p.m.
Sussman MS	April 5	7 to 8 p.m.
Old River ES	May 11	6 to 7 p.m.
Williams ES	May 17	6 to 7 p.m.
Rio San Gabriel ES	May 22	6 to 8 p.m.
Alameda ES	May 24	6 to 8 p.m.
Gauldin ES	May 24	5 to 7 p.m.
Lewis ES	May 24	6 to 7 p.m.
Unsworth ES	May 24	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Ward ES	May 24	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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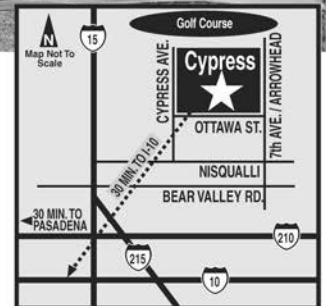
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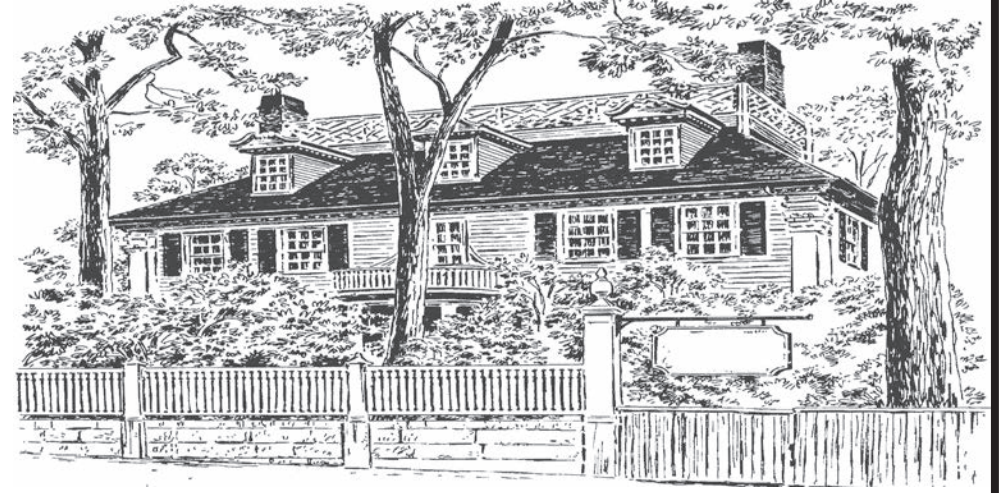
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Unbelievable, Must see Property! 3 BD, hardwood floors, copper plumbing, newer roof, freshly painted, 7,000 Sq. Ft. lot, Must Call Mario To See! Price \$564,900
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

MAKE OFFER!



Best Priced Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey!
4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft. Just Reduced to \$684,950. Send all offers!
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

BACK UP OFFERS!



In Escrow!!
This super clean home features 3 BD, 2 BA, hardwood floors, newer roof, freshly painted, central air, and so much more, Move In Ready!!! \$599,950
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

BACK UP OFFERS!



In Escrow!!
Freshly updated home w/ 3BA, 2 BA, hardwood floors, approx. 1,450 Sq. Ft. on an almost 8,000 Sq. Ft. Lot more!! Call for details- Priced @ \$669,000
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

Mario: Born in Downey/Raised in Downey Lives in Downey/Worships in Downey
*** SELLS DOWNEY ***



Carrie Uva
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Recently Remodeled!



Wanted... Large Family!!
Lovely 6 bedroom, 4 bath home in Downey with 2 master suites, 2 living rooms, family room and dining room. Priced at \$999,900
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Duplex!



Downey Duplex
2 units featuring 1 unit w/ 2 BD, 2 BA, laundry room, & living room. Other unit w/ 1 BD, 1 BA, living room, 2 car garage, Live in one, rent the other. Price \$699,900
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In Escrow!



Near Stonewood Mall!
Charming 3 BD, 1 BA home with living room, Dining room, hardwood floors & 2 car garage, Priced @ \$549,900
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In Escrow!



North Downey Home
Lovely 3 BD, 2 BA home in nice Neighborhood with 8,494 sq. ft. lot
Priced @ \$664,900
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FREE Market Evaluation!

Feature of the Week




Large Lot - 10,300 Sq Ft!!!
Has potential to add a guest quarters! Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with large master suite featuring a bedroom & retreat area, remodeled kitchen with new cabinets, hardwood floors, copper plumbing, new dual-pane windows, and central air & heat.
Priced right @ \$699,950.
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



New Construction - 2007 on Large Lot
5 bedroom, 4 bath home, NE section of Downey, pool-sized backyard.
Price: \$1,295,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Tuscan Beauty!
6 bed, 4.5 bath, over 5600 sq ft, 14600 sq ft lot, built in 2002.
Price: \$2,099,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



A-1 Neighborhood!
3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Northeast Downey with large backyard and pool!
Price: \$999,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

JUST LISTED



N. East Downey Pool Home!
4 Bedroom, 3 bathroom, Guest house, with pool.
Priced to sell @ \$984,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Charming Home near Furman Park!
4 BD, 3 BA, 2500 sq. ft. With guest house, in Orange Estates!
Priced to SELL at: \$859,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

JUST LISTED



Don't Judge a Book by It's Cover
Spectacular 9,300 sq. ft. lot w/ pool & sport court, 3 BD, 2 BA home. Completely remodeled kitchen and upgraded bathrooms. Too many upgrades to list.
Price \$715,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Picture Perfect
3 bedrooms + bonus room, 2 bathrooms, remodeled kitchen & baths, great landscaping.
Price: \$795,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Honey, Stop the Car!
3 bed, 2 bath Downey home w/ guest house, granite kitchen, copper plumbing.
Price: \$579,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Remodeled Like New - 2006
4 bed, 3 bath, travertine floors, granite countertops in kitchen & baths, huge master suite, over 2900 sq ft living space.
Price: \$1,049,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

REDUCED



Pool Home Near Stonewood Mall
4 BD (2 up & 2 down), 2 BA, Open Floor Plan.
Price: \$699,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

REDUCED



"A Condo For the New Millennium!"
Large bedroom, spacious living room, Remodeled Kitchen & Bathroom,
Price to SELL: \$319,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Northeast Downey Condo!
2 BD, 2 BA townhouse-style condo w/ remodeled bath, newer paint & carpet, & underground parking.
NOW @ \$409,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

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