



The Downey Patriot



Local teacher elected to CTA
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A 'Woman of Distinction'
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New babies sleep easy
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Friday, April 6, 2007

Vol. 5 No. 50

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

A wild, Western design

■ Downey's 2008 entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade will feature an on-board can-can routine by Miss Downey and her Court and a live stunt show, courtesy Knott's Berry Farm.

BY JENNIFER DEKAY-GIVENS
PUBLISHER

DOWNEY – Can-Can Girls, a stunt show, saloon, boot hill and more will adorn the Downey Rose Float Association's entry in the 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade. The parade's theme this year is "Passports to the World's Celebrations".

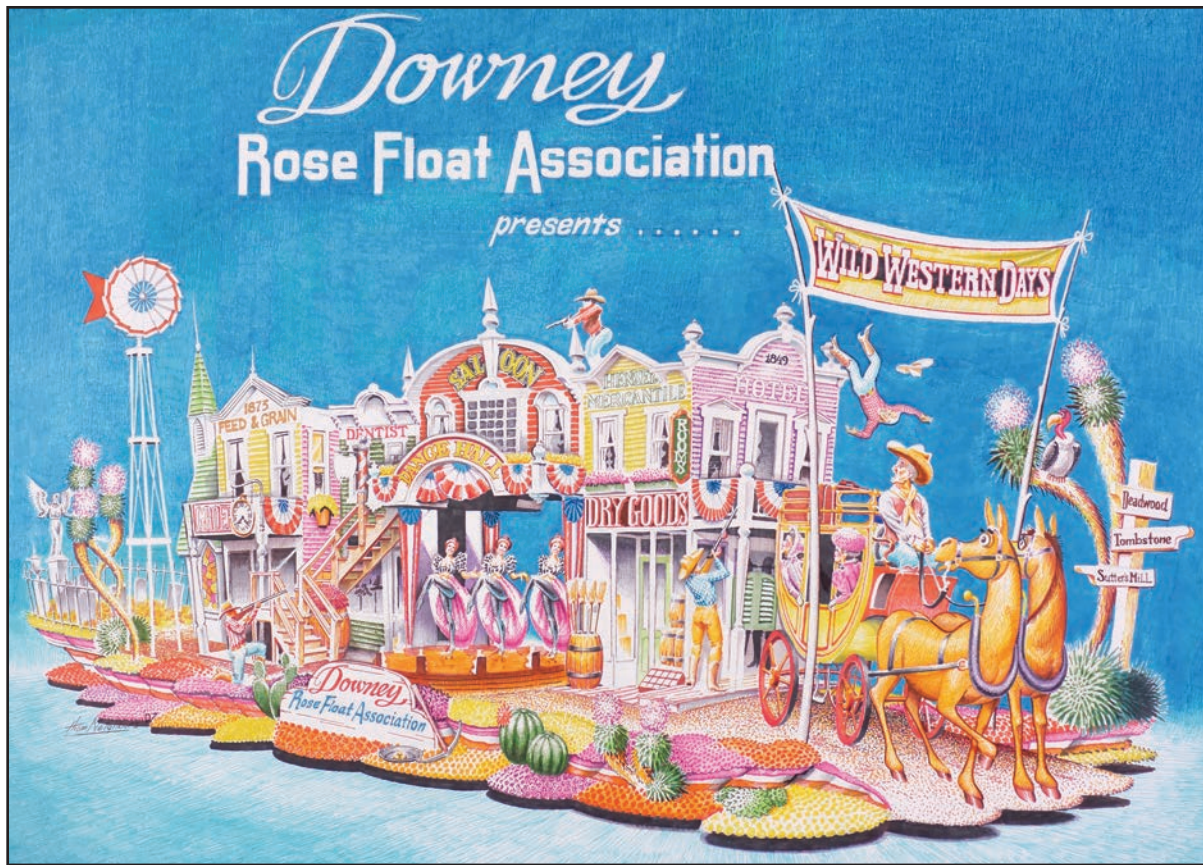
The Downey Rose Float is celebrating "Wild Western Days", the title of their 56th consecutive float entry.

"Wild Western Days" features a realistic-looking old Western town. The buildings, which include a hotel, mercantile, feed and grain store, dentist, school house and saloon, will be built with a Victorian styled flair, using vibrant colors, Rose Float officials said. A stagecoach will be located at the front, while the boot hill, or cemetery, will be on the back.

"I feel that this will be one of the most spectacular floats Downey has every produced for the Tournament of Roses Parade," said Downey Rose Float President Gary DeRemer.

"Wild Western Days" will be 55 feet long, 25 feet high and 18 feet wide, the largest such float since 2003's "Midnight Rescue". Due to the float's size, preparation is already underway, as a construction crew is lengthening the chassis and installing a new long block Ford engine.

According to the Construction Chairman, Kelley Roberts, there are many considerations that need to be made when building the float, especially estimating the final weight.



"Wild Western Days", a colorful throwback to the days of the Old West, will feature a live stunt team courtesy of Knott's Berry Farm.

"You never know what variables will be encountered," he said. "The number of flowers and the amount of steel, paint, wood and foam all need to be taken into consideration. Plus, allowing for the possibility of rain."

Axle weight is limited, officials said, and only materials that will allow the float to remain within safe limitations will be used. According to Roberts, the design is extremely intricate and building it will be "complex, because of the architectural look of the float, you can't afford to have flaws show."

A sound system will bring back the noises Old West, the windmill will rotate and the vulture will move. But the real entertainment will be the live action: Miss Downey and her Court will be performing a small can-can routine, while Knott's Berry Farm will be donating their stunt team and costuming for a live stunt show.

The float also includes some fun facts: the date above the hotel, 1849, depicts the year of the Gold Rush, and 1873, above the Feed and Grain store, is the year the City of Downey was founded.

"Wild Western Days" was designed by Thom Neighbors, Jason Redfox and Roberts

According to DeRemer, "Thom, Jason and Kelley did a tremendous job designing this float."

Downey's 2007 entry, "Springtime Treasure," was the recipient of the Founders' Trophy last year.

The Tournament of Roses Parade is scheduled for January 1 in Pasadena. The parade is now in its 119th year.

Teacher's assistant accused of sex with boy

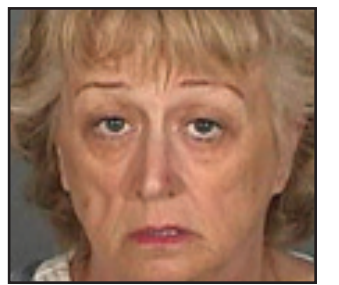
■ Jean Panzo-Montalbano arrested for allegedly having sex with 16-year-old special ed. student.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – A 53-year-old teacher's assistant was arrested this week for allegedly having sex with a 16-year-old Downey High School special education student.

The teacher's assistant, Jean Panzo-Montalbano, 53, was not an employee of the Downey Unified School District but instead worked for the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), according to district officials.

The boy allegedly told police that he and Panzo-Montalbano, of Bellflower, had intercourse on numerous occasions, beginning last August.



PANZO-MONTALBANO

Panzo-Montalbano was arrested Monday after she turned herself in to Downey police, authorities said. She is free on \$20,000 bond and is scheduled to be arraigned April 24 at Downey Superior Court.

Officials at LACOE, headquartered on Imperial Highway in Downey, said they have placed Panzo-Montalbano on administrative leave and were sending notices out to the parents of children enrolled in special education programs.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359.

Johnie's tenant files for court extension

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Ardas Yanik, the man charged with illegally demolishing what used to be Johnie's Broiler, filed for a continuance Wednesday and is now scheduled to appear in Downey Superior Court April 18.

Yanik, a Northridge resident, is facing five criminal misdemeanor charges related to the bulldozing of Johnie's on Jan. 7. Yanik faces up six months in jail and up to \$1,000 in fines on each count.

Property owner Christos Smyrniotis was leasing the property to Yanik, who then subleased it Car Outlet Inc., a used car dealership that had been operating on the Johnie's property since 2002.

Smyrniotis was not charged in the demolition.

Nail salons targeted in string of robberies

DOWNEY – On March 25, just before 1 p.m., an armed man entered Magical Nail Salon located at 9976 Lakewood Blvd., ordering patrons to hand over their purses, according to the Downey Police Department.

The suspect is believed to be the same suspect involved in a series of robberies that occurred between October and November of 2006, authorities said.

Over a four-week period, three Downey nail salons were robbed by an armed assailant, with the first being Magical Nail Salon on Oct. 24. Queen's Hair and Nails, located at 12747 Bellflower Blvd., was robbed on Oct. 31. The suspect then returned to Magical Nail Salon on Nov. 5, followed by a robbery at L.A. Nails, located at 12840 Paramount Blvd., on Nov. 24. All robberies occurred between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

In each robbery, the suspect entered the nail salon brandishing a semi-automatic handgun. He demanded wallets and money from the customers and daily cash receipts from the business. No one was injured during any of the robberies.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 20-30 years old, five feet six inches to five feet eight inches, 150-160 pounds, with black hair. In all of the robberies, the suspect was wearing a baseball cap. In three of the robberies, the suspect was wearing dark sunglasses. No vehicle has been seen.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Detective Steve Aubuchon at (562) 904-2361.

Learning Center groundbreaking Thursday

DOWNEY – A groundbreaking ceremony for the Columbia Memorial Space Science & Learning Center, as well as for the yet to be named new Downey park, will take place April 12 at 4:30 p.m. at 12400 Clark Ave.

The Center is intended to serve as a tribute to the many people who have worked in the aviation and aerospace industry in Downey over seven decades. Leaders of the Center hope to enhance space science knowledge and increase scientific literacy.

Those scheduled to attend the ceremony include Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) and Dr. Jonathan B. Clark, husband to Laurel Blair Salton Clark (an astronaut who died aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*) and president of the Space Medicine Association.

The Center is projected to open February 1, 2008.

Time Traveler Women who dared to take to the air

BY JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

The women who made history by pioneering flight in the Southland are remarkable in their independence and daring.

The Time Traveler has already chronicled the story of Dorothy Ruether, who flew her OX5 Eagle Rock out of Ardis Field, a cow pasture south of what is now Rockwell.

And the world knows well the saga of Amelia Earhart, who flew throughout the Southland and whose death in the South Pacific is still a mystery.

But an even wilder and more daring woman of the air was Pancho Barnes, whose name is best known for her operation of the Happy Bottom Riding Club during the great test flight days at Edwards Air Force Base so colorfully chronicled by the book and subsequent motion picture "The Right Stuff."

She and America's greatest test pilot, Chuck Yeager, were kindred spirits who met at Edwards and realized they were alike almost at once. Both were great pilots who believed they could do almost anything in the air.

And both had a dangerous taste for excess.

Yeager's daring is told in "The Right Stuff" when he takes off without permission to single-handedly break the altitude record then held by the Russians. (Almost losing his life in the process). This, plus the fact he was the first pilot to break the sound barrier has secured his place in male aviation history.

Barnes' story is a series of events, each demonstrating independence and raw courage (which sometimes replaced good judgment).

Barnes was born in San Marino. Her maiden name was Florence Leontine Lowe, and as the daughter of a wealthy family, she studied ballet and manners as a child. All appeared to be proceeding well when a marriage between the girl and an Episcopal minister was arranged. But when she took up flying the "ordinary" in her life became a thing of the past.

She marked her break with tradition by buzzing her husband's Pasadena church in 1928. It then became strictly a life of adventure.

See TRAVELER, page 4



Raul Lopez, an often unheralded leader in the Downey community, runs Wescom Financial Services in Downey.

Raul Lopez: a force in the community

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

Raul Lopez, a hardened 31-year insurance industry veteran, offers these words of advice to the business neophyte: "Be honest. Work hard. Be persistent." To the unmotivated, discouraged, or disadvantaged adult, he gives this wisdom-laden nudge: "Go to school." A native of Havana, Cuba who was "lucky enough" to enter this country as a political refugee by way of his ancestral Spain, he enjoins: "Love this country. It is the greatest country in the world."

Lopez runs Wescom Financial Services' Downey operations located at 10222 Lakewood Blvd., where his firm, Lopez Insurance Agency, once conducted business. He sold the business in 2005 to Wescom Credit Union. Wescom Financial Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wescom Credit Union, which had its start in 1934 servicing telephone company workers and today boasts assets of \$3.8 billion. It has some 47

See LOPEZ, page 4

Gauldin set to celebrate Earth Day

DOWNEY – Gauldin Elementary School will host an Earth Day celebration on April 21 featuring two plays to be performed by fourth and fifth grade students.

Also featured at the event will be face painting, arts and crafts, tree and flower planting, litter clean-up, recycle drive, presentation on the watershed process, and a Cal-Met mulch giveaway.

The event is free and runs from 1 to 4 p.m. For information call Alex Gaytan at (562) 396-6042.

Blackburn to speak on learning center

DOWNEY – Jerry Blackburn, director of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, will speak at the April 11 meeting of Citizens for Downey at the Rio Hondo Events Center starting at 7 a.m.

The meeting will be held one day prior to the learning center's groundbreaking.

No reservations are required for the meeting and the community is invited. An optional breakfast will be available for \$5.

Seniors celebrate club's 51st anniversary

DOWNEY – The Downey Senior Citizens Recreation Club will celebrate their 51st anniversary at the Los Amigos Country Club on April 16.

The club is open to all senior citizens 55 and over. They meet Tuesday mornings at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, with activities starting at 9:30 a.m. and continuing until 2:30 p.m.

Activities include dancing (ballroom and line) to a live three-piece band, mixers, socializing and card playing. The club also has three banquets per year.

For information on joining the club, call Nadine Morris at (562) 923-9422.

City is hiring for the summer

DOWNEY – The City of Downey is currently recruiting for several positions within the Community Services Department for temporary, summer employment.

Positions are available with various day camps, working with children between the ages of 4 and 14, and the aquatics program, which serves all ages. The aquatics program operates at Downey High School and the day camps are held at various parks throughout Downey.

For information on the application process, call the Personnel Department at (562) 904-7293. Specific questions regarding the positions should be directed to Dan Belling at (562) 904-7238.

'Partnering with your Doctor' program

DOWNEY – The Ezra Center at Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will meet on April 17, with refreshments and registration at 9:45 a.m. and the program at 10 a.m.

The program, "Partnering with your Doctor," will discuss how to communicate and make the most out of physicians' limited time they spend with their patients.

A representative from the Speaker's Bureau of the Alzheimer's Association will discuss these issues and will provide ways to become an active member in personal health care.

A catered Kosher lunch will be served after the program. Cost of lunch is \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members. For information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.



English/language arts teacher Daniel Vaughn has been selected secretary-treasurer elect of the California Teachers Association. Vaughn has been teaching for 27 years and currently teaches at West Middle School.

West Middle School teacher elected to CTA

DOWNEY – Daniel Vaughn, an English/language arts teacher at West Middle School, has been selected secretary-treasurer elect of the California Teachers Association (CTA) at its quarterly State Council of Education meeting in Los Angeles Sunday.

Vaughn, a classroom teacher for 27 years, joins CTA President-elect David Sanchez and Vice President-elect Dean Vogel as leaders of the 340,000-member organization. The trio will assume leadership of the state's largest educator and educational support staff organization when they begin their two-year term June 29.

"We welcome Dan to the leadership team as secretary-treasurer," Sanchez said. "I know he will be a strong advocate for public education and will work tirelessly to improve the conditions of teaching and learning for students, teachers and education support professionals."

Vaughn was elected by CTA's 788-member State Council of Education, the association's top governing body of democratically elected representatives across California.

Currently a member of the CTA Board of Directors, Vaughn represents teachers in southeastern Los Angeles County. He is past president of the Downey Education Association and holds a bachelor's in liberal studies and a master's in school administration from Pepperdine University.

"We have several challenges facing public education," Vaughn said. "I am committed to ensuring our public schools have the resources and support they need to provide all students with the best education possible."

Three churches come together

DOWNEY – Downey Memorial Christian Church and Familia de Fe have welcomed another church, Iglesia Unida En Cristo, to their campus. All three churches are affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will come together Easter Sunday.

Both Familia de Fe and Iglesia Unida En Cristo offer services and programs in Spanish.

Each church will maintain its own pastoral leadership and identity, although they are not "three separate congregations sharing the same space," church officials said. The leaders of each church have been charged with working together "to create an effective outreach to a culturally diverse community and a rapidly changing world."

"There was a time when tinkering around the edges of the church's program and style might have produced beneficial results, but those days are long gone," said Downey Memorial pastor Richard Kurrasch. "Understanding what [a new Reformation] means and recasting the mission at the local level accordingly are the order of the day."

Help offered to make marriages last

DOWNEY – Imperial Highway Church of Christ will present a "Marriage and Family" seminar at various times beginning April 15. The church is located at 8321 Imperial Hwy.

Dan Flournoy, director of the Christian Family Counseling Center will share advice and tips on how to make marriages last. The seminar is free and open to the community.

The seminar will be presented April 15 at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and April 16-18 at 7 p.m. nightly.

For information call (562) 869-3610.



Pastors of Downey's three Disciples of Christ churches are, left to right: Richard Kurrasch, Downey Memorial Christian Church; David Becerra, Iglesia Unida En Cristo; and Gary Curtis, Familia de Fe.

APRIL 16 - JULY 21

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Symphony's Annual Gala Fundraiser

DOWNEY – The Downey Symphony Guild presents, "Cuatro De Mayo," the Annual Gala Fundraiser for the "Music in the Schools" program and the Downey Symphony, on May 4 at the Women's Club of Downey at 6 p.m.

The evening will include Mexican cuisine, entertainment, and silent and live auctions.

Cost is \$65 per person, or \$520 for a table of eight.

Reservations are due on or before April 25.

Checks should be sent to Marie Eckstrom, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, 90240.

For information, call (562) 861-8507.

Sisterhood meeting at Temple Ner Tamid

DOWNEY – The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will hold its regular monthly board and general meeting on April 11 at 11 a.m.

Lunch will be served after the meeting at noon.

Donation for lunch is \$6.

Temple Ner Tamid is located at 10629 Lakewood Blvd. For information regarding meetings and membership, call the temple office at (562) 861-9276.

Bus tour visits Rancho Los Cerritos

DOWNEY – The Downey Historical Society will be touring Rancho Los Cerritos in Long Beach on April 21, followed by lunch and a visit to the Downey Cemetery.

The visit will include a presentation by archeologist Kelly Fong of the UCLA Graduate Archeology program, titled, "Unburying The Past: The High Lung Chinese Laundry in Santa Barbara."

Fong will discuss the lives and experiences of the Chinese laundrymen during the late 1800s, when occupations for immigrants were few and clean clothes were in great demand.

The program will be followed by a tour of the extensive array of buildings and gardens at the Rancho.

The tour will then be brought back to Downey for lunch and a visit to Downey Cemetery, where participants can view the new Veteran's Memorial.

The bus will depart from the south parking lot at Apollo Park at 9 a.m. and will return around 4:30 p.m.

Cost is \$20 plus money for lunch.

For information, call (562) 862-2777.

Razorbacks starting football registration

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football (Razorbacks) will hold the first open football registration for the 2007 season tomorrow, April 7, at Furman Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration for returning players occurred in March; half the spots on teams are still open. When the spots are filled, a waiting list will be established on a first-come, first-paid basis.

Registration will also be held the first and third Saturday of every month. Raffle tickets will be available to help off-set the sign-up costs.

Football is open to boys and girls ages 5-14. The season runs from July through November. For more information, call Mike Baumann at (562) 889-1183 or Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081.



The 27th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show at the Holiday Inn in West Covina on April 21 will feature the raffle of a 1958 Nash Metropolitan. Raffle tickets are \$10 with all proceeds to benefit the City of Hope. For information call Jacqui Lopez at (949) 650-3108. The photo above is from a recent meeting of the Downey-based Metropolitan Club of Southern California, which is presenting the show.



Sussman Middle School's softball team has ended their season undefeated at 6-0. The team is made up of seven eighth-graders, six seventh-graders and one sixth-grader. From left to right, top row: Katie Medina, Anissa Segura, Desirae Romero, Staci Rodriguez, Linda Lopez, Andrea Arellano, Sabrina Walker and Coach Rodriguez. Middle row: Angelica Barajas, Mayra Barajas, Jasmyn Lopez and Nycole Gutierrez. Bottom row: Anna Lopez, Jazmyne Cortinas and Elizabeth Hernandez.

Community leaders scheduled to speak

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will host an evening of book talks by leaders in the community at an event titled "You've Got to Read This Book," scheduled for April 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Speakers scheduled to appear include City Council members Anne Bayer and Mario Guerra; Downey Fire Chief Mark Sauter; Rio San Gabriel Principal and Library Advisory Board member Theresa Ford, Library Advisory Board member Mary Crawford; Downey teacher Stacie Charlton; Library staff members Martha Flores and Ernesto Mercado; and local authors Nora Szechy and Mary Gallardo.

Speakers discussing contemporary classic books include Ward Principal Roxann Davis ("The Hiding Place"); retired English teacher Jean Brazelton ("The Color of Water"); and retired teacher and tutor Theresa Gallagher ("Gone with the Wind" and "Daughter of Fortune").

"This program will highlight books that have inspired people from different backgrounds," said Literacy Coordinator Claudia Dailey. "You will be reminded once again of the transforming power of reading."

Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are available by calling (562) 904-7360 ext. 32.

Kids can meet exotic animals up close

DOWNEY – Wild Wonders will present "Walk on the Wild Side", a wild-life safari featuring exotic animals from around the world, at the Downey City Library on April 11 from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

The program is for children ages 5-12. Kids may get an opportunity to see a python, boa, iguana, alligator, macaw or kookaburra up close.

Free tickets will be distributed and seating is limited to guests should arrive at least 30 minutes before show time. Call (562) 904-7360 ext. 4 for more information.

Trejo will read to preschool children

DOWNEY – Mayor Rick Trejo will read some of his favorite picture books for children ages 3-5 at a special storytime at the Downey City Library on April 17 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Preschoolers can make a special craft for the mayor and parents are invited to take pictures.

For more information call Children's Services at (562) 904-7360 ext. 4.

Jazz choir to perform at Carnegie Hall

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Epic Jazz Choir has been invited to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall on April 9.

The choir will send 12 jazz singers and three band members: Attia Arenas, Loren Battle, Jorge Bustamante, David Flores, Natalie Hernandez, Dewayne Hession, Derek Martinez, Evan Miller, Tori Romero, Pedro Ruezga, Kristan Quick, Sergio Sanchez, Teresa Sanchez, Rachel Smith and Jasmine Tovar.

Book club discussing 'Moby Dick'

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library's Book Lover's Club will have their monthly discussion on April 12 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Cormack Room. This month's featured selection is "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville.

New book club members are welcome at the meeting and light refreshments will be served. Reservations are recommended by calling (562) 904-7360 ext. 32.



Stay informed with the 2007 Lecture Series.

The Lakewood Regional Medical Center Lecture Series is designed to keep our community informed and educated on current medical topics. Each month Lakewood Regional sponsors two one-hour seminars covering a wide variety of healthcare topics. Each lecture is presented by a practicing physician from Lakewood Regional's excellent medical staff of over 300 physicians. To attend a lecture or for information about the Lecture Series, please call 800-813-4345.

APRIL LECTURES

DATE:	TIME:	SPEAKER:	TOPIC:
April 7	9:00 am	Ramy Elias, M.D.	Gender-Specific Joint Replacement
Location: Lakewood Regional Medical Center – Conference Rooms A, B, & C			
April 11	10:00 am	Maurice Bell, M.D.	Managing Diabetes with Healthy Food Choices
Location: Weingart Senior Center 5220 Olivia Avenue, Lakewood, CA			
April 18	12:00 noon	Theodore Qozi, D.P.M.	Diabetes Foot Care Seminar
Location: Lakewood Regional Medical Center – Conference Rooms A, B, & C			
	1:30-5:00 pm		Foot Screening following the Diabetes Foot Care Seminar
Location: LRMC Outpatient Diagnostic Center 3650 E. South Street, Lakewood, CA, Suite 101			

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TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

She often flew from a field in South Gate. In the late 1920s she was mentioned romantically with silent film star Ramon Navarro, and flew as a stunt pilot in the Howard Hughes' movie "Hells Angels." In fact, deciding that she and other stunt pilots were not paid enough, she helped organize the Motion Picture Pilots Association which represented film pilots for many years.

In 1930 she smashed a woman's speed record held by Amelia Earhart. But her name is famous for more than air records. She was wed several more times, once to a magician. She got her name "Pancho" when (disguised as a man) she allegedly worked as a crewman on a banana boat running guns to Mexican revolutionaries.

"Colorful" hardly describes her. She sometimes barnstormed with her "Mystery Circus of the Air." Certainly not a beauty herself, she could be merciless to women she considered "too" beautiful. One favorite trick was to give an unsuspecting beauty a ride in the "Mystery Circus." The debutante, strapped into a parachute (allegedly for safety), was then tossed out at altitude, the chute opening by way of a rip-cord as she fell. Many a young woman floated down screaming to the audience below. This also resulted in some legal matters. The courts didn't seem to bother Barnes at all.

In 1933 she traded an apartment building she owned in Los Angeles for an 80-acre ranch in the Antelope Valley. A mother and respectable hog rancher, things might have cooled down, but the Air Force discovered the 44 miles of dry lake near her ranch made a perfect testing field.

It was first called Muroc Army Air Field, and later Edwards Air Force Base. Pancho raised alfalfa and sold milk to the base. She also collected its garbage which she fed to her hogs. But she then established the Happy Bottom Riding Club made famous by Yeager in his autobiography and "Young" Tom Wolfe in his book "The Right Stuff." Indeed, at one point the Air Force became so concerned at the condition she returned their test pilots in that it accused her of running a bordello!

Even Yeager broke ribs while riding a motorcycle home one night from "the club." The Air Force finally got rid of her after the club burned down by claiming her land for base expansion.

Pancho, a legend, died following two cancer operations in 1975 in Boron. But she is still fondly remembered. Every year a reunion is held at the club's ruins, marked now only by the shell of a swimming pool. The event is usually billed as a barbecue.

One of those who remembers her fondly is Yeager, now a retired Air Force general.

Much that was salvaged from the fire at the club is kept by her fourth husband, Eugene (Mac) McKendry.

There is often talk of reestablishing the legendary club, but all know it would not be the same without her.

Originally published March 18, 1994.

www.theDowneyPatriot.com

LOPEZ

Continued from page 1

branches stretching from San Diego to Santa Barbara, including one in Downey located inside Albertsons on Firestone Boulevard.

The company has a total personnel complement of 1,100. It is, according to Lopez, the fourth largest credit union in Los Angeles, and the 12th largest in the state.

"Selling my business was a good decision," he says. "Wescom has good, friendly people." He is vice president of Wescom Financial Services in charge of the Downey office. Another financial services arm operates out of Anaheim Hills.

The value of Lopez goes beyond his husbandry of Downey's Wescom Financial Services, which offers a full range of business insurance including workers' compensation, and commercial property, general liability, medical, and life insurance coverage. In his quiet way, Lopez, in the words of an admiring Rotary colleague, "has been doing a lot for the community. His efforts are mostly unnoticed, but he does more good things than most people do. He's a wonderful person."

Modesty aside, Lopez did enumerate some of his community involvements, all current: he is serving on the boards of Downey Family YMCA, the Downey Policemen & Fire Foundation, the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, the Parking Place Commission for the city of Downey, DUSD Bond Citizen Committee, and Downey Federal Credit Union.

A past president of Gangs Out of Downey (1999) and the Downey Rotary Club (1994), he remains very active in both associations. Wescom was one of two host sponsors of the recent Arc Walk for Independence. Other Wescom community tie-ups include major support for the Susan G. Komen Foundation 'Race for the (Cancer) Cure'.

His CPA wife, Arlene, a partner at Muller, King, Mathys, Acker & Lopez, also has done her share of volunteer work: she has, for instance, served as president of Soroptimist International of Downey in 1995.

A rabid Angels and Clippers fan, Lopez loves to go to Hawaii and Miami, "for the beach, its warm waters." Older brother Santos, who with his wife Cirila sponsored Lopez to permanently reside in the U.S., have a place in Naples, Florida, but works part-time with him at Wescom Financial Services about 20 hours a week.

Raul's parents and a twin brother have died in Cuba, where the family had a restaurant. He still has uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces living there.

Lopez says one of the riskiest things he has done in his life, over his wife's objections, was jump from a plane at an altitude of 12,500 feet eight years ago above Hemet. "I always wanted to skydive," he says. "So I did. One of my daughters who was studying at UCLA at the time did it, too. There were twenty of us. Now, would I do it again? That's another question."

"I've had a good life in the insurance business," Lopez, 63, says. "It's a tough business and you have to work really hard, especially during the first few years. As long as my health holds up, I'll keep on working. I love what I do."

Despite only "some college" on his resume, by the time Lopez left

The Poets' Corner

Easter

As we come to the end of Lent
It is time for us to Repent

All young children think about is dyeing eggs
And they come in all kinds of shades

We sometimes forget about Easter's true meaning
As we concern ourselves with eggs and a bunny

All young children think about is retrieving the eggs
That their parents hide all around, some even in trees

So let us remember the reason for the season
That Christ was with us as a Supreme Person!

— Don Davis,
Downey

After the Freeze

After the freeze, oh what a pity
To see brown leaves throughout the city
Draping plants once lush and green -
Creating quite an ugly scene!

But sadness soon departs from me
When looking north, I gloriously see
The snow-capped mountains peaking high
Into a bright blue, wind-swept sky!

Despite some chilly, frosty days,
In sunny Downey, I will stay
For when I think of sleet and snow,
To colder climates, I'll not go!

— Martha J. Morrissy,
Downey

Prudential Insurance Company in 1982 to open his own independent agency, he says he ranked in the top 2 percent in sales. For years he sold life, auto, and homeowners' insurance.

Prior to joining Prudential, he took ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Long Beach City College. "I spoke no English when I arrived here from Madrid," he says. (His ancestors come from Asturias, Spain and the Canary Islands.) While a Prudential agent, he continued taking business courses (accounting, finance, insurance) at Long Beach City College. He says his Spanish heritage has provided him an advantage in dealing with his Wescom Financial Services' clientele, which is 60 percent Latino. He oversees a loyal client base he has accumulated over the years reachable for the most part within a 25-mile radius.

In the face of life's vicissitudes and challenges, Lopez in his heart of hearts has found his niche and his city on the hill: "We plan to stay here in Downey forever." Exuding a level of patriotism and altruism that can come only from one who is truly grateful for the blessings he continues to enjoy in a country that has given him so much, he says, "I hope those who are given the opportunity to live here in the U.S. really love it and give 100 percent support to the community."

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Burbank	818.525.3760	Huntington Beach	714.843.5360	Pasadena	626.535.4870
Camarillo	805.465.1053	Laguna Hills	949.470.8160	San Marino	626.588.3760
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Ole!

By Eric Pierce

I love Mexican food.

But I'm not talking about Taco Bell, Del Taco or El Pollo Loco. No, I'm talking about home-cooked, hand-made, lard-laden Mexican food that tastes as good as it smells.

Have you ever been in a house where authentic Mexican food was being prepared by authentic Mexicans? You stand to gain two pounds just by whiffing the delicious aroma.

If you're not lucky enough to have an able Mexican cook in your family (like me), you're in luck. The Downey Patriot will be publishing a collection of tasty Mexican recipes in our May 4 issue, one full day before Cinco de Mayo.

Forgive us, Dr. Frischer, but we're throwing caloric restrictions out the window.

In that spirit, we're reaching out to the community for submissions. If you have a recipe to share, mail it to The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Avenue, Suite A, Downey, 90241.

Gracias.

A common complaint this newspaper receives is our lack of a sports page (see Letters to the Editor).

The age-old problem is our small staff size, which prohibits us from adequately covering high school sports, especially when you consider that Downey has two high schools and, in the name of fairness, both deserve equal coverage.

Still, every credible newspaper needs a sports page. And we're no exception.

Our hope is to have a sports section by the beginning of the fall high school sports season. I think we did a fair enough job covering football last year (thanks in large part to our contributor, Scott Cobos) and I want to extend that coverage into next year.

Sports is on its way. It's no slam dunk, but it's on its way.

Letters to the Editor:

Stop the name calling

Dear Editor:

In reading last week's "Letters to the Editor" (What Disadvantage?, 3/30/07), I was disturbed by the fact that it seems we cannot have an honest debate and discussion about issues affecting us without resorting to name calling and personal attacks that are slanderous at best.

I agree with Councilman Guerra about revising term limits (not getting rid of them) to let the citizens of Downey have the final say. I will also not let others ruin the reputation of a good, honorable person by name calling and slinging accusations that have no basis or fact.

Let me tell you about something that happened a few weeks ago. The Imperial Highway Beautification Project was going to be voted on at the City Council meeting. The residents of LaReina Avenue right off Imperial were going to have a traffic light put on their dead end corner. The City prior to this did not notify them. Councilman Guerra asked for the vote to be held off for two weeks.

Over the course of three evenings, Councilman Guerra personally knocked on every house of that block to notify all 31 residents of this upcoming discussion at the next City Council meeting. Residents were able to come and voice their concerns and the council did not approve installation of any light at their corner. The vote was 5-0 by the entire Council.

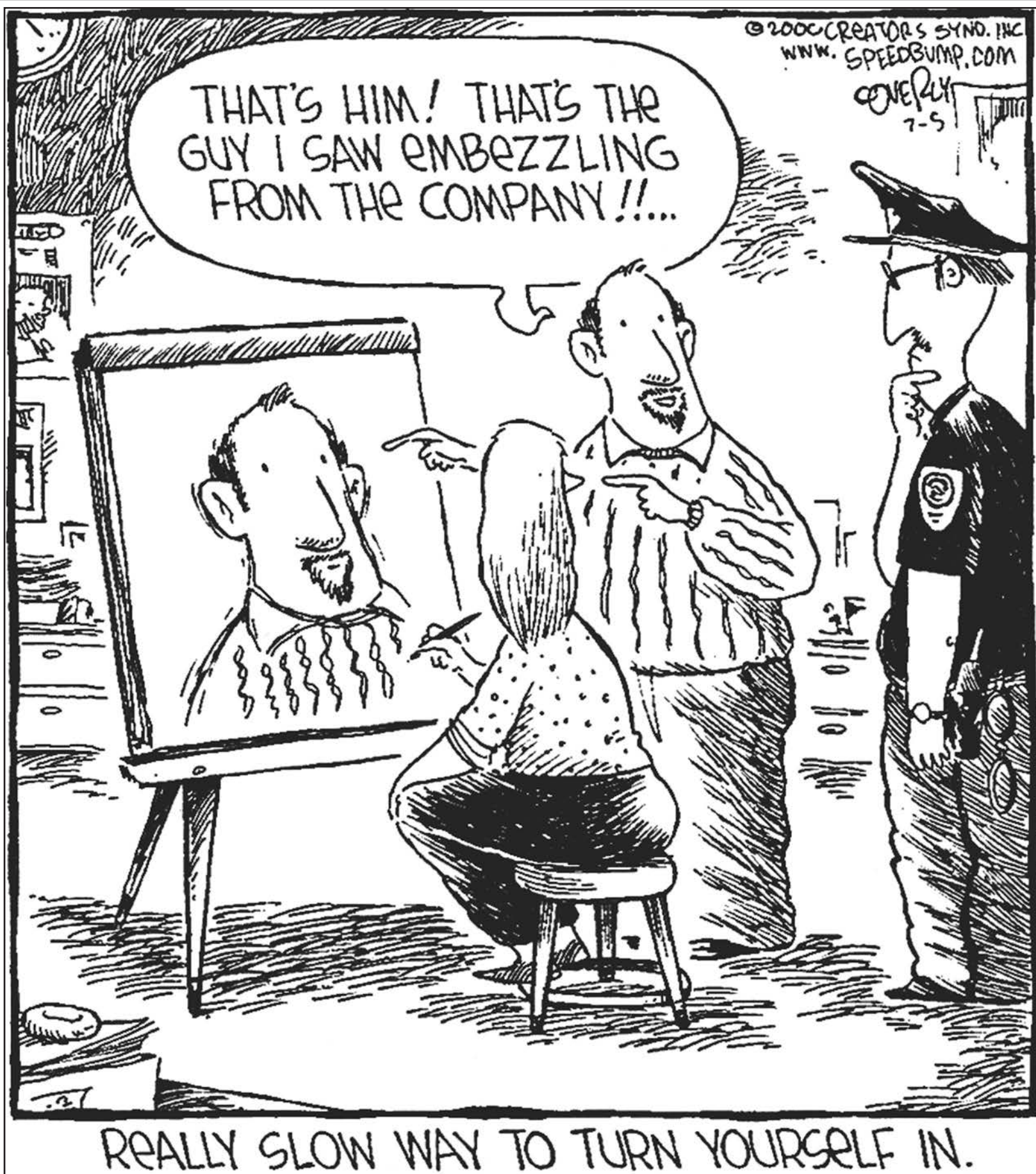
We know that term limits have not worked at the State level and cities like Los Angeles have revised their policies (voted by their citizens last November) to allow the people to say whom they would like to represent them. Just a few years ago Long Beach citizens wanted their Mayor to stay in office so badly that they were able to write her name in and she won the election. Downey does not allow that choice under the current laws.

I do not understand what could be more democratic than allowing us to vote on this issue. Or to be able to vote for the elected officials we want. Why is anyone afraid to let us, the voters and citizens of Downey, decide who should represent us? Why take away our choices? We are basically saying that we do not trust the residents of our City to make an intelligent choice so we should dictate the choice. Maybe this is the only way some can win an election, by limiting choices.

And by the way, we just elected one of our officials last November who spent only \$400.00 campaigning, so money is not the issue as was stated. While we have many qualified citizens eligible to run for office, over the past 5 years we have had candidates in 3 of our 5 districts win in elections who ran un-opposed for City Council. By the way, our City Council does not get any pay for their countless hours devoted to our residents.

All Councilman Guerra is asking for is to let the citizens decide. The citizens of Downey should vote on it. This seems fair and right to me. And please stop the name calling of a good and honest person who is working hard for our entire City.

—Diana Hansen,
Downey



A letter from Guerra

Dear Family and Friends:

As we end lent and approach Easter I hope you are all fine and have had a spiritual and blessed journey.

I have not written since the election and I wanted to update you all about a few things...First, I wanted to let you know that some of the best things about being on the city council is the ability to meet people and actually be able to do some things to make our lives better. I am enjoying this part very much. But some parts I am just not used to and I need to develop a thicker skin...Ha!

The recent insults and name-calling is not something I would wish on my worst enemy and I have prayed for those who are so bitter that they cannot enjoy life. I really feel bad for them and hope they can find happiness in their lives.

The "keying" of my car door after last Tuesday's City Council meeting and the feces that was smeared on my car that evening is something that concerns me but will not make me stray from our calling to serve each other. It actually let me know that I must be on the right track on some things. But it is still not fun.

I did want you all to know about some upcoming issues that will be voted on by the City Council and I would encourage your attendance and input at the next two meetings of the Council, April 10 and April 24.

April 12 is the groundbreaking ceremony of our Columbia Learning Center adjacent to Downey Studios. It will be something to remember and will be attended by many dignitaries including several astronauts. Our previous City Council laid the foundation and worked very hard to make this day a reality and we owe them this gratitude...Again, April 12 at 4:30 p.m. Please RSVP to (562) 904-7236. You are invited...It was fun to be in Washington, D.C. last week lobbying for this center and it was great to see how well it is received back there from the Smithsonian and NASA to our elected officials. Congresswoman Roybal-Allard was great and will be at the groundbreaking also.

At April 10th's council meeting, we will be voting whether to put my recommendation of revising term limits on the ballot this November. My position is very simple: Let the people decide what they want. We shouldn't limit choice in a democratic society. I also want to be very clear in saying that I do not want to do away with the current term limits. I want to revise the current statute.

When term limits were voted in 15 years ago, it was a very new concept and not very well thought out (it was also done for political purposes back then) because it had no track record. We now know of the gridlock in Sacramento and of how Los Angeles voters last November passed a revision to allow a third term.

A few years ago, Long Beach (which has term limits) residents wanted their mayor, Beverly O'Neil, to continue in office. They actually voted her in as a write-in candidate. Very hard to do but at least their residents had that choice. Downey residents do not have such a choice. We have what I call the "death penalty": Once you serve two terms in Downey, you can never, ever be voted in again.

To me, it does not seem very democratic and basically says that our residents are not smart enough to know who or what they want. All I am asking for is to put it on the ballot and let our citizens decide what they want. It has been over 14 years and times have changed. We now know all about the pros and cons of term limits. Let's vote on it!

My recommendation to the Council is to put the allowance of a third term on the ballot and, after sitting out two years, the citizens of Downey can elect you again if they so choose to. This would get rid of the "death

See GUERRA, page 11

Where's the sports?

Dear Editor:

I was wondering why The Downey Patriot does not have a sports page. It would be nice if you covered the high school sports that go on. Both high schools have recently started their baseball and softball seasons. And the two local schools have already played each other in a very exciting game, I might add. You missed a great game!

There are also local youth sports leagues that would probably like to see their standings in the paper. Or maybe even a paragraph about their season. A few years ago the standings were put in the paper every week along with a picture now and then.

There are other things that go on in the city besides Johnie's Broiler being torn down and its aftermath. Or the argument about immigration or mansionization. Those are arguments that will go on and on because it is one person's opinion against another's. But I don't think too many people will argue about the sports section.

—Dina Edinger,
Downey

Community comes through

Dear Editor:

Although these good people don't feel that they need to be acknowledged, on behalf of all the Gauldin Elementary staff, students and parents, we would like to thank and recognize these excellent citizens for donating hundreds of dollars to help our students be the best they can be.

From Re/Max Online were Mey Alvarez, Lourdes and Alfonso Cotaya, Memo Gamboa and Maria Elena Aguirre; from Newest Insurance was Juan Saldana; and from Chicago Title were Sylvia and Oscar Novoa.

We are so grateful to them for all that they did for our kids.

—Alex Gaytan,
Downey

Fact check

Dear Editor:

Perhaps it is not the Editor's task to correct "facts" before publishing Letters. Lest the readers believe everything that they read, please allow me to attempt to shed some light on Downey geography that is contrary to recent Letters.

1. The SWC (southwest corner) of Firestone Boulevard and Old River School Road is a long way from the location of Harvey's/Johnie's Broiler. In fact it is on the other side of the railroad right-of-way, and as I recall has been occupied by a service station for the last several decades.

2. The now demolished Tahitian Village Hotel was on Lakewood Boulevard, but not on Imperial Highway, rather it was about a mile away at Rosecrans Avenue.

—Hugh T. Hoskins,
Downey

Let's screen new city employees

Dear Editor:

It would be nice if Downey adapted the employment policy of Orange County's Mission Viejo. Simply stated, their new police requires new city employees, and contract company employees, to be screened to verify legal status in the United States.

Some call this an immigration policy, it is not: it deals only with employment.

—Randy Evans,
Downey

The Downey Patriot



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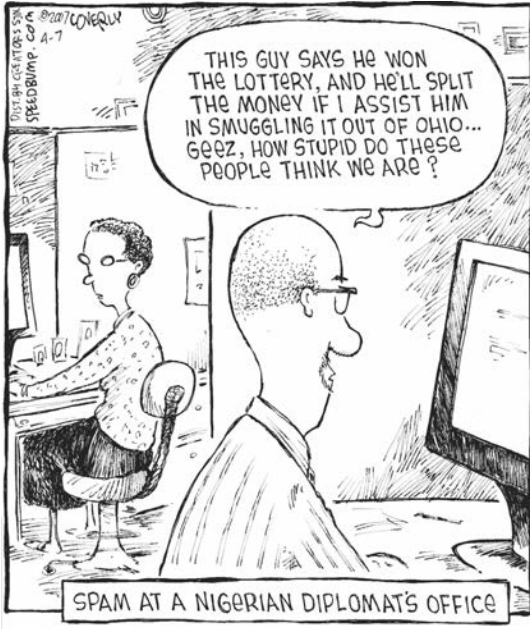
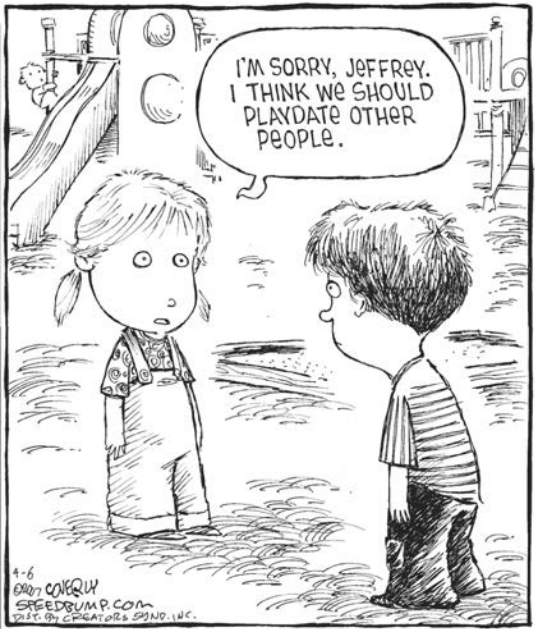
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SPEED BUMP



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Downey Community Calendar

Events For March/April

Sat. April 7: **Downey Youth Football Registration**, Furman Park, 11 a.m.
Wed. April 11: **Sisterhood Meeting**, Temple Ner Tamid, 11 a.m.
Wed. April 11: **"Walk on the Wild Side"** hands-on wild-life safari, Downey Library, 2 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 Sambis, 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.

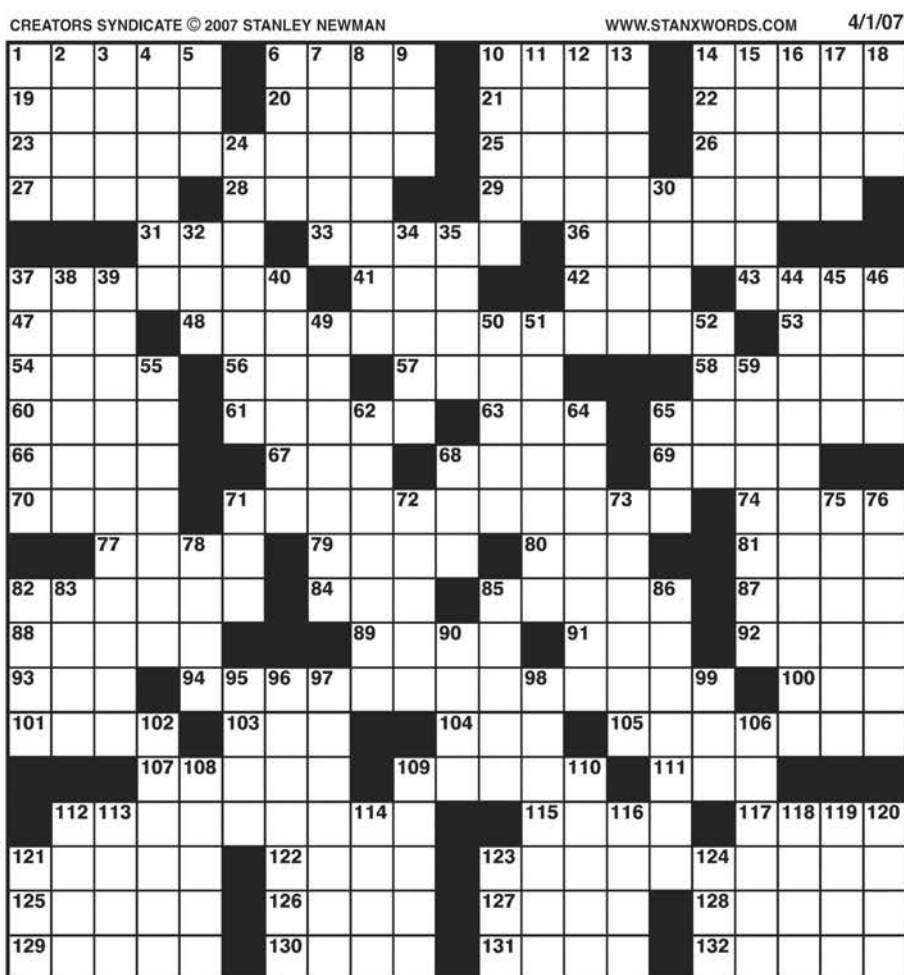
On This Day...

April 6, 1896: The first modern Olympic Games opens in Athens, Greece. The United States led all countries with 11 gold medals.
1909: Robert Peary allegedly reaches the North Pole.
1917: The United States declares war on Germany.
1931: Little Orphan Annie debuts on NBC.
1983: The Beach Boys are banned from performing at the Washington Mall amid fears that their music will attract a "bad element."

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
BANNED INSTRUMENTS: Or, "Playing With Music"
by Fred Piscop

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 - 129 Slight hint
 - 130 Terse warning
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 - 5 Any ship
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 - 7 Something precious
 - 8 Offer deceitfully
 - 9 Gown renters: Abbr.
 - 10 Talkative
 - 11 Hosiery shade
 - 12 Everlasting
 - 13 *The Apprentice* genre
 - 14 Utter nonsense
 - 15 Come to grips, in the backwoods
 - 16 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 17 *Jeopardy!* name
 - 18 "Bad" prefix
 - 24 Nursery newcomer
 - 30 Ice-cream thickener
 - 32 Pen end
 - 34 Civil War photographer
 - 35 Florida city, informally
 - 37 Twist the arm of
 - 38 Wet months
 - 39 Fragrant instrument?
 - 40 Pop's pop
 - 44 Graceland instrument?
 - 45 Links hazard
 - 46 Down-to-earth
 - 49 Waits for
 - 50 Violinist Mischa
 - 51 Like a bad omen
 - 52 Chows down
 - 55 Made tough
 - 59 Condemned openly
 - 62 Adoptions
 - 64 Hanky embroidery
 - 65 Oil-can letters
 - 68 Trig fig.
 - 71 Garfield's master
 - 72 Hagar's pooch
 - 73 Come clean
 - 75 Cruel dude
 - 76 Felt in one's bones
 - 78 File-drawer abbr.
 - 82 Hardly colorful
 - 83 *Othello* villain
 - 85 Give the slip to
 - 86 Of summer
 - 90 Pass over
 - 95 " __ cow!"
 - 96 Lucille Ball, e.g.
 - 97 "Looks that way"
 - 98 Iced, as a deal
 - 99 Green prefix
 - 102 Storefront device
 - 106 Gabe Kaplan character
 - 108 *Wordplay*, for one
 - 109 Fat avoider of rhyme
 - 110 Duffer's woe
 - 112 Adriatic seaport
 - 113 Informed about
 - 114 Jockey strap
 - 116 Footnote abbr.
 - 118 Sit on the throne
 - 119 Up to the task
 - 120 Goalie's wear
 - 121 You may be dyeing to use it
 - 123 Raised rails
 - 124 Upper-left key



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.

Between 1939 and 1946, Nigel Bruce (36 Across) played Dr. Watson to Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes in 14 movies. The Clío Awards (58 Across) have honored creative excellence in advertising since 1959. Although its literal meaning is "rat's mouth," the name of BOCA Raton (35 Down) is actually derived from its colloquial translation, "thieves' inlet."





Easter Worship Directory

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

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!

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

Holy Week
April 6-8, 2007

Good Friday ~ April 6	Easter Celebration ~ April 8
Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Special Kids	Breakfast Served in
Good Friday Service	Between Services

Trinity Lutheran Church
 11507 Studebaker Road, Norwalk, 562.864.3713

holy week
at christ lutheran
 7107 Florence Ave. Downey 90240

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!

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

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

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

Let's Get Acquainted Reception
 Sun. April 8, 8:30am - 9:30am

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

Easter Sunday Service
 Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ
April 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Hymns - Praise - Prayer

Contemporary Christian Music
First Presbyterian Church of Downey
 10544 Downey Avenue
 at Seventh Street

"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

Florence Avenue Foursquare Church
 11457 E. Florence Ave.
 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
 Corner of Florence Ave. and 5th Hwy

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

Easter Weekend at REVOLUTION Church

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!

<p>▶ Revolution Lakewood</p> <p>Easter Sunday at 9am, 11am, & 6pm at Artesia High School 12108 E. Del Amo Blvd. in Lakewood *Children's Ministry for birth-5th graders at 9 & 11am only. *Middle School gathering at 9am only.</p>	<p>▶ Revolution Downey</p> <p>Easter Sunday at 9am & 11am at Columbus High School 12330 Woodruff Ave. in Downey *Children's Ministry for birth-5th graders at 9 & 11am.</p>	<p>Launching Easter Sunday 2007</p>
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Join us at either location in the month of April as a first-time guest, and you'll have a chance to win the Revolution street team car - a **2005 Scion xB!**

You won't believe the kickin' sound system!

(Must be 18 years or older to enter and must be present at the "all church picnic" on April 29th in order to win.)

www.iNeedARevolution.com - 562.546.0012

Cornerstone invites you to celebrate with us at...

THE EASTER TREE

April 8th at 10:30 AM

Bring the whole family to this exciting musical journey to discover the true meaning of Easter...and stay for our free Easter egg hunt immediately after!

FREE EASTER EGG HUNT!

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 CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER
 9001 Paramount Blvd • (562) 927-1436
 www.cornerstonedowney.org

Symphony gets into the Mexican spirit

■ Downey Symphony Guild will celebrate "Cuatro de Mayo" with Spanish fundraiser.

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO
DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD

DOWNEY – Hang on to your sombreros, amigos! The Downey Symphony Guild has sent colorful notices heralding their annual fundraising gala – "Cuatro de Mayo."

As the name in Spanish implies, this celebration will be held May 4 at the Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd., at 6 p.m. Guild members received their notices last week.

This annual event, always the highlight of the Guild's year, promises to be memorable. Katie Hare and her board, energized by the success of their Western Yee Haw Gala last year, are all set to turn this evening into a fiesta to equal their western extravaganza.

A Mexican dinner and entertainment, along with silent and live auctions, are planned and, as always, the proceeds will go to help fund Music in the Schools and our own excellent Downey Symphony Orchestra.

The Guild invites the community to come share an evening of color and music and friendship, so please save this date – Cuatro de Mayo.

Reservations may be made by sending \$65 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible, to Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, 90240. For information, call (562) 861-8507.

Downey Theatre introduces "Oliver!"

DOWNEY – The Downey Civic Light Opera announces Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" as the last production of the 2006-07 season, showing May 31-June 17.

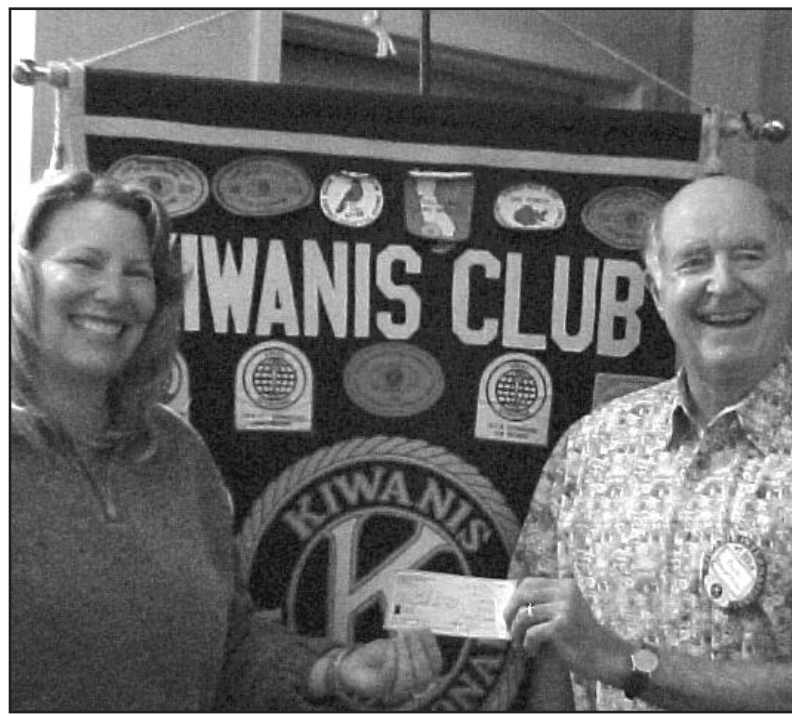
"Oliver!" is based on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist" and features a group of young orphans living in England during the 19th century. Oliver is sold to an undertaker, but later escapes and is rescued by "The Artful Dodger," a disciple of Fagin, who is a mentor to young thieves. The depiction of child labor and crime is told in a tongue-in-cheek way to make this a great family production.

Musical score includes, "Food, Glorious Food," "Where Is Love," "As Long As He Needs Me" and "Consider Yourself."

Auditions will be held April 16 and 19 at First Baptist Church of Downey from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

"Oliver!" was nominated for 10 Tony Awards and won an Academy Award in 1968 for Best Picture.

For information and tickets, call the box office at (562) 923-1714.



Teri Akloff, recreation supervisor for Downey Community Services, accepts a \$500 donation from Bob Brazelton, president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis. The money will help to fund the city's "Eggstravaganza" egg hunts for children scheduled for tomorrow, April 7, at local parks. Festivities start at 10:30 a.m. Call (562) 904-7238 for more information.



Re/Max Online, along with Newest Insurance and Chicago Title, donated brand new running shoes to the 4th and 5th grade students of Gaudin Elementary who are on the Carnival of Champions team. Several representatives of Re/Max spoke to the children about the importance of building character and getting good grades.

'Tea Affair' presented by Fail-Safe

DOWNEY – The 6th Annual Tea Affair presented by Fail-Safe 4 Felines will be held April 29 at the Downey Elks Lodge from 1 to 4 p.m. The day will include tea room delicacies, tea selections, a silent auction and best hat contest. The price is \$25.

For reservations, call (562) 708-2672 or send a check to P.O. Box 2279, Downey, CA 90242.

Not all grandmas knit

BY MARY FORNEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Why do people have the preconceived notion that grandmas must knit or at least know how to knit? Both of my grandmothers knitted but I don't. It's not an inherent skill women acquire with age.

I recently received a letter from my 10-year-old granddaughter asking me, "Grandma, will you make me a blanket?" Apparently, one of her friends braggingly showed her a blanket her grandmother had made her so now Makaylah wants one.

Not wanting to disappoint my sweet girl, I set out to accomplish this mission one Saturday afternoon. After scanning rows of yarn for her favorite shades of purple and buying a pair of needles, I was ready to meet the challenge.

With much trial and error, the first loops were created two hours later with the realization that knitting is a dangerous hobby. Wearing glasses not only helped me see what I was doing – it also provided a protective shield for my eyes.

Frustrated with sore fingers and a puncture wound on my leg, I managed to create a knitted block with a gaping hole in it. I thought maybe I'd buy some ribbon and simply tie the hole shut and she'll think it's supposed to be that way.

Before I knew it, the day had slipped away and it was late in the evening. I had knitted a blanket the size of a small lap pad and was ready to stop. Folding up my masterpiece, I realized I had no idea

how to take the blanket off the needles.

I now had this crooked knitted blanket with numerous big holes in it that was stuck on two knitting needles. Spending the next morning pacing in front of it, picking it up and thinking of ways I could remove the blanket off the needles, I thought, "If grandmas are supposed to knit, there really needs to be a knitting hotline for those of us who don't know what we're doing."

Finally, I decided to be brave and go for it. Thrilled to see the loops coming off the needle, I was sure I had the hang of it. Smoothing out my creation, a good portion of my work successfully unraveled in my lap.

It was just as well. The blanket was made with love, but I don't think Makaylah would see that if she were to compare what I had made her to what her friend's grandma had made.

Stuffing the balls of yarn and those potentially lethal knitting needles into a container, I buried the box in the back of my closet. Buried with it is my desire to not try knitting again for a long time.

I admire those who have mastered the art of knitting and I know there are classes on how to do it. I just don't have the patience or enough band-aids. I'd rather spend my time out and about – like shopping for a new blanket for my granddaughter.

Puppet show presentation for kids

DOWNEY – Children ages 3-12 and their parents can enjoy a free puppet show presentation during National Library Week.

The puppet theatre company, Swazzle, will present "Tiger and Mousedeer" on April 19 from 7 to 7:45 p.m. in the Downey City Library Cormack Room. The lively "trickster tale" from Indonesia features Kantjil, a young mousedeer who enlists the help of Louie the snake and learns to deal with a bullying tiger.

Free tickets will be distributed and seating is limited so visitors should arrive at least 30 minutes before show time. For information call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Stories from around the world presented

DOWNEY – Storyteller and musician Karen Golden will present a special program for children, "A Walk Around the World in Stories and Shoes," at the Downey City Library on April 15 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Room.

Golden will bring shoes from all over the world as she presents her music and tales from different countries. The free program is offered as part of National Library Week.

For information call the Children's desk at (562) 904-7360 ext. 4.

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.

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Join us aboard the 130' Tall Ship, *American Pride* for an exciting & memorable camp at sea/Catalina Island.
Ages 10-18 years \$455

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Exp. 4-30-07

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Come in and try our first taste of Spring!
Strawberries 'n Cream
A layer of sweet vanilla cream, a layer of strawberry cream, topped with a layer of sweet-glazed, sliced strawberries and whipped cream – all in a vanilla wafer crust.
\$9.99 plus tin Whole Pie To-Go
Fresh Strawberries Make Every Celebration Sweet.
Price and participation may vary at some locations. Limited time only. Ends April 30, 2007.

1/2 Price Lunch Buy any entrée during lunch and any two regular beverages and get a second entrée (of equal or lesser value) for half price. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount, or coupon. Coupon good for up to two discounts per party of four. Only the lower priced entrée will be discounted. No cash value. Valid at participating locations only. Not valid on Easter Sunday. Offer expires 4/30/07. POS CODE: MKTG 2 MKTG promo 2 Downey, Florence & Rives • 7860 E. Florence Ave. (562) 927-3327	1/2 Price Dinner Buy any entrée during lunch or dinner and any two regular beverages and get a second entrée (of equal or lesser value) for half price. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount, or coupon. Coupon good for up to two discounts per party of four. Only the lower priced entrée will be discounted. No cash value. Valid at participating locations only. Not valid on Easter Sunday. Offer expires 4/30/07. POS CODE: MKTG 2 MKTG promo 2 Downey, Florence & Rives • 7860 E. Florence Ave. (562) 927-3327
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For a location near you, visit www.mariecallenders.com.

Bianchi THEATRES
7770 Rosecrans Ave. @ Paramount Blvd.
Phone: (562) 630-SHOW (7469)

GRINDHOUSE R	(12:00 4:00) 8:00
THE REAPING R	(11:35 2:10 4:45) 7:20 9:55
FIREHOUSE DOG PG	(10:45 1:30 4:15) 7:00 9:45
ARE WE DONE YET? PG	(10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20
MEET THE ROBINSONS PG	(10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
BLADES OF GLORY PG13	(10:25 12:50 3:15) 5:40 8:05 10:30
TMNT PG	(10:45 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00
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
THE LAST MIMZY PG	(11:30 2:05 4:40)
DEAD SILENCE R	7:15 9:40
300 R	(10:15 1:05 3:55) 6:45 9:35

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Southeast Entertainment
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Edgewater Hotel & Casino Laughlin, Nevada
Sat. April 21st
Buffet with 10 points on Players Card
8-Hour Turn-Around
Departing: Downey High School at 6:00 am Back at 11:30 pm

River Palms Resort & Casino Laughlin, Nevada
3 days and 2 nights
\$98.50 p.p. Dbl. Occ.
May 15, 16, & 17th
Tues., Wed., Thurs
Includes room, transportation, taxes, baggage handling & 1 buffet
Departing: Downey High School at 6:00 am

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562.622.3999 ALL STADIUM SEATING

GRINDHOUSE	PG	Fri to Sun	(11:30, 2:30, 3:30), 6:30, 7:30, 10:30
THE REAPING	R		(12:00, 3:00, 4:00), 7:00, 8:00
ARE WE DONE YET?	PG	Fri to Sun	(11:45, 2:15, 4:55), 7:30, 9:55
ARE WE DONE YET?	PG	Mon to Thu	(11:45, 2:15, 4:55), 7:30, 9:55
FIREHOUSE DOG	PG		(11:00, 1:40, 4:25), 7:00, 9:35
BLADES OF GLORY	PG13	Fri to Sun	(11:45, 2:15, 4:40), 7:25, 9:50
BLADES OF GLORY	PG13	Mon to Thu	(11:45, 2:15, 4:40), 7:25, 9:50
MEET THE ROBINSONS	PG		(11:20, 1:50, 4:20), 7:10, 9:40
THE LAST MIMZY	PG		(12:00 PM)
SHOOTER	R		(10:50, 1:45, 4:45), 7:40, 10:40
TMNT	PG		(12:15, 2:40, 5:00), 7:15, 9:45
300	R		(11:00, 1:45, 4:30), 7:20, 10:10

Times for Friday-Thursday, April 6-12, 2007
Bargain Matinee () Advance ticket sales
Special Engagement/No Passes * www.kptmovies.com



Some of Downey's youngest residents literally turned lemons into something sweet. McKenna Mac Isaac-Henao, Noah Henao, Kaden and Ryder Elisaldez and Avenly Hamlin, with the help of their grandfather Gene Federico, constructed a lemonade stand, raising \$87. A silent donation matching that amount brought the total to \$175, which the kids donated to the Downey TLC Center.

'Poetry Slam and Open Mic' for teens

DOWNEY - As part of a National Library Week celebration, the Downey City Library will offer a "Poetry Slam and Open Mic" for young adults on April 17 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

Teens ages 13-19 who have written original poetry, song lyrics or short prose may read their work at this event.

"This is a great opportunity for teens to share their thoughts and their talent," said Young Adult Librarian Julia Butler. "Some teachers may give extra credit for participating, so be sure to sign up."

Teens can register at the Adult Information desk or by calling (562) 904-7360 ext. 32.

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.

Parsons Foundation funds symphony concert

BY JOYCE SHERWIN
DOWNEY SYMPHONY

DOWNEY - Well, it was another of those interesting mornings at the Civic Theatre a couple weeks ago. Downey's Unified School District, the Downey Symphony and theatre staff joined hands again in a monumental endeavor involving hundreds of school kids and a slew of new challenges.

As if there weren't enough built-in already.

This was the morning for the annual Pied Piper Concerts, when every fifth-grader in the city's elementary schools hears a real orchestra in an emphatically live performance.

Of course, everything was controlled by that tyrant, the clock. First off, a lengthy string of school buses rolled in on the dot and spilled out their loads of excited students, who formed orderly lines in the theatre courtyard, filed into the auditorium, found their seats, listened attentively as the musicians of the orchestra played a 45-minute program designed for them, applauded happily in all the right places, and filed out to their buses for the return trip to school.

The whole shebang was then repeated a second time. And a third time, and everything clicked.

Would you like to know how much time passes from the end of one concert to the beginning of the next? The DUSD mastermind, Ana Thorne, says, "Six hundred students out, five hundred in, within eleven minutes."

Piece o' cake. You need to understand some figures here: each program is played three separate times to accommodate the 1,650 fifth-graders in the city's elementary schools. Each performance, including narration, a soloist and applause, must fill no more than 45 minutes. And most importantly, the morning requires major underwriting to pay the bills.

This year the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, based in Pasadena, stepped up on the podium to deliver the goods so that this "Music in the Schools" event could happen. The Symphony Board is grateful for the Parsons Foundation's vision and very, very generous financial support.

Now about those new challenges: Our symphony musicians played under a guest conductor

who had met them for the first time only the previous day for rehearsal. Never wobbling on her stiletto heels, Eimear Noone led the orchestra with clarity and enthusiasm.

In addition, Eimear (pronounced "Eemer") had to introduce works by classical composers so the children would understand what it was all about. Before a section of Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," for example, she encouraged the audience. "Use your imagination to see this old ox cart coming closer and closer... Do you know what an ox is? It's a heavy...hulking...um, COW, pulling a big cart."

The orchestra plays.

"Did you picture it?"

"Yes, yes!" the kids shout.

One highlight of the concert was the appearance of solo-violinist Brooke Parker, 17, a senior at Long Beach Poly. Stage lights illuminating her hands, she performed Sarasate's "Gypsy Airs" with thrilling confidence, bow arm flashing up and down, fingers flying.

The kids are swept away.

Eimear asks, "Could you play like that? Ah, some 'yesses' over on this side. You go!"

And then the finale, the conclusion to Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," which is all thunder and cannons and church bell victory. The late Tom Osborn, long-time conductor of the Downey Symphony, added a brilliant element to the performance of this music for the kids, and they gasped when the wind and brass players from Warren and Downey High Schools joined the orchestra for a true rouser. Applause rocked the walls.

Then it's six hundred out, five hundred in, Rolex style. Shepherding his class to the waiting bus, Matt Boynton, a teacher at Carpenter School, said, "My students really enjoyed the performance, and now some of the girls want to be violinists!" He added that the students "are truly engaged when the Quintet comes to play for us," another outreaching arm of "Music in the Schools."

So, one more terrific Pied Piper morning, all challenges met with success - funding, organizing, conducting, playing, connecting with the students. A round of applause to everyone who made it tick.

Church selling pre-sale carnival tickets

DOWNEY - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School invites the community to its 4th Annual Spring Carnival, this year planned for April 20-22.

The carnival will feature food, vendor booths, games, rides for all ages and live musical entertainment. Pre-sale ride tickets are available at 50 to 69 percent off the regular price.

Carnival times are Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the school office at (562) 803-4918 or the church at (562) 803-4459.

Vendor booths are still available at \$75 for all three days. For information, call Bernice Thies at (562) 706-3703.

Symphony Guild concert in Whittier

WHITTIER - The Rio Hondo Symphony Guild will present its Concert Preview on April 27 at the First Friends Church in Whittier. The event is free to the public.

Violinist and music educator Dr. Donald Ambrosio will be the guest speaker on the program which will feature music by Delibes, Prokofiev, Smetana and Tomasi. The program starts at 10 a.m.

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Coupon Excludes Specials 3 PM - Closing Expires 4/9/07

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Drinx Drive-Thru Espresso Bar
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Security ensures new babies sleep easy

■ Family Birth Center at DRMC installs new, upgraded security system.

DOWNEY – An upgraded security system in the Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Family Birth Center provides more information about where the babies are in the unit and what activities may be happening with the babies, allowing staff to respond sooner in case of a problem, the hospital announced this week.

There have been two infant abductions in the U.S. in the last three weeks, one of them only a few miles from DRMC. That abduction was by a family member, while the other, in Texas, was by someone impersonating hospital staff.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports fewer than 12 hospital infant abductions by non-family members annually.

“No matter how small the number, when a kidnapping occurs, the devastation to the family, and to hospital staff, is enormous,” stated DRMC Family Birth Center Director Ranie Hamilton. “The number of custody-dispute cases is growing, and these babies are at risk for abduction by family members, not by strangers.”

While the risk of hospital abduction has dropped, the number of stranger abductions from homes or public places has increased. In part because of that risk, the hospital said, DRMC provides no information to newspapers or websites, including The Downey Patriot, about deliveries.

The hospital recommends that families do not put signs in their yards advertising the birth of a baby, and that they give no information over the phone or in person to strangers purporting to provide free goods or services for newborns.

“Our electronic system is one part of a comprehensive plan to decrease risk for our babies and their families,” said Hamilton. “The plan includes intensive training for Family Birth Center and Security staff, as well as ‘Code Pink’ training and drills housewide.”

“In addition to the upgraded infant security system, we have closed circuit cameras. We are a locked unit, so we do not have casual foot traffic through the Family Birth Center, and we have visitor restrictions. We also have specially coded ID badges.”

She added, “Even with the most current technology and with trained and aware staff members, good patient education is our best defense against infant abduction. We work to involve our patients and their families in knowing how to keep their babies safe in the Hospital, and after discharge.”

An average of 140 babies are born each month in the Family Birth Center.

Local doctors get their day

DOWNEY – National Doctors’ Day was observed March 29 at Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) with an elegant lunch. Staff, wearing “DRMC Docs are Tops” stickers, served the meal.

“This is a day set aside to let our doctors know how much they are valued and appreciated,” said DRMC CEO Allen Korneff. “This community is blessed to have such dedicated physicians taking care of its citizens. Our doctors play a vital role in keeping the community strong and healthy.”

Chief Nursing Officer Heather Conwell also lauded Downey’s doctors. “Our docs are highly regarded because every day we see them go above and beyond the call of duty for our patients,” she said. “At the drop of a hat they may be called to deliver a baby or operate. Many take emergency calls at all hours, and provide charity care. They work long hours, and commit to maintaining their skills and improving patient safety.”

“They have earned our affection and respect through their quest for knowledge, empathy, compassion and clear judgment in moments of grave peril.”

Dr. Brian Brown serves as president of the DRMC Medical Staff, comprised of nearly 450 physicians. DRMC also brings new physicians to the community through its Family Medicine Internship and Residency Program, which the hospital has been running for 19 years.

Get help lowering property taxes

CERRITOS – The County of Los Angeles is sponsoring a series of free seminars starting in April to help property owners who feel their taxes should be lowered due to a decline in the value of their property.

The 90-minute seminars will be offered six times at six locations. The meetings are intended to help taxpayers better understand the assessment appeals process, which many find confusing. The seminars will cover appeal rights and when to file an application for reduction in assessment.

Seminars will also be held in Culver City, El Monte, Glendale, Lancaster and Van Nuys. Glendale will host the first seminar April 11.

Meeting schedules are available by calling (213) 974-4240.

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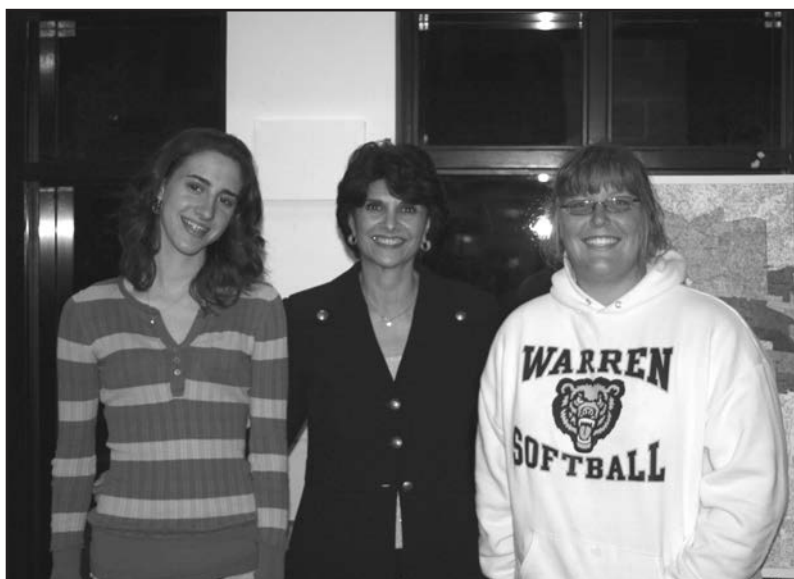
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Kim Williams, RN, and a newborn in the Family Birth Center at Downey Regional Medical Center. Photo courtesy DRMC



Emergency physician Dr. Richard Guess dines with Bill Stein and Daphne Nguyen at last week's Physician Appreciation Day luncheon.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) discussed current events with Downey students Brittney Dreher (left) and Allison Rohrer. Both Warren students asked questions about Roybal-Allard's work in Congress as participants in the People-to-People Student Ambassadors Program. As representatives of their school and community, Dreher and Rohrer will travel to Australia this summer as student ambassadors to meet with their peers. The two girls were among more than 125 guests who joined the congresswoman from throughout the 34th District – which includes Downey – at a meet-and-greet gathering that she hosted at the Bell Community Center.

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Frances Evelyn Sharp was junior high teacher

DOWNEY – Frances Evelyn Sharp, better known as Evelyn, died on Feb. 8 at her home in Sun City, Ariz., which she shared with her niece, Karen R. Keesling.



SHARP

She was born on Dec. 7, 1912 and attended the music program at Phillips University in Enid, Okla. At the end of her third year she transferred to the University of Wichita. She received her master's degree in secondary administration in 1960 from Long Beach State College.

Sharp spent 27 years in the California Teacher's System, where she served as vocal music director for the Girls' Glee Club and Mixed Chorus at North (now Griffiths) Junior High. In 1960 she became Dean of Girls and Counselor at West Junior High School and served in that capacity until her retirement in 1972.

Prior to moving to California in 1946, she had taught vocal music, band, English and Spanish in several small Kansas towns. She also coached drama and the girls' basketball team.

Sharp moved to Sun City in 1976. She is survived by her nieces, Karen Keesling and Dolores Drennan McCowan; McCowan's niece, Clara Ellen Sharp Gill; and numerous grand nieces and nephews.

Sharp was predeceased by her parents, Carol and Olive Sharp; brothers Keith and Leo Sharp; and her sisters, Beatrice Sharp, Drennan Carver and Ruth Sharp Keesling.

Memorial services will be held at Sunland Memorial Gardens in Sun City on April 14. Family requests contributions may be made to Hospice of the Valley, the P.E.O. Continuing Education Project or Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

Mike Ferraro served in World War II

DOWNEY – Mike Ferraro, longtime Downey resident, died April 2. He was 90.

Born in Starkville, Colo. in 1917, he served in the Army during World War II. He retired from United Vintners after working there for 48 years. He was a member of ICF at St. Raymond's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Marguerite; children, George Ferraro and Marie Armstrong; brother, Sam Ferraro; sister, Geraldine Hartman; daughter-in-law, Martha Ferraro; grandchildren, Samantha Friedhoff and Shannon, Allison and Kelly Ferraro; stepdaughter, Bea English; and step-granddaughter, Teresa English.

Grandson Chance Friedhoff preceded him in death.

A viewing will be held Monday, April 9, at Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary between 4 and 8 p.m. with a vigil between 7 and 8. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Raymond's on April 10 at 10 a.m.

Kindergarten Round-up starting soon at schools

DOWNEY – Kindergarten Round-up, early registration for children who plan to enter a Downey Unified School in September, will be held at local elementary schools during May and June.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before December 2, 2007. Proof of age must be presented at the time of registration and can be done with a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other legal document.

Parents must also bring proof of residence in the District and evidence their child has received a physical examination, which must be completed after March 1 of this year. Parents must also bring their child's immunizations record and ensure that their child is current on their immunizations, which include 5 DTP (four doses meet requirement if at least one was given on or after fourth birthday), 4 Polio (three doses meet requirement given on or after first birthday), 3 Hepatitis B, and 2 MMR (first dose of MMR must be given on or after first birthday).

Parents must also verify that their children have received the Varicella immunization or a statement from a doctor stating that the child had chicken pox. Parents must also provide the results of a Mantoux test for tuberculosis; the test should have been done after Sept. 1, 2006.

A new requirement by the California Department of Education is that parents provide proof of an Oral Health Assessment, which must be completed by a licensed dentist or registered dental health professional. Examinations must have occurred after Sept. 1, 2006.

Registration dates and locations are as follows:

Gauldin ES	May 18
Imperial ES	May 21
Unsworth ES	May 22
Williams ES	May 23
Alameda ES	May 24
Gallatin ES	May 25
Rio San Gabriel ES	May 29
Lewis ES	May 31
Rio Hondo ES	June 1
Ward ES	June 4
Price ES	June 5

For specific information about registration times, morning or afternoon sessions, or any other questions, call (562) 469-6500 and ask for your local school.

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De La Torre lobbies in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Assemblymember Hector De La Torre, representing the 50th Assembly District, which includes Downey, returned from a visit to Washington, D.C. last week where he lobbied the Bush Administration and Congress for more federal funds for California and to learn about the status of federal legislation and programs that impact the state.

De La Torre and a bipartisan delegation of more than 30 assembly members were on Capitol Hill March 19-21.

“California deserves to get more resources from Washington. We currently receive only 79 cents for every tax dollar that we send to the federal government,” De La Torre said. “After extensive bipartisan lobbying, we expect Congress to listen to California’s concerns and anticipate that more of California’s federal tax dollars will be actually reinvested in California.”

“After speaking to the administration, senators, and representatives, I hope that California’s concerns will be addressed. California has been ignored for far too long.”

In addition to a meeting with White House officials, the delegation talked with California’s two U.S. senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and met with the U.S. representatives from California who serve on the House Appropriations Committee, including Lucille Roybal-Allard.

“I was especially interested in addressing federal solutions for health-care and financial aid assistance that will benefit my constituents in the 50th Assembly District,” De La Torre said.

Other meetings included Senator Ted Kennedy on immigration; Rep. Henry Waxman, a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Health; and Rep. Hilda L. Solis.

Career expo and job fair at college

NORWALK – Cerritos College’s annual career expo and job fair will be held April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school’s Student Center. The event, which attracts more than 500 attendees each year, is free and open to both Cerritos College students and the general public.

Attendees should dress in business attire and bring copies of their resumes.

During the expo, attendees will have the opportunity to talk to recruiters, learn about the companies, explore job opportunities, network with recruiters, and receive suggestions from employers on resumes and interviewing skills. Employers representing business, finance, technology, healthcare, retail and other industries are scheduled to participate in the expo.

Cerritos College’s Job Placement Office will offer free resume critiques in the weeks leading up to the expo. Resumes can be dropped off and picked up seven days later. A computer lab will also be available to create or update resumes.

Employers wishing to participate in the expo can call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2366 for information.

Pen and pencil drawings presented

BELLFLOWER – Dory Shade will give a free presentation on his works with pen and pencil at the April 10 meeting of the Bellflower Art Association at Thompson Park in Bellflower. The group will meet from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Thompson Park is located at 14001 Bellflower Blvd., between Rosecrans and Imperial. The public is invited to attend.



Dr. Sonia Molina (right) was honored by California Speaker of the Assembly Fabián Núñez as Woman of Distinction for the 46th Assembly District.



Richard Brown, president of Santa Fe Springs Kiwanis Club, was the winner of a one-week luxury stay in Kauai, Hawaii. One hundred tickets priced at \$100 each were sold for the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club raffle. All proceeds will be used to help local children. Pictured are Bob Brazelton, Steve Sollitt, Kouy Kolar and Ron Kolar.

Art exhibit features best of student work

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Art Gallery will feature its annual exhibition of student artwork, on view from April 10 through May 8.

The annual exhibition features more than 100 student artworks chosen by Cerritos College Fine Arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation, among others.

Artworks will be exhibited inside the Art Gallery, Fine Arts building, room 50, Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6 to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Sonia Molina tabbed ‘Woman of Distinction’

DOWNEY – Fabián Núñez, California Speaker of the Assembly, has selected Dr. Sonia Molina as Woman of Distinction for the 46th Assembly District.

A reception was held in her honor on March 23 in Los Angeles.

The award recognizes women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service, demonstrated courage and provided leadership in improving the quality of life for the residents in their community.

Molina immigrated to Los Angeles from El Salvador when she was 18 years old, later graduating from Harvard School of Dental Medicine and receiving an Endodontics degree from the UCLA School of Dentistry.

Molina’s professional affiliations include the California Dental Board, the Los Angeles Dental Society, the Latin American Dental Association and the Women’s Dental Society.

Molina’s practice, Molina Endodontics, has been in Downey for 16 years.

GUERRA

Continued from page 5

penalty.” FYI, we have had three elections in recent times un-opposed. Rick Trejo ran un-opposed two years ago. Meredith Perkins ran un-opposed twice and Ann Bayer ran un-opposed this last election.

So feel free to come and make your voice heard during the general discussion. As citizens we all have a say, one way or another.

On April 24 we will be voting whether to put our council meetings and planning commission meetings on cable so our citizens can have access to see what their city is doing. Somebody said a few weeks ago that council meeting were for our citizens to speak. I say that they are that and much more. They are for doing the business of the City, which includes listening and hearing what is going on.

Again, I am for letting our residents know about their fine city and I cannot see how this can be anything but good. We are one of the few cities around our area that does not televise our council meetings. It is time to let everyone know and it is time that we embrace technology. On some city web sites you can access a comprehensive video archive of council meetings... Why are our citizens deprived of this information? By the way, our city receives almost \$500,000 annually from the franchise fee from our cable provider in Downey.

Friends and family, thank you for all your thoughts and prayers and please let me know what you think about any issue. I welcome and look forward to your comments and thoughts... The year has started out on a very interesting note with Johnnie’s Broiler and has continued with many challenges in our city. But we have many good things going on and it is very exciting to be a part of it and to be a resident of Downey at this time.

Remember our tag line, “Future Unlimited.” It really is that way (by the way, with our history and all that has happened in Downey, wouldn’t it be great to be called “Space City USA”? Just a thought!). All my best for a happy and holy week and all my prayers for you and your family. I look forward to seeing you on April 10th or sooner.

—Mario Guerra,
Downey City Council, District 2

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A HOME away from home

By BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Patients of all ethnicities, ages and circumstances have been known to travel from all corners of the world to be treated at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. And when they arrive, their families have the option of staying at HOME – Housing of Medical Emergencies.

Opened in January of 1998 by the Assistance League of Downey, HOME is a 10-unit apartment complex, which provides temporary, low-cost housing to families who have loved ones undergoing treatment at the medical center, located on the grounds of Rancho.

Low-cost indeed.

Residents of HOME can stay for \$10 a night. Not bad for a unit that includes two twin beds, dresser, night stand, television, telephone, table and chairs. Each unit also has a kitchenette, equipped with a microwave and refrigerator.

And if the family can't afford to pay the daily rent, Assistance League will pick up the tab.

As if that isn't enough, each unit comes with a basket of goodies – cookies, fruit snacks, crackers and instant soup – as well as a hygiene package including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush and razor.

Laundry and cleaning services come regularly to clean each unit and wash linens and towels. A laundry room is also available to residents.

"HOME aims to provide a place to establish a camaraderie amongst people who share the same problems," said Mary Lou Schmidt, Assistance League of Downey President Elect and early-development chairman.

All of this is made possible not only because of the support received from the community, but also because of the partnership between Rancho, the Assistance League and Los Angeles County.

"This is a unique partnership," said Schmidt.

The program was originally pioneered by the Assistance League of Santa Clara, who is in partnership with Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto.

The history of Downey's HOME dates back to July of 1985, when a small one bedroom bungalow



HOME provides temporary, low-cost housing to families who have loved ones undergoing treatment at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. The facility has 10 apartments, a family room, laundry facilities, patio area equipped with a barbeque and a courtyard with gardens and benches. Residents pay only \$10 a day.

–low served as the local residence for families. After moving in the first family, the program grew immediately, moving in a second family only weeks later. Demand to accommodate families grew so rapidly that the program moved three times over a 12-year span, moving from the one bedroom bungalow, to a three bedroom house, to five apartments.

In 1997, the value of HOME was recognized by the County's Board of Supervisors and the County leased out the land where HOME currently stands. The quest to raise \$750,000 to build and furnish the complex began, hosting numerous fundraisers and accepting generous donations. Major donors include Dr. Mary R. Stauffer, Downey Kiwanis Foundation, Ahmanson Foundation, Downey National Bank, Weingart Foundation, and R.C. Baker Foundation.

After raising all the funds needed and waiting 11 years for building to begin, HOME broke ground on Feb. 6, 1997 and opened less than a year later on Jan. 1, 1998, just walking distance from Rancho.

Since opening, families have come from 24 countries, almost every state in the United States and over 75 California cities outside Los Angeles County.

The complex is maintained by a live-in manager, as well as over 40 volunteers from the Assistance League. The program is financed through rent paid by residents and primarily through the funds received by the League's annual Christmas Brunch.

The facility costs approximately \$2,000 a month to operate due to maintenance and utilities.

HOME pays only \$1 a year for their 66-year lease with the County.

According to Schmidt, residents stay for numerous reasons, whether they are a patient waiting for a mechanical repair on a wheelchair, or a parent of a child in critical condition.

"It really just depends on the situation," said Schmidt. "Sometimes they are here for a year and sometimes they are here for six weeks."

The facility remains full for the majority of each year, with only a room or two being vacant at the same time. And it doesn't matter where you are coming from – you can live at HOME as long as you have a patient at Rancho and you are recommended by the Social Services Department at Rancho.

The availability of on-site housing contributes directly to improved patient care by allowing family members to accompany patients upon admission, be present during surgery, assist in their daily care, and receive training in post-hospital care.

"The staff at Rancho tells us that the patient's length of hospitalization is greatly reduced by having their families participate in their treatment," said Schmidt.

More importantly, the emotional support provided by the presence of family members has a direct effect on the patient's ability to participate fully in their rehabilitation program.

"Everything that happens [at

HOME] has been educational and interesting," said Schmidt. "One thing I enjoyed most in my life is seeing HOME being built."

HOME is located at 12878 Dahlia Ave. in Downey.

For information on HOME, call (562) 803-5233.

Easter Bonnet Parade at Goodwill

DOWNEY – Goodwill will be hosting an Easter Bonnet Parade on April 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Children between the ages of 3 and 10 are invited to create an Easter bonnet.

Each child will receive a bag filled with ribbons and supplies to create their own Easter bonnet.

The two-day event will conclude on April 7 at 5 p.m. with an Easter Bonnet Parade, where winners will be determined by their costumes.

Goodwill is located at 9131 E. Imperial Hwy. For information, call (562) 803-5392.

Volunteers were honored at luncheon

SANTA FE SPRINGS – Companion Hospice Care held their annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 2, honoring volunteers who visit and provide support to terminally ill patients, and their families, throughout Los Angeles County.

Staff and volunteers were treated to lunch donated by Maggie's Pub in Santa Fe Springs.

Lunch was followed by the presentation of broaches, which had stones indicating how many hours have been volunteered.

Companion Hospice Care's next training session begins April 14. For information, contact Deanna, coordinator of volunteers, at (562) 944-2711.

Abundant Hope has Easter service

DOWNEY – Pastor Don Waggoner will preach on April 8 at 10 a.m. at Abundant Hope Christian Center in Downey.

Abundant Hope Christian Center is located at 10335 Paramount Blvd.

City seeks suggestions for new park name

DOWNEY – The City of Downey is hosting a contest to name the new 11-acre park slated to open on Clark Avenue early next year, Mayor Rick Trejo announced this week.

The park will be Downey's first in 30 years and feature two baseball fields, two soccer fields and restrooms. Two acres have been designated for the Columbia Space Science Learning Center.

Rules and criteria of the contest are listed below:

- Open to Downey residents, students attending school in Downey, Downey business owners and people that work in Downey (excluding City of Downey employees and their immediate family, appointed boards and commissioners)

- The park shall not be named after a service organization or business
- There is a limit of one name per entry form. Limit three entries per person

- Entry forms must be filled out completely and legibly
- If two or more entry forms are received with the same proposed name, the first entry received will be considered

- Recreation and Community Services Commission members will review and forward their top three recommendations to the City Council
- The City Council will review the entry forms, may make additions and will approve the final selection

- Entry forms may be mailed to the City of Downey Community Services Department, Park Naming, P.O. Box 7016, Downey, CA 90241-7016, or online at www.downeyca.org or faxed to (562) 904-7296.

The winner will be recognized at a city council meeting and invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony as a special guest. Entry forms are available at various city-wide locations including parks, the Downey City Library, City Hall Community Services center or downloaded from the city's website. Forms will also be sent to each school within the Downey Unified School District.

Deadline for entries is May 14.

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.

Participants are encouraged to bring a friend.

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 educator Elsa Saucedo teaches patients self-care: how to eat right, take medications correctly, exercise appropriately, identify signs and symptoms, perform foot care and use a meter.

Diabetes classes are held inside the DRMC conference rooms at 11500 Brookshire Ave. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$10 materials fee for the series. To register, call (562) 904-5580.

UN rep will speak on Darfur conflict

NORWALK – Cerritos College will host a discussion about the Darfur conflict in western Sudan on April 23 at 9:30 a.m. The event will help educate attendees about the genocide currently occurring.

United Nations representative Peter Jackson will attend and give his perspective on the conflict.

For more information, call Dr. John Haas of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2726.

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.

The school is located at 13200 Clark Ave., south of Imperial Highway. For more information or to make an appointment, call the school at (562) 803-4918.

Pancake breakfast part of Easter services

DOWNEY – The Downey United Methodist Church invites the community to their Easter-weekend festivities.

Good Friday service will be tonight at 7 p.m. Easter Sunrise service will be on April 8 at 6:30 a.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt at 9 a.m. and a pancake breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m.

Easter service will be at 10 a.m.

The Downey United Methodist Church is located at 10801 Downey Ave.

Special music at Easter service

DOWNEY – Messiah Lutheran Church in Downey invites the community to their Easter Sunday services on April 8.

Pastor Clifford Kenyon will be preaching at the traditional service at 8 a.m., as well as the Praise service at 11 a.m. Special music will be provided by the choir.

Pastor Ramon Contreras will lead the Spanish service at 9:30 a.m. Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 10711 Paramount Blvd.

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Annual Street Faire set for April 28

■ Hundreds of vendors will line Brookshire Avenue. Entertainment starts at 9 a.m.

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.

Tickets still available to GOOD luncheon

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.

Author giving insider's view of Disneyland

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.

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 for children 12 years and under.

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

Charter bus headed to Pechanga

DOWNEY – The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is chartering a bus to the Pechanga Resort and Casino on April 26. Only \$10 reserves a seat on the bus.

Participants will receive a \$5 casino voucher to be used in the gift shop or at the buffet. The bus will depart at 7:30 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m.

People must be 21 or over to board the bus and IDs will be checked. Fifty-seven seats are available and are being sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve a seat and find out where they will be boarding, call Paula Mayfield at (562) 923-3518.

Razorbacks start cheerleader sign-ups

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football (Razorbacks) will be conducting cheerleading registration the first and third Saturday of every month at Furman Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until July.

Razorback cheerleaders cheer at football games, participate in cheer competitions and, if they qualify, compete in "Jamz," held at Magic Mountain.

Registration is \$115, which does not include the uniform. Raffle tickets are available to help offset the cost.

Downey Youth Football is a private, non-profit organization that offers tackle and flag football, as well as cheerleading, for boys and girls up to age 14. For information, call Cheer Coordinator Kamela Cherry at (562) 745-5002 or (562) 928-9150.

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.

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. Their tax I.D. number is 95-6006586.

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



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Century 21 My Real Estate welcomes Claudia Beas to their staff. "Claudia is a little dynamo and she is determined to succeed. She is genuinely happy to be in the real estate profession and her enthusiasm bubbles over and draws people to her naturally," said Laurie Mac Isaac, vice president of relocation and marketing. To contact Beas, call (562) 927-2626.



Laura Merrell is a new associate at Century 21 My Real Estate. "Laura will do great in the real estate field. She has completed the Century 21 real estate training and is willing to go out and talk to people – and that is one important key in real estate," said Steve Roberson, broker. To contact Merrell, call (562) 927-2626.



Century 21 My Real Estate has welcomed Yayoi Taketani to their office. Taketani was an artistic director for over 11 years. She also has associate degrees in real estate and administrative assistance. "I am very excited about using my business skills in the real estate field. I'm also thrilled to be joining with such a reputable company," said Taketani. To contact her, call (562) 927-2626.



Jacqueline Gaytan is a new realtor associate at Century 21 My Real Estate. Gaytan was also a student at Century 21's real estate school. "The fact that the school is approved by the Department of Real Estate and is the best known brand in real estate made where I would choose to do business an easy decision," said Gaytan. To contact Gaytan, call (562) 927-2626.

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Drive a little to get this home on a 18,375 sq. ft. lot - spic and span home ready for you to move right in, 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms.
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Delightful Downey Dwelling
Beautiful North Downey home in great neighborhood - 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bathrooms, living room with fireplace, Home Protection Plan offered, beveled-glass front door, newly refinished hardwood floors and auto sprinklers front and back.
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Calling All Seniors
Great community living with a view of the mountains and pool area, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, living room with fireplace, dining area and central air and heat.
Call Janet Baez at (310) 869-6338

Lots of Special Touches
Lovely remodeled 3 Bedroom home with 2 Bathrooms, 2-story with central air and heat. Extra touches are marble and wood floors, walk-in closets and gated community, nice backyard with patio and fruit trees.
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"The 24 Hour Brokers"



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STOP FORECLOSURE!!!

- Behind on your payments?
- Owe more on your house than its worth?
- Need out?
- Bankruptcy?

Call today for a private consultation!



Subject To Bank Approval!

3 BD, 2 BA home in a nice area that needs work. Priced below market value. Call Roger Beltran today, or visit www.RogerBeltran.com
See Other Inventory at www.RogerBeltran.com



Vicki Spearman
"I Care For Downey"
562-367-9520
Vicki@Prudential24Hours.com

PROBATE!

Build your own home!
R-2 Zone 13,910 Sq. Ft. Lot with 2 BD, 1,267 Sq. Ft. house
Priced @ \$735,500
Call Vicki Spearman Today @ 562-367-9520



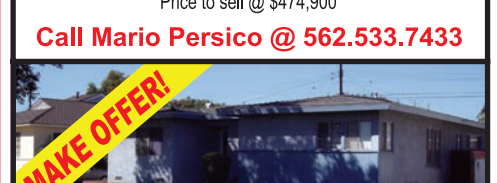
Your Home Could Be Here
Call Vicki Spearman Today
(562) 367-9520



Mario Persico
"Mario Moves You...24 Hours a Day!"
562-533-7433
www.MarioPersico.com

NEW LISTING!

One Of Downey's Finest Complexes!
A must see! This condo features 3 BD, 3 BA, 1,541 Sq. Ft. Great complex, only needs new paint & carpet.
Price to sell @ \$474,900
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

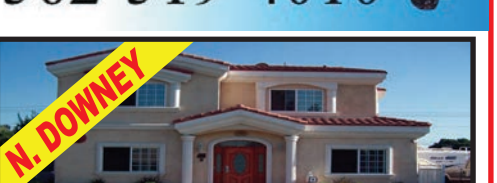


MAKE OFFER!
Best Priced Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey!
4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft.
Just Reduced to \$684,950. Send all offers!
Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

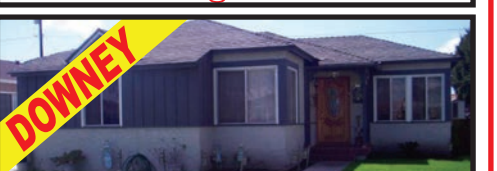


Mario, Kelly, Christina & Gianna
Happy Easter From the Persico Family To Yours!

Jose Garcia-Yanez
"The Service You Deserve"
562-519-4010



Pool Home!!
5 BD, 3 BA, 3,100 Sq. Ft. of Living space on a 8,200 Sq. Ft. Lot, with pool & spa built in 2006
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010



Fine Home At A Finer Price!
3 BD & 1 BA, large family room w/ fireplace, remodeled kitchen & new paint.
Priced at: \$564,900
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010



Prime Location!
7 BD, 7.5 BA, executive office, approx. 6,500 Sq. Ft., 10,880 sq. ft. lot w/ pool and state of the art amenities
Downey's most prestigious home!!
Call Jose @ 562-519-4010

UNITS!!!!

- Monrovia 2 Units 2 BD & 1 BA each \$650,000
- Maywood 2 Units 2 BD & 1 BA each \$549,900
- Bell Gardens 4 Units 2 BD & 1 BA Each

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"The 24 Hour Agent"
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89 Homes

SOLD in 2006!

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2000-2006!

FREE Market Evaluation!

Feature of the Week



New Construction - 2007 on Large Lot

Wonderful 5 bed,(4 bed+office), 4 bath home w/ travertine floors, new appliances, custom cabinets w/ granite countertops in kitchen & baths, living room with high ceilings, master suite with too many amenities to list. Pool size backyard. This home is amazing!

Price: \$1,295,000

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Large Lot - 10,300 Sq Ft!!!
4 bedroom, 2 bath home w/ potential to add a guest house.
Price: \$699,950
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



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



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



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



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



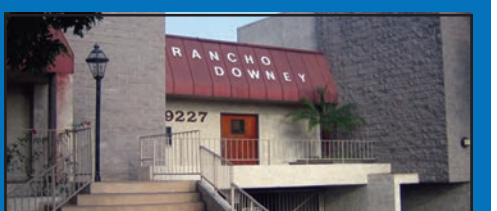
Picture Perfect
3 bedrooms + bonus room, 2 bathrooms, remodeled kitchen & baths, great landscaping.
Price: \$795,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



Honey, Stop the Car!
3 bed, 2 bath Downey home w/ guest house, newer kitchen, central air & heat and much, much more.
Price: \$579,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



"Remodeled North Downey Condo!"
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

www.MichaelBerdelis.com Call Michael today at (562) 818-6111