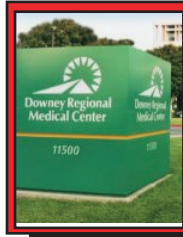




The Downey Patriot



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Patient dumping investigation
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Creepy, slithering snakes
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Friday, April 13, 2007

Vol. 5 No. 51

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

'A Fitting Tribute'

■ Ground is officially broken on the \$12 million Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center. A tribute to the astronauts of the Space Shuttle Columbia, it will sit at the former NASA site.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Laurel Clark would have been proud.

Clark, a flight surgeon and U.S. Navy captain, was one of seven crew members killed when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated while reentering the Earth's atmosphere over Texas on Feb. 1, 2003.

Clark's husband, Dr. Jonathon B. Clark, was one of several people who attended a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday for the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, which, when completed sometime next summer, will serve as a tribute to the perished Columbia crew.

"This crew, in particular, has always been an ardent supporter of education," Jonathon Clark told the AP.

The center will be located at 12400 Clark Ave., adjacent to Downey Studios, and will take about a year to build. Filled with interactive space exhibits and simulations, it will also honor Downey's rich aeronautical history.

Tower General Contractors, which lists UCLA's Astronomy Center among some of their completed work, are in charge of construction.

"We are pleased to have been selected to construct this distinguished building, which memorializes those who gave their lives for the exploration of space," Alex Guerrero, executive vice president of Tower General Contractors, said. "The center will educate future generations about science and aerospace, making it a living tribute to their memory, while educating the next generation of astronauts."

The 18,000-sq. foot center will feature a "Challenger Learning Center," a simulated space mission designed to test participants' decision-making skills. A "Space Science Discovery Zone" will host interactive exhibits dealing with



The crew of Space Shuttle Columbia, for which Downey's new learning center is dedicated, is shown above. From left: David Brown, Richard Husband, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Michael Anderson, William McCool and Ilan Ramon. Photo courtesy NASA

the search for life beyond Earth, the origins of the universe and the principles of flight.

Demonstrations will treat visitors to an experience of what living in space is like. And the "Mars Robotic Lab" will allow children to design and program personalized robots before launching them on an "exploration mission to Mars."

The center will also mark the entrance to a new – and still unnamed – 11-acre park.

"In 1999, when the Downey NASA plant closed, the City of Downey began a redevelopment effort, including an education component," Mayor Rick Trejo said.

"The construction of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center is the culmination of our efforts to preserve Downey's 70-year legacy of aviation and aerospace history through space science education programs.



Dr. Jonathon Clark, an astronaut and husband of the late Laurel Clark, one of seven to die aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, was a guest speaker at yesterday's Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center groundbreaking. Photo by R.D. Salyer

"The memorial will provide a way to extract something positive from the Columbia disaster."

The former NASA site has an aeronautical history dating back to 1929.



Raj Champaneri, left, with director George Lucas.

A talent unsurpassed

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

Born and bred in Lanchester, a suburb of Birmingham, England, Raj Champaneri, who has been a resident of Downey for some 27 years, traces his fascination with art and design—especially with cars—to his childhood days. In a natural progression, as a young teen his imagination and experimental instincts took to new levels. One day, he boldly dismantled the bumper section of his businessman father's vintage station wagon to, in his words, "conceptualize if streamlined headlamps and a slant front-end would make the car go faster."

Unfortunately, he could not put the various parts back together again, and he was of course grounded. But shortly after this episode, the private

See CHAMPANERI, page 11

Term limit issue may go to voters...again

■ City moves one step closer towards scheduling special November election. Support and opposition is strong from both sides.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Downey voters may soon be heading to the ballot box – for the second time in 15 years – to decide on a ballot measure regarding city council term limits.

The City Council voted 3-2 this week to take the first steps towards a November special election that could potentially revise Downey's term limits laws. Under current statute, council members can serve a maximum of two four-year terms.

Mayor Rick Trejo and Councilmen Mario Guerra and Kirk Cartozian voted in favor of the ballot measure consideration. Mayor Pro Tem David Gafin and Councilwoman Anne Bayer dissented.

The matter is expected to come back to the council April 24 for final approval.

The issue was brought forth by Guerra, who himself joined the council last November when Meredith Perkins was termed out. Guerra referred to current term limit provisions as a "death penalty" because it limits council members to eight years.

Neighboring cities, including Cerritos and Long Beach, employ their own versions of term limits. In Cerritos, council members are allowed to run for re-election after sitting out one two-year term. Long Beach has term limits similar to Downey's, although they allow write-in candidates, while Downey does not.

See TERM LIMITS, page 4

Police shoot, kill man after pursuit

■ Shooting is a suspected case of "suicide-by-cop." Man left suicide note, police said.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Downey police officers fatally shot a man they say pointed a gun at them after a brief chase through Downey streets last week in a suspected case of "suicide-by-cop."

The man, identified in media reports as Edmund Wong, 40, of Long Beach, died at the scene.

Downey police responded to a call last Friday of a man armed with two handguns getting into a silver Toyota pick-up truck in the 9400 block of Pico Vista Road at about 3:30 p.m., said Sgt. Duane Allen of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is investigating the case. The truck sped away after Downey police tried to pull him over, Allen said.

The truck traveled north on Pico Vista Road for about a quarter-mile, made a U-turn, and crashed into a police cruiser, Allen said. The truck came to rest in the front yard of a home on the east side of the street, according to a police statement.

Wong then exited the truck "with what appeared to be a handgun and pointed it at one of the officers," Allen said. Two police officers fired at Wong, striking him in the upper torso, Allen said. Wong was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

See SHOOTING, page 4

Firemen's Association gets four-year contract

■ Agreement runs through 2010 and includes yearly pay raises and increased benefits.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The Downey Firemen's Association has reached an agreement on a four-year contract with the City of Downey that includes a five percent pay raise for firefighters and better dental benefits.

The contract was unanimously approved by the City Council this week.

Firefighters will receive a 5 percent increase in salary retroactive to June 19, 2006; a 4 percent increase effective July 2, 2007; another 4 percent increase June 30, 2008; and a 4.5 percent raise June 29, 2009.

The contract expires June 30, 2010.

Fire department employees with an AA degree will also receive an additional 4 percent pay increase while employees with a BA degree will see their salary jump 7.5 percent.

The maximum benefit for employees enrolled in the City's Delta Dental program will jump from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year, according to the contract.

Fire employees will also receive an increase in the maximum hours that can be paid off for sick leave.

The Downey Firemen's Association represents 78 employees.

Time Traveler Amelia learned to fly in nearby South Gate

BY JOHN ADAMS
EDITOR EMERITUS

If Dorothy Ruether was the most local of early women aviators, and Pancho Barnes the wildest, there is no question that Amelia Earhart was the most famous.

Amelia set the most aviation records for her time by a woman. And if there was anyone in the civilized world who didn't know about her, the mystery of her disappearance in 1937 over the Pacific Ocean during an around the world flight soon made her the topic of enough newspapers, magazines and books to fill several libraries.

There is no mystery at all about where Amelia got her first lesson in flying. It was at old Kinner Field at Long Beach Boulevard and Tweedy Lane in nearby South Gate. The year was 1921, and the instructor was Neta Snook Southern.

Neta has said many times that Amelia, then 23 and a recent arrival after finishing college at Columbia, felt her family would take to her flying lessons more readily if the instructor was another woman. Neta said she helped convince the parents that aviation was all right. Indeed, Southern, herself only 24 at that time, became close to the young Amelia. They even double-dated on occasion, taking in films at the Pantages and driving back in an open-top Studebaker.

Southern recalled Amelia paying for those first flying lessons which cost \$1 per minute of airtime with World War I Liberty Bonds.

Little did Southern realize her student would go on to become the

See TRAVELER, page 4

Color guard performing Saturday

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Winter Guard placed fourth in their division in the prelims at the West Power Regional competitions last month in Las Vegas.

Their musical performance was choreographed by Lorenzo Medrano and is a combination of dance using flags, rifles and props.

The winter guard will perform again tomorrow, April 14, at Mayfair High School in Lakewood. The event is open to the public with an entrance fee allowing visitors to watch the all-day competition.

OLPH will receive school update

DOWNEY – The OLPH Women's Guild will host their next general meeting April 18 at the Parish Center.

Dianne Davis, Director of Development at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, will be the guest speaker. She will give an update on student achievements over the past year and plans for the upcoming 60th anniversary of the school.

Members of the OLPH student council as well as school cheerleaders will accompany her.

Lunch will be served at the meeting. A freewill offering will be taken. OLPH is at 10727 Downey Ave.

Moravian women holding yard sale

DOWNEY – The Moravian Women's Fellowship will have a yard sale April 28 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Moravian Church parking lot, with all proceeds going towards the ministry of the church.

The church is located at 10337 Old River School Rd. in Downey. For more information call (562) 927-0718.

Watercolor artist giving presentation

DOWNEY – Downey Art League and the Traditional Artist's Guild of Paramount will hold a joint meeting April 24 at Furman Park. The night's guest demonstrator will be Tom Fong, an internationally recognized watercolor artist.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and the public is invited. For information, call Ryo Terasaki at (562) 803-5857.

YMCA to tour classic car collection

DOWNEY – The Downey YMCA will tour the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar in June, where they will explore fully-restored classic cars, including Rolls Royces from 1913.

The tour, scheduled for June 21, costs \$35 and includes lunch, guided museum tour and bus driver gratuity. Lunch will be at Hometown Buffet.

The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. Reservations are due by May 7 and can be made by calling Tommy Sue at (562) 862-4201.

Networking group hearing Brian Adams

DOWNEY – Brian Adams of Endless Possibilities will speak on "Customer or Client?" at the April 24 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking at the Nordic Fox restaurant. The cost is an order from the menu.

To attend, RSVP with the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.



The 2007 Downey High School Color Guard will compete Saturday at Mayfair High School in Lakewood. The team includes, in particular order: Alda Vicencio, Heather Dawson, Yesenia Rodriguez, Abby Gilreath, Aby Aceves, Albert Antuna, Alejandra Rodriguez, April Garcia, Brandon Flores, Chelsie Osuna, Elishah Martinez, Elizabeth Rutherford, Gabriella Gillette, Holly Stafford, Joanne Kang, Karen Rodriguez, Kathy Stalling, Katlin Eveland, Kaylana Vithoulkas, Kurrisa Gruse, Lauren Perri, Mallory New Castle, Neyda Umama, Tiffany Finch and Will Lewis.



The Lakewood Ladies softball team, composed of girls primarily from Downey and surrounding communities, won two recent tournaments, including the St. Paddy's Day Tournament in Las Vegas and the Surf City Classic in Huntington Beach. The girls are now qualified to compete in the Triple Crown World Series to be held in Park City, Utah in June. Top row: Tina Iosefa, Eileen Melchor, Tatum Schultz, Arika Araujo, Loren Stavrou, Koral Costa and Sarah Fobbs. Bottom row: Breana West, Desire Romero, Rebecca Pool, Missy Taukeiaho, Ariel Carrillo, Haley (Georgie) Whitney, Sarah Magill and Nancy Bowling.

Leeds Mattress to open after a year of vacancy

■ Construction continues after applications are approved and permits are granted.

By Brooke Karli
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – What used to be Millennium Furniture at 8315 Firestone Blvd. is projected to be Leeds Mattress Store by May of this year, an opening that has been prolonged over a year due to permit problems, said David Blumenthal, Downey senior planner.

According to Blumenthal, county records indicate the property was purchased by Leeds Mattress in February 2006, which is when improvements to the building were being done without permits. When the City became aware of the construction, further improvements were put to a halt until permits were acquired.

A September 2006 Staff Report shows that Leeds Mattress submitted an application in August of 2006, "requesting to alter the facades and colors of the existing building." Alterations indicated in the report include the installation of new windows, doors and canopies, as well as repainting the entire building. Downey's Design Review Board approved the application a month later.

The Board also reviewed a Lot Line Adjustment application, which requested the combining of two parcels into one.

According to the Staff Report, the property where Leeds sits has two parcels: the first is 9,709 square feet (7,100 square foot commercial building plus six parking spaces at the rear of the building), and the second is 3,750 square feet with nine parking spaces accessible from Firestone Boulevard.

That application was also approved by the Board in September.

Since September, the building has been under construction and is expected to open next month.

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.

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Hospital accused of 'patient dumping'

■ Downey Regional Medical Center put patient in taxi cab to Los Angeles Mission. Accounts differ on whether he went willingly.

BY ERIC PIERCE
CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Was it another case of illegal "patient dumping" or just a misunderstanding?

Authorities are looking into whether Downey Regional Medical Center loaded an elderly homeless patient into a taxi cab and had him illegally dropped off in front of the Los Angeles Mission Wednesday in an investigation first reported by Fox 11 News.

The patient, identified by the hospital as Moses Davis, was spotted by a Los Angeles police officer exiting the cab still in his hospital gown. Davis reportedly told the officer that he had been "kicked out" of Downey Regional Medical Center.

"The man could barely walk, and he told me that he was still very sick and needed medical attention," Office Deon Joseph with the Los Angeles Police Department told Fox 11. "What we have here is a classic case of patient dumping, where a person who can't defend or care for himself was left alone in Skid Row. It's a disgusting situation."

Officials at the hospital, though, dispute the story. They say Davis left the hospital against medical advice and told them he had an apartment in Los Angeles.

"Mr. Davis was brought to our emergency room by ambulance on April 8 and was admitted," hospital spokesman Rob Fuller said. "On April 10, Mr. Davis indicated that he no longer wished to remain at Downey Regional and said he wanted to go back to his apartment. His admission information shows he gave us a home address on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles."

"He insisted on leaving and thereafter left the hospital against medical advice, refusing assistance. Several hours later a staff member noticed that Mr. Davis was sitting out front of the hospital on a bench. She went up to Mr. Davis and convinced him to come back into the hospital for an evaluation. Mr. Davis was taken to our ER and was medically evaluated."

"Our social workers then stepped in to arrange a suitable place for Mr. Davis to go," Fuller continued. "We offered to transport Mr. Davis to his apartment. At that point, Mr. Davis said he did not like the situation at the apartment and instead wanted to go stay with friends. We asked him for names, phone numbers and addresses, but Mr. Davis did not provide any information. Mr. Davis never said that he was homeless, but was unable to provide us suitable information on where he could go."

"[Wednesday] morning, our social workers contacted the Los Angeles Mission for Mr. Davis to get a bed ticket for a bed at the shelter for a minimum of 15 days," Fuller said. "The Los Angeles Mission representative confirmed to us that he had to be at the facility by 5:30 p.m. [Wednesday] to gain the 15-day guaranteed bed. We then offered this chance to stay at the Los Angeles Mission to Mr. Davis and he agreed. We arranged for a taxi to take him there around noontime."

Davis, reportedly in his 70s, ended up outside the mission, where he was picked up by police and taken to County-USC Medical Center.

Herb Smith, president of the Los Angeles Mission, reportedly refuted the hospital's story, telling Fox 11 that no one from the hospital called the mission.

"This was a case of someone who didn't want to be here and was left here without his permission," Smith told Fox 11.

Authorities are reportedly investigating the incident. Fuller said the hospital had not been contacted by investigators as of early Wednesday afternoon.



Curious George shares a book with (left to right) Andrew Eder, Eddie and Kyle Teats, and Samantha Eder. The monkey will be visiting the Downey Library at various times all next week in celebration of National Library Week.



Gallatin Elementary School will host a blood drive this Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to benefit fourth grade student Alondra Ramos. The drive is being coordinated by Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weight at least 110 lbs. Identification is also required. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. For information, call Maureen Portillo at (562) 622-6672.

Curious George swings into the library

DOWNEY – Curious George will visit the Downey City Library to celebrate National Library Week on April 15 at 2 p.m., April 17 and 18 at 10:30 a.m., and April 19 at 7 p.m.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library. For information, call the Children's Desk at (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

The 'Owls' look to improve health care

DOWNEY – The Rancho Owls, a group of seniors between the ages of 65 and 100, meet every Tuesday at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The group looks to improve communication between health care providers and seniors, promoting improved health care to seniors through education and advocacy. Their meetings provide peer support, education relating to aging and access to social services, as well as take field trips and partake in other recreational activities.

The Rancho Owls was started in 1983 by the Older Adult Health Services at Rancho.

A light breakfast and full lunch is served at each meeting. Transportation is also available to many surrounding areas.

For information, contact Jan Brady or Sherlyn Marsh at (562) 401-7402.

Boys & Girls Club gets Disney magic

BELL GARDENS – The Walt Disney Company donated eight seats to the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club to attend one of their concerts held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The gift was part of Disney's "Toyota Symphonies for Youth SY2" program, which exposes classical music and musical instruments to children. After the concert, the children were able to try out the instruments.

The Walt Disney Company also donated \$5,000 and 50 one-day hopper passes to the club, which serves Downey, Cudahy, Bell and Commerce.

Robert Rubio, chief professional officer of the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club, and Robyn Kotani accepted the donation outside Disney's California Adventure.

Variety show at local church

DOWNEY – The Downey stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites the community to a free variety show featuring local talent scheduled for April 14 at the church's campus, 12425 Orizaba Ave. (north of Imperial School.)

The show will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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.

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TRAVELER

Continued from page 1

famed female aviator who flew both the Atlantic and Pacific, both poles, and set many speed records, before being lost in the South Pacific while attempting to fly around the world.

Even after Amelia began setting records, she kept ties to aviation locally. Her plane was hangared at nearby Vail Field in what is now the City of Commerce. She was a member of several local flying clubs and knew Dorothy Ruether well.

To this day no one is sure what really happened to Amelia and her navigator, Fred Noonan. The most astute of aviation sleuths believe her Lockheed Electra airplane lies somewhere beneath the ocean off remote Howland Island. This is where logic places them if one follows Noonan's own navigational charts and the last radio communications from her and Noonan.

There have been other theories, some as wild as having her captured by the Japanese and held captive in the Imperial Palace until the end of the war. But these are for the romantically inclined.

Most experts believe Noonan simply missed Howland by about 20 miles. Amelia had radioed her plane was low on gas. If they had been 5 miles closer to the island they would have had visual contact. But those 5 miles, out of the thousands Noonan logged so errorlessly during the earlier part of the trip, proved their undoing.

Experts on the Earhart saga point out she was often so busy with public appearances that she didn't have time to practice flying. Noonan was known to drink on occasion. And Amelia had left some significant radio equipment behind, despite the advice of others.

This is not to say the flight was rash, but distance flights in the 1930s were still risky, involved some element of chance (for instance Howland wasn't exactly where her charts said it was), and Earhart's weakness was radio communications.

Records reveal that a Coast Guard vessel stationed off Howland picked up her last radio transmissions, but despite their best efforts to reach her on several radio frequencies, she apparently could not hear them.

So America lost its sweetheart of the air. But not the mystery surrounding her passage. That mystery has grown more with every year since its occurrence. Amelia is more than a female aviator today. She has become an aviation legend.

As a popular song penned shortly after her loss went:

*"There's a beautiful, beautiful field
far away in a land that is fair
Happy landing to you, Amelia Earhart
Farewell, first lady of the air..."*

Story originally published March 25, 1994

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.

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

TERM LIMITS

Continued from page 1

Opponents to the special election – tentatively scheduled for Nov. 6 – called the proposal "self-serving", questioned its cost and said any calls for changes to term limits should come from private citizens, not the council.

Gafin – who voted against the measure Tuesday – said he didn't agree with how the issue was being handled and "in good conscience" couldn't support it. Bayer echoed Gafin's comments, saying she felt the measure was being "shoved down her throat."

Cartozian said he has no intentions of running for a possible third term if the term limit revision is passed by voters. Cartozian and Trejo would be the first councilmen to be affected by a revision to term limits; both are scheduled to be termed out next year.

Guerra estimated a special election would cost taxpayers between \$70-\$80,000 but emphasized the city's million-dollar surplus.

City Clerk Kathleen Midstokke was out of the office this week, leaving it unclear exactly how much a special election would cost.

SHOOTING

Continued from page 1

Downey Police Chief Roy Campos said a suicide note was found inside the truck and it was Wong who initially called to report himself to police.

Four witnesses corroborated the police's account that Wong exited the vehicle with at least one gun, Campos said. Another witness, however, told the Los Angeles Times that Wong had both hands in the air when officers opened fire.

One pellet gun and one BB gun were recovered at the scene, Campos said.

It was unclear how many rounds were fired at Wong or if any shots were fired at the officers. The names of the officers involved in the shooting have not been released.

The case remains under investigation.

The Poets' Corner

High School Swim Team

Each their own version of a classic statue,
they await the starting signal.

Adonis and Aphrodite's moment in the sun,
At the sound they thrust forward like lances and part the water
in their best imitation of champions.

Event after event they stroke to the finish,
Then comes graduation when they leave safe waters
and dive into uncharted seas.

— Richard Thormodsen,
Downey

Eyes Of An Old Woman

I think my eyesight is changing
Can't see as well
Could I need
Stronger bi-focals
Or am I losing my sight

I'll take myself and
Drive down the road
To see the new Optometrist

Who will examine me
With the newest equipment
Just for eyes like mine
"The eyes of an old woman."

— Virginia L. Ingram,
Bell Gardens

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.

'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.

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You're Out!

By Eric Pierce

Take me out to the ball game.
On second thought, maybe not.
The Los Angeles Dodgers officially kicked off their summer-long gorge fest this week, offering ticket holders in the right field pavilions all-you-can-eat hot dogs, nachos, peanuts and soda for the relative bargain price of \$35. (Luckily, beer is not included.)

According to the Los Angeles Times, some fans are showing up early for games simply to eat more grub. Others were gathering food and taking it home to eat later.

Proceeds from the food sales will go towards installing extra wide seats and portable cardiac monitors for when people start dropping dead from heart attacks.

I jest.
If the all-you-can-eat experience is a success, surely it's only a matter of time before it spreads throughout all of baseball.

What's next? Deep-fried Cracker Jack?
Cotton candy on a stick?
Not all of the blame lies at the feet of the Dodgers; like any other American business, they're simply seeking ways to increase profit. In this case, they're taking advantage of contemporary man's knack for self-indulgence.

Gluttony is big business.
Bigger, even, it seems, than the ever-expanding waistline of Dodger fans.

Letters to the Editor:

Innocent until proven guilty

Dear Editor:
A particular article brought to our attention that a Downey resident, Antonio Gomez, was charged with, I believe, lewd acts on a minor ("Resident Charged With Lewd Acts On A Child", 3/30/07).

To be honest, every other time an accusation is brought up against a man for lewd acts with a child, I mentally convict him on the spot, partially because of the way the information is presented, and partially because I never hear news of a situation that was a false accusation.

I have thought in the past he is and has to be guilty, or why would he be charged? I have, in the past, left no possibility that the individual could have been maliciously framed by someone. It is not possible that his intentions were mistaken or misread. The girl must be telling the truth. That's just the way I've always felt, and I've always been wrong. Wrong to make a snap judgment about someone based on biased and tainted information that I've received via a media source. This case is no different.

The article in the Patriot – and everywhere else, for that matter – painted this individual, Mr. Gomez, as a tried-and-convicted sex criminal, not a person being charged with a crime and presumed innocent until proven guilty. *Proven guilty...not assumed guilty.*

I know this isn't a laughing matter by any stretch, but here's an example from that article in the Patriot that actually made me chuckle when I read it: There was a paragraph that mentioned police searching Mr. Gomez' house for evidence. So I was thinking, maybe if they'd uncovered child porn or some other evidence that would incriminate Mr. Gomez sufficiently. Maybe some emails, or letters, or lascivious websites. Maybe they found articles of clothing or DNA evidence linking Mr. Gomez to his accusers. But the only thing the article revealed was that the search turned up items that suggested maybe Mr. Gomez coached sports. Oh, my goodness, lock him up right now! Before you catch yourself saying, "Yeah, but..." remember, he is innocent until proven guilty.

Are you aware that in this case, as I understand it, originally one girl made these accusations against Mr. Gomez. Then later, more girls came forward to accuse him and support the original charge. But later, at a hearing regarding this case, the additional "victims" all recanted their accusations against Mr. Gomez. All of them except the original one. That tends to shed a new light on things in my eyes. Perhaps it was a group effort to frame Mr. Gomez, but the others, not having any way to prove something that may have never happened, backed out of the plot. I'm still waiting for news reports heralding this information.

Mr. Gomez may or may not be guilty of the things with which he is charged. I do not know. We'll discover that after a trial in a court of law takes place and all the actual evidence is offered for consideration and actual victims, if there are any, testify.

If he is guilty of the charges, then you can line up behind me to get a piece of him. But, if it turns out that this alleged victim is fabricating all of this, can we charge her with something? At the very least, can we splash her photo across all the papers and news channels and try her in the media? That's not likely. She'll walk away and go on with her life, while Mr. Gomez will have to deal with the debris from her accusations for the rest of his life. And what about his wife and children? What kind of hell do you think they're living in right now? Remember, we're all one accusation away from that same hell.

—S. Courtney,
Downey



Eight years is long enough

Dear Editor:
I would like to clear up some misconceptions in the letter to the editor of April 6 ("Stop the Name Calling", 4/6/07).

To quote, "By the way, our City Council does not get any pay for their countless hours devoted to our residents." In fact, each councilman gets a monthly stipend of \$665.49 plus another \$60 if they attend the two Community Development Committee meetings. They also get monies for attending other meetings that have to do with city business, travel, meal, and lodging expenses, just to name a few.

Anyone can find out how much money is paid out to councilmen for city business by requesting that information at City Hall.

I also disagree with the view that term limits have been a failure. Term limits have been a thorn in the side of people who want to make a career out of staying in the same political office, like a career councilman. Years ago, the citizens of Downey realized that the most important thing for getting elected to the city council was name recognition. Witness the amount of posters that were evident all over the city prior to the last council election. Once a person was elected, they had a huge advantage over any opponent because of this.

The same thing happens with term limits except most if not all councilmen serve the full eight years, but after eight years are termed out and someone else has a chance.

The citizens of Downey voted for the term limits we have now because they wanted council districts, not principalities. Something of note: if these jobs are so arduous, why are most of the people who are termed out trying to get back in?

Finally, I have nothing against Mr. Guerra or any other councilman. I just think eight years is enough time to do whatever they want to do.

—R.V. Rankin, Sr.,
Downey

Dear Editor:
With all due respect to Councilman Guerra, the city council should not move to add to the ballot in November to revise term limits.

Eight years in office is long enough for a councilman, whether effective or not. And quite frankly, without term limits, the citizens in Downey would be stuck with incumbents on the Council who have great advantage over challengers by virtue of being in office.

Incumbent councilmen have "run" for reelection unopposed, not because there is lack of interest by other citizens in the office. They run unopposed because they can't be beat in most cases.

Without term limits and open seats, the current council would also look very different. Without term limits, the proverbial "Good Old Boys" in this town would dominate the council and there wouldn't be seats for the like of Guerra and others. Keep term limits just the way they are.

—Brian Heyman,
Downey

Thank you for the correction

Dear Editor:
Thank you, Hugh T. Hoskins, I stand corrected concerning the location of Tahitian Village ("Fact Check", 4/6/07).

I have not thought of Tahitian Village for years and in my haste I did not state the correct location of Lakewood Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue.

—Catherine Reed,
Downey

Museum's take on term limits

Dear Editor:
I thought I would write to tell you my observations on term limits (and its affects on culture and cultural institutions.

Earmarks, line items, grants are all a political process, as you know, since the Space Museum has a lobbyist in Washington. For small institutions like Downey Museum of Art, a lobbyist at the moment is not an option. We rely on personal relationships formed with legislators and their staff.

Term limits adversely affect museums and other cultural entities because projects of importance often take years. Unfortunately, a term can be up in the middle of a project and you are forced to start all over again.

I can guarantee you that if Sally Havice was still in office, we would have had a line item a long time ago and had the Museum built. (Sally has called our project a model for cities and visionary). Unfortunately, she is not in state office. As to our City Council, the same process applies.

At the 2006 California Association of Museums Conference, legislative panel Assemblyman John Laird stated in so many words, along with lobbyists present (Lynch & Associates, as well as Townsend), that term limits were detrimental to the long-term success of museums.

We live in a democracy. If we want someone out of office then don't vote for them – instead, campaign heavily for their opponent. In a democracy, we don't have to limit good service.

For those of you who have served Downey for several years, you already have an inkling of what it means to have term limits. You have formed networks and alliances, become familiar with the terrain, and are much, more knowledgeable about the City of Downey than when you started.

Also, without term limits, re-election is wonderful leverage in negotiations, as you probably already know. I have actually heard people tell me, "We'll just wait 'til they're out of office," which illuminates the limitations of term limits.

The California Association of Museums has term limits also, and it has come up for discussion because the knowledge bank that will be leaving the board next year is profound. I was just appointed to Chair CAM's new Green Museums Initiative and am working like crazy to complete work as I have only one year left on the board and am charged along with the committee I chose to envision and implement this initiative to help all California Museums go green.

I hope my comments help you in your decision as to whether or not expand term limits. I actually would like to see them abolished completely as I see first hand that they work against good works and progress. The firewall for bad service is already in place – democracy and the right to vote.

—Kate Davies,
Executive Director, Downey Museum of Art


Thank you for kindness

Dear Editor:
On behalf of the Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey, I want to applaud the community spirit of several local businesses. Because of their kind and generous support to our Past Presidents Luncheon in March, our guests told us that this event was one of the best they had ever attended.

A big "thank you" to A Unique Florist, Café Opa, Carrow's, CVS Pharmacy, Gourmet Café, Joyce Fox, Martie's, Mimi's, Norm's, Payless Plumbing Service, Philly's Best, Pina Pizza, Sambu Restaurant, See's Candies, Sol Health Center, Vons, Visser's Florist & Greenhouse, Yung Lee Discount Store and 3rd Street Coffee.

—Paula Mayfield,
Downey

The Downey Patriot

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

April 13, 1943: The Jefferson Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
1964: Sidney Poitier wins an Academy Award for "Lilies of the Field," becoming the first African American in a leading role to win an Oscar.
1997: Tiger Woods becomes the youngest person to win the Masters Tournament. He was 21.
1999: Jack Kervorkian is sentenced to 10 to 25 years in prison for his role in an assisted suicide in 1998. Kervorkian had been convicted of second-degree murder.

Downey Community Calendar

Events For March/April

Sat. April 14: **Variety Show**, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7 p.m.
 Sun. April 15: **Curious George** visits Downey Library, 2 p.m.
 Mon. April 16: **"You've Got to Read This Book."** Downey Library, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: **Design Review Board**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: **Parking Place Commission**, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
 1st Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

Tuesdays

9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 928-2658.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
 7:30 p.m.: **Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines**, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, at Nordic Fox, for info. call (562) 923-2191.
 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square, for information call (562) 927-6438.
 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at 9968 Lakewood Blvd., for info call 862-3106.
 Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call 927-0271 or 861-3493.
 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, for information call 927-9790.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
 2nd Weds., 11:45 - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC. Call 927-8488.
 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
 Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

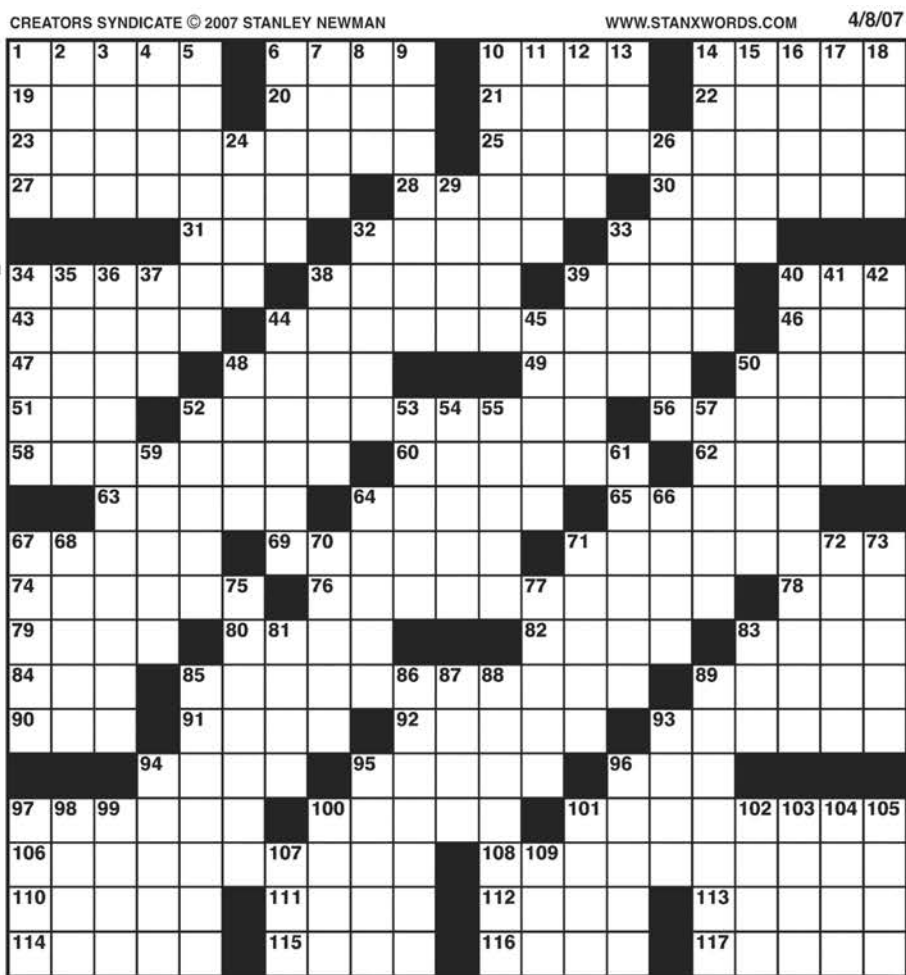
Fridays

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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
THE BIG 5-0: Celebrities who reach it this year
 by Sally R. Stein

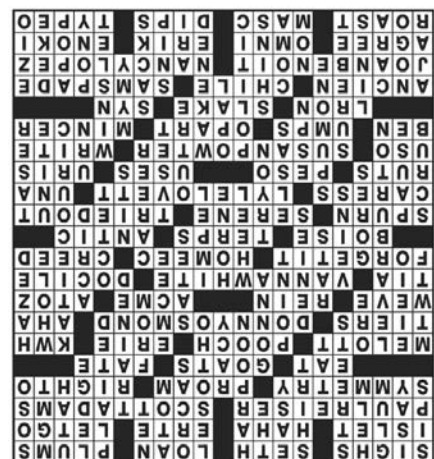
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| 58 Emphatic turndown | | 54 Gilda portraitrayer in <i>The Wiz</i> |
| 60 Cooking class, for short | | 55 Force to go |
| 62 Rocky Balboa opponent | | 57 Schuber's ___ in F major |
| 63 Western capital | | 59 Former Second Family |
| 64 Maryland team | | 61 Vocation |
| 65 Monkey business | | 64 Check for fit |
| 67 Turn down | | 66 What the particular pick |
| 69 Tranquil | | |
| 71 Took for a spin | | |
| 74 Soft touch | | |



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 67 Clean well | 83 Coffee server | 98 Cancelled |
| 68 Take a break | 85 Can't-miss proposition | 99 Turin term of endearment |
| 70 "___ Dream" (<i>Lohengrin</i> aria) | 86 Tactful | 100 Robin Cook thriller |
| 71 Den amenity | 87 October birthstone | 101 Presumptuous person |
| 72 Fuse | 88 Arose | 102 Pay, with "up" |
| 73 Stun gun | 89 <i>Titanic</i> star | 103 Each |
| 75 Trattoria dessert | 93 "What have we here!" | 104 Astronaut Slayton |
| 77 Bizarre | 94 Insulates, as a coat | 105 Singer Pinza |
| 81 <i>SportsCenter</i> broadcaster | 95 Kickers' targets | 107 Henri or Pierre |
| | 96 Picnic-race gear | 109 Onassis nickname |
| | 97 Slightly open | |

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.

MEL LOT (34 Across), the first National League with 500 lifetime home runs, stood only 5'9" and weighed about 170 pounds. Apollo CREEED (62 Across), portrayed by Carl Weathers, was the ring opponent of the title character in the first two "Rocky" films. UTAH Union in 1896, between Wyoming (1890) and Oklahoma (1907).



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

W e spend one third of our lives doing it. The world record for doing it the longest was 14 and a half days straight. They say that some artists in the Italian Renaissance were able to do it for 15 minutes every four hours, for a daily total of one and a half hours! I am referring, of course, to sleep.



automobile crashes each year are a result of drivers who fell asleep at the wheel. In one survey of drivers in New York State, approximately 25 percent reported they had fallen asleep at the wheel at some point. These types of crashes are especially common among young men; one large study found that in over 50 percent of fall-asleep crashes, the driver was 25 or younger. When clocks are turned back at the start of daylight savings time in Canada, the extra hour of sleep is actually tied to fewer road accidents!

Our lack of information about sleep may be due to the fact that sleep research has only recently gained widespread attention. A great deal remains to be learned through scientific studies, including an answer to the key question: What is the function of sleep?

Incredibly, the precise function of sleep remains a mystery, and yet it is critical for every normal body function. It is not just something to fill time with when you are inactive; sleep is an active process involving every major organ system. These processes may slow down, but they don't shut down. Sleep is required for survival; in fact, rats who underwent sleep-deprivation studies died within two to three weeks.

How do you feel when you're behind on sleep? Lack of sleep has been associated with difficulty concentrating, memory lapses, loss of energy, fatigue, lethargy, emotional instability, dangerous driving, workplace accidents, poor school performance and even difficulties with relationships. A large percentage of our population appears to have a problem with sleep. Researchers have classified more than 70 sleep disorders, the most common of which are sleep apnea, insomnia, narcolepsy, and restless legs syndrome. A very high percentage of those suffering from these disorders remain undiagnosed.

Problems with sleepiness can be deadly. Approximately 100,000

function according to a normal day/night schedule even if we try to change it. Those who work night shifts naturally feel sleepy when nighttime arrives. Similarly, when we travel across time zones, we experience jet lag.

How much sleep do we need? On average, most adults need seven to nine hours of sleep each night. The amount of sleep needed decreases with age.

A newborn baby might sleep for 20 hours a day, and the requirement drops to roughly six hours for elderly people. The problem is that as we grow older, it becomes difficult to get even this reduced amount. That is because the ability to sleep for long periods of time and to get into the deep, restful stages of sleep also decreases with age. Many older people have what is known as "fragile" sleep and are more easily disturbed by light, noise, pain, various health issues...and the need to run to the bathroom.

Try some of these tips to help get a better night's sleep:

- Exercise regularly (but not immediately before bed).
- Don't consume caffeine or even sugar after 4 p.m. This time varies for each of us. Avoid other stimulants like cigarettes as well.
- Avoid alcohol before bedtime. Alcohol disrupts the brain's normal sleep patterns.
- Allow your body to find a pattern with a regular bedtime and wake up time.
- Try to avoid using your bed for activities other than sleep, such as eating, reading, or watching TV.
- Stress is a major cause of insomnia. Leave your worries behind. Write them down before retiring for bed.
- Counseling and medications may be necessary. Consult with your physician.

I wish you all a good night's sleep, and pleasant dreams!

Diabetes sessions teach you how to care for yourself

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 April 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.

Hospice seeks local volunteers

DOWNEY – Companion Hospice Care is now recruiting volunteers for an upcoming training program slated to begin April 14.

Each applicant will receive 16 hours of orientation and training from a professional team who's goal it is to promote quality of life and comfort measures.

For information call Deanna Miles (562) 944-2711.



Downey Regional Medical Center had a table at the 49th annual Good Friday breakfast at the St. Bonaventure Hotel last week, an event co-sponsored by the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. From left are DRMC board members Kathy Bee Hampton, Karol Morrison, CEO Allan Korneff, Beverly Mathis, Hop Morrison and Chair Mary Lou Schmidt.

'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., followed by lunch.

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.

Cost of lunch is \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members. Temple Ner Tamid is located at 10629 Lakewood Blvd. For information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

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.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Stork Tour

Saturday, April 14, and May 12, 10 am – Noon

A free opportunity for expectant parents to learn more about DRMC's Family Birth Center. Registration is required, (562) 904-5580.

Childbirth Education

Mondays, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 7-10 pm

Lamaze is much more than breathing techniques! This four-week class will provide the expectant mother and her partner with key information on how to prepare for childbirth. Topics include signs of labor, relaxation techniques, pain management and what to expect during pregnancy and delivery. Classes fill up quickly so please register by the 5th month of pregnancy. Cost is \$75 per couple and registration is required. Please call (562) 904-5580.

Breastfeeding Workshop

Monday, May 7, 7 - 9:30 pm

This class is taught by a certified lactation consultant. It will focus on providing information for expectant parents on how to successfully breastfeed and overcome common breastfeeding troubles. Class fee: \$10. Advanced registration is required by calling (562) 904-5580.

Healthy Heart Nutrition Class

Wednesday, May 9, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Healthy food habits can help reduce three major risk factors for heart disease -- high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure and excess body weight. Learn about diet changes from a DRMC registered dietitian. Classes are free but registration is required. Please call (562) 904-5580.

Support Groups held at DRMC

Sarcoidosis - Saturday, April 28, 1 - 3 pm
Call (562) 809-8500 or (714) 739-4023

Grief & Loss Program - Saturday, May 5, 2 - 4 pm
Call Jim S. at (562) 949-3399

Overeaters Anonymous - every Monday, 6:30 - 8 pm
Call Alice at (562) 927-0887

Cancer Support Group - every Wednesday, 4 - 5 pm

Reduce stress & find more energy with "Fit Bodies, Calm Spirits" classes presented by certified instructors at the Downey Regional Medical Center Rehabilitation & Wellness Center. Registration is required at (562) 904-5551.

MONDAY

Free "Intro to Pilates" class
4:45-5:45pm (must pre-register)

Massage appointments
3pm - 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Yoga
5:15-6:15 pm

Massage appointments
3:00pm - 4:30pm

THURSDAY

Pilates (Beginners)
3:4 - 4:45pm

Club Fitness (NEW)
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Massage appointments
1pm - 4:30pm

FRIDAY

Massage appointments
3pm - 5:30pm

Pilates, Yoga and Club Fitness are 10 classes for \$70.00
Massage: 25 minutes (\$35.00)
50 minutes (\$60.00)

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Firestone Blvd., Downey
www.drmci.org

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H3815_07007E (10-06)

Music just one of life's essentials

By BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

Music has always been a part of my life. No matter what the occasion – whether doing household chores, completing homework or hosting a party – music is always being played in my home.

Even with advances in technology, my parents have encouraged my brothers and I to listen to a variety of music, buying us tape players, CD players and now, MP3 players.

We all have our own preference in music, but there are those few songs – Gladys Knight and The Pips' "Midnight Train to Georgia" and Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" – in which we all stop what we are doing to sing along.

Because of the exposure my parents have given us to music, we not only appreciate a variety of music, but also recognize that each genre has its own history and culture.

The Downey Patriot is looking to provide the same knowledge of music to its readers. We want to inform you of local bands and upcoming shows and tell the stories of musicians, young and old.

As I'm out and about throughout town each week, I hear restaurants, retail stores and car stereos blaring the likes of different generations. Just like clothing and taste of food, music says a lot about a person. And what a better way to find out more about our community – through music.

So if you are part of a band or know of a band that has members from Downey, or plays in Downey, let us know and we will get you acquainted with the sound of our city.

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. For information, call (562) 861-8507.



Charlotte Carpenter returns to the Downey Theatre for a fourth time as Nancy in "Oliver!," showing May 31 – June 17. Carpenter is an award-winning actress who has starred as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" and Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls" for the Downey Civic Light Opera. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714.



The new Goodwill in Downey hosted an Easter Bonnet Parade on April 7. Pictured are (left to right) store manager Andrea Munden, bonnet designers Melissa Silas and son Daries, the Easter Bunny, and bonnet designers Maria Acuirre and daughter Brandy. Photo by Co-Op Cache Consulting.

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 off of 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.

CSULB presenting weekend of music

LONG BEACH – The Cal State Long Beach Department of Music and the CSULB Opera Institute will present Leonard Bernstein's "Candide" at the campus' University Theatre April 13-15.

A special "meet the artist" reception is also planned for April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Anatol Center.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 students and seniors. The box office's phone number is (562) 985-7000.

Museum explores California art

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) will present "SoCal: Southern California Art of the 1960s and 70s from LACMA's Collection", an exhibition that explores the myth of California – and particularly that of Southern California – beginning in August.

With approximately 50 objects, "SoCal" will feature a wide-range of works by Robert Irwin, from oil paintings made in the early 1960s to an ethereal acrylic column and disk from the end of the decade that incorporates light and shadow into its essence.

A room-sized installation by Doug Wheeler will offer an experiential environment in which light takes on a three-dimensional existence. The polished polyester geometries of John McCracken, the Plexiglas relief sculpture of Craig Kauffman, the cast resin objects of Peter Alexander and the coated glass creations of Larry Bell will also be exhibited.

The LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. For more information, including museum hours and ticket prices, call (323) 857-6000.

'Visiting Mr. Green' a comedic drama

LONG BEACH – "Visiting Mr. Green", a comic drama about the lives of two New York City opposites, opens April 21 at the Long Beach Playhouse. It will run through May 26.

"Visiting Mr. Green" chronicles the relationship of two men: a cantankerous, disorientated 86-year-old widower living in poverty in a New York City apartment, and a 25-year-old gay corporate executive. Brought together by court order after the younger man drives into Mr. Green as he crosses the street, they have conflicts in lifestyle, values and expectations.

Mr. Green is a packrat, surrounded by months of unread mail, decades of crumbling telephone books and an isolation anchored only by his traditional Judaism. Ross, also Jewish but not observant, is a neat freak and a spendthrift.

After a rocky start, the two learn not only to coexist but also to peel back the layers of their emotions, face their own demons, and use each other's strengths to conquer them.

Ticket prices for opening night are \$25, which include a champagne reception following the performance. Regular ticket prices are \$22 or \$20 for seniors. Student ticket prices are \$12 for Friday and Saturday shows with valid student ID.

Gigi Fusco Meese directs the production which features Kenneth Bridges and Christopher Zener.

For more information call the box office at (562) 494-1014.

Authors will sign books at conference

NORWALK – Saints of Value World Ministries in Norwalk will host the "I am Alive" conference on April 29, which will include singing, dancing and a book signing by authors Paul and Gail Caprietta.

The Capriettas are the authors of four books with another due this November, "Crisis in the Church."

To RSVP or more information, call (562) 806-0969.

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PATHFINDER R	(11:15 1:50 4:25) 7:00 9:35
PERFECT STRANGER R	(11:00 1:45 4:30) 7:15 10:00
REDLINE PG13	(11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
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 3:55) 9:05
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
THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2 R	(1:30) 6:40

April 21, 2007 Time: 9:00—12:30

Healthy Kids Day

Camp & Summer Child Care sign up

Events: RockWall (9:00-11:00), 3 point basketball shootout, arts & crafts, bouncer, face painting, demonstrations of Y classes, games and free food.

Location: Downey YMCA Front Parking Lot

Downey Family YMCA
11531 Downey Ave.
Downey, CA 90241
(562)862-4201
www.ymcala.org
Contact Person: YMCA Staff

Abril 21, 2007 Horario: 9:00-12:30

Dia de la Salud del Niño

Inscripciones para Campamentos y guardería de niños en el verano.

Downey Family YMCA
11531 Downey Ave.
Downey, CA 90241
(562)862-4201
www.ymcala.org

Persona a contactar: YMCA Staff

Eventos: Escalar una pared de piedra (9:00-11:00), tiro de baloncesto, artes y manualidades, brincolín, maquillaje, demostración de clases ofrecidas en el YMCA, juegos y comida gratis.

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PERFECT STRANGER R	(11:15, 2:00, 4:45), 7:25, 10:20
GRINDHOUSE R	(12:00, 4:00), 8:00
THE REAPING R	(11:55, 2:30, 5:00), 7:35, 10:05
ARE WE DONE YET? PG	(11:45, 2:10, 4:55), 7:30, 9:55
FIREHOUSE DOG PG	(11:05, 1:40, 4:25), 7:05
BLADES OF GLORY PG-13	(11:50, 2:15, 4:40), 7:25, 9:50
MEET THE ROBINSONS PG	(11:20, 1:50, 4:20), 7:10, 9:40
SHOOTER R	9:45 PM
TMNT PG	(12:15, 2:40, 5:00)
300 R	7:20, 10:10

Times for Friday-Thursday, April 13-19, 2007

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'See 'ya later alligator!' Kids see exotic animals up close at city library

BY BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Over 100 hundred kids and parents anxiously crammed into the Cormack Room at the Downey City Library on Wednesday to see and learn about the animals visiting from Wild Wonders Productions, an event celebrating National Library Week.

As the room grew louder with the chatter and laughter of kids of all ages, some of the animals had something to say too.

"Squaaaaaaak!" screamed Tango the Macaw. (She was later referred to as the 'alarm clock of the jungle').

Then there was rustle and bustle from a blue container where Rollie-Pollie, a South American Armadillo, was rolling about.

The kids giggled at the noises they heard, while one little boy worried, "I think something might kill me!"

Michele Stone, who has been with the production company since 1995, overheard him and whispered, "I haven't lost one yet."

Stone introduced each animal as she brought them out, telling of their habitats, extinctions and appetites.

Sheila, a blue-tongued skink, is from Australia and has such a name because, well, she has a blue tongue. Sugar Mama the Chinchilla is one of very few left in the world, primarily due to Chinchilla fur being used for coats, emphasized Stone. And Baby, the 20-pound Boa Constrictor, eats small mice and rats on a daily basis.

The kids oohed and awwed at the sights of each animal, sometimes having the opportunity to touch the animals if they answered a question correctly.

"Who can tell me one difference between crocodiles and alligators?," Stone asked.

"Crocodiles have crazy teeth and alligators have nice, straight teeth," answered a little boy in the front row.

"Very good! Now come up and tell everyone what Creole (a North American Alligator) feels like," said Stone.

"He feels like wet paint," he exclaimed.

The presentation not only introduced wild animals to the kids, but also informed them of how important it is to recycle and take care of the animals and their habitats.

"Always remember the 'R' word," Stone said. "RECYCLE!"

Wild Wonders Productions has brought their program to schools, libraries, birthday parties and corporate events since 1991. Their 125 animals come from in-house breeding, zoos, illegal confiscations, and drop-offs by pet owners.

Wild Wonders is located in Carlsbad and are currently in the process of permitting small tours of their facility.

For information on Wild Wonders Productions, visit their website at www.wildwonders.org.

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. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For information on either, call Bernice Thies at (562) 706-3703.



Over 100 Downey children had the opportunity to see -- and touch -- rare and exotic animals at the Downey City Library this week. The event was part of National Library Week. Photos by Brooke Karli

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.

Emblem Club taking bus to Pechanga

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

The bus will be departing from the Downey Elks Lodge parking lot at 8 a.m. and will returning around 5 p.m. Cost is \$6 for members and \$11 for non-members.

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

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New on DVD this week
MOVIES
Forgiving Dr. Mengale
Freedom Writers
The History Boys
The Last King of Scotland
National Lampoon's Pucked
Notes on a Scandal
Off the Black
Smokin' Aces
Verdict on Auschwitz
TELEVISION/MISC.
Happy Days - Season 2
Laverne & Shirley - Season 2
Mork & Mindy - Season 2
Murder, She Wrote - Season 6
Source: Box Office Mojo

New CD's this week
Nine Inch Nails - Year Zero
Avril Lavigne - The Best Damn Thing
The Cowboy Junkies - At the End of Paths Taken
Clay Walker - Fall
W.A.S.P. - Dominator
Rob Thomas - Little Wonders
Source: Amazon.com

Granata's **Getting Great Reviews!**
Garlic Flat Iron Steak & Pasta Dinner \$15.99
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Chris Glik will be performing every Friday at 6:30 pm
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Local Concerts this week
FRIDAY, APRIL 13
Chicago - Pechanga
Haunted - HOB Anaheim
Say Anything - HOB Hollywood
Ted Leo & The Pharmacists - El Rey Theatre
Tommy Shaw - Coach House
Ying Yang Twins - Galaxy Concert Theatre
SATURDAY
Chicago - Pechanga
Greyskull - Henry Fonda Theatre
Sippy Cups - HOB Anaheim
Sounds Elective Evening - Gibson Amphitheatre
Nekromantix - HOB Hollywood
SUNDAY
moe. - HOB Hollywood
Guru's Jazzmatazz - El Rey Theatre
Sarah Silverman - Grove of Anaheim
WEDNESDAY
Tristan, Isolde - Walt Disney Concert Hall
L.A. Blues Alliance - HOB Hollywood
THURSDAY
Common Sense - HOB Anaheim
Eddie Money - HOB Hollywood
Source: Casenet

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
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Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery
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For a location near you, visit www.mariecallenders.com.

Blasius Duhansky passes away at 90

DOWNEY – Blasius Duhansky, a 51-year Downey resident, passed away at home on April 6. He was 90.

Duhansky was born Feb. 2, 1917 in Queens, New York. A member of Faith Lutheran, he retired from landscaping after 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Rose; sons, Martin and Eddie; daughters, Jean and Marie; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held today, April 13, at noon at Miller-Mies Mortuary. Burial will follow at Downey Cemetery. Visitation was held Thursday.

Margaret Acquistapace had her own company

DOWNEY – Margaret Acquistapace, Downey resident for 50 years, passed away Easter Sunday at the age of 83.

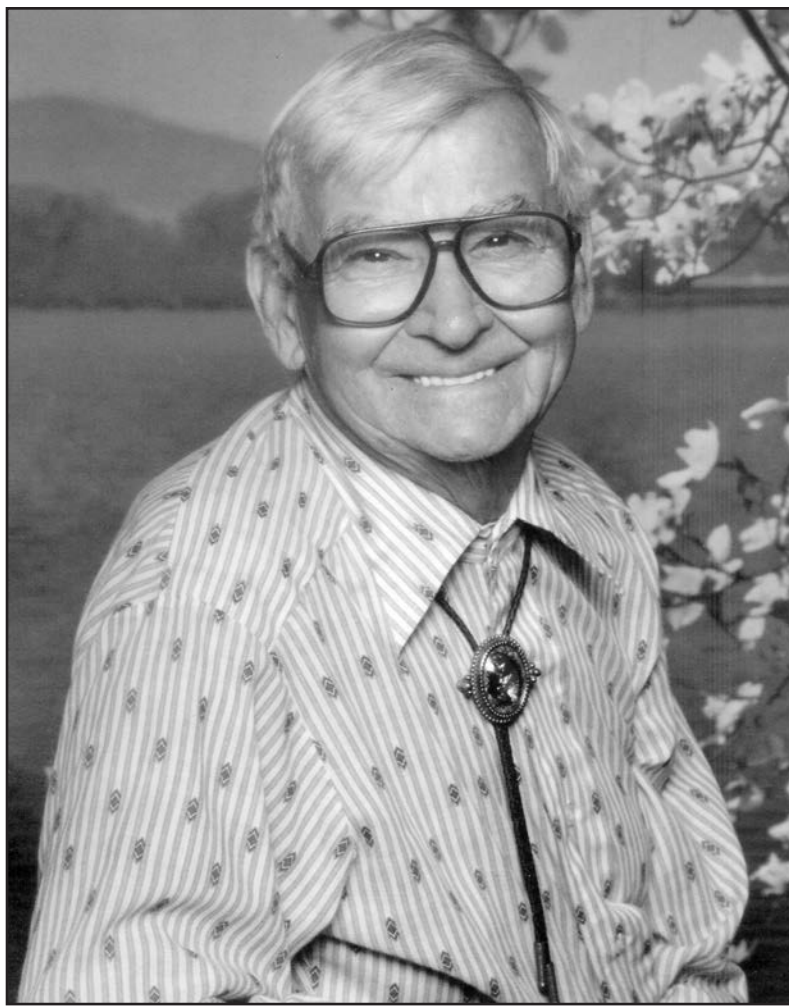
Born in Los Angeles on August 23, 1923, Acquistapace was a member of the Catholic Church and learned shorthand, stenography, tax preparation, accounting and several languages. She also attained the certification of a National Enrolled Agent, adding to her career as a professional executive assistant. She later began her own business management company in Hollywood, consulting a variety of people that included actors, writers and production companies.

Acquistapace belonged to the Downey Christian Women's Club, International Toastmistresses Club, Italian Catholic Federation, and Catholic Women's Guild, also contributing to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Downey.

She is survived by brothers Louis and Guido.

A vigil was held on Wednesday at Miller-Mies Mortuary and services were on Thursday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Downey.

The family was assisted by Miller-Mies Mortuary of Downey.



Blasius Duhansky was 90 when he passed away Feb. 6. He will be buried today at Downey Cemetery.

'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.

Virginia K. Rose worked for telephone company

DOWNEY – Virginia K. Rose, a 25-year resident of South Gate, passed away on Easter Sunday at the age of 85.

Rose was born in Pittsburgh, Penn. and was a former employee of Bell Telephone Company.

She is survived by husband, Robert, and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be held tomorrow, April 14, at St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Downey at 10 a.m.

Council approves 7th St. subdivision

BY HENRY VENERACION
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The request by owner Edgar Ruballo to subdivide his one existing parcel of land, located at 7960 7th St. and zoned R-5000 (Single Family Residential), into two lots was approved by the City Council Tuesday, over the protestations of a few vocal residents.

Those against the subdivision raised various concerns, including: 1) neighbors' loss of privacy, afternoon sunlight, wildlife and, with an eye to architectural preservation, the loss of a beautiful home; 2) profit-oriented absentee ownership, allowing "strangers" to inhabit the place without regard for neighbors' sensibilities or negative impacts on water usage and emergency services; and 3) projected parking nightmare due to increased number of vehicles.

The request was previously turned down by the Planning Commission, but the lot owner appealed. On further review, and after consultations with the relevant parties, the Commission recapitulated and recommended that the appeal had merit, based on: 1) proposed subdivided parcels adequately meet minimum lot size and lot depth (zoning) requirements, and therefore meet density and consistency standards; 2) lot(s) is/are consistent with the city's General Plan, and that architectural considerations, at this stage, are beside the point; and 3) the decision's impact on the housing needs in the region were weighed against residents' public service needs, together with "available fiscal and environmental resources."

In other action the Council: •Awarded a cash contract to Sully-Miller for \$497,840 for residential street pavement rehabilitation and appropriated \$120,000 in gas tax funds;

•Accepted the improvements and maintenance responsibility for Lakewood Blvd. Phase IA

•Adopted a resolution approving the submittal of the "Vehicle Speed Feedback Signs," "Pedestrian Countdown Indicators" and "School Area and Pedestrian Crossing Signage Replacement" applications for funding under the Highway Safety Improvement Program, coordinated by Caltrans;

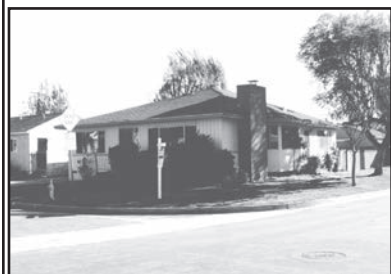
•Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding regarding salary increases, etc. between the City of

See COUNCIL, page 11

EXPOSED! What Many Drug Companies Don't Want You To Know About Headache Relief

Downey, CA – A newly released free report reveals what leading medical research has proven to be a very effective headache treatment. This free headache report reveals why headache sufferers have been left in the dark for so long and how they can finally live free of over-the-counter medication once and for all. To receive your free copy mailed to you today, call the toll-free, 24-hour headache hotline at **1-888-368-6265**.

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Price reduced on this 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Downey home with family room, living room with fireplace. New paint and carpet, 1,568 sq. ft., lot size 5,870. New price \$539,000.



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CHAMPANERI

Continued from page 1

school ("One of the best in England") he was attending was paid a visit by Queen Elizabeth. The students' gifts to the Queen included a collage by Raj that wove the Royal Family's coat-of-arms into that of a car. Word filtered back that the Queen complimented his offering, further stoking his creative fires.

Acceptance later into the prestigious and world-renowned Lanchester School of Art and Design, after one of only 40 that year chosen from among hundreds of applicants from throughout Europe, was a further boost to his confidence in his burgeoning artistic bent. The syllabus included economics and such practical subjects as business management and real estate. The latter subject was a routine topic at home, as his mother, a former teacher in Bombay (now Mumbai), dealt in real estate even then.

This artistic-business combination has served Raj well indeed. Most people in his position — because of a solid upbringing, a first-class education, unlimited prospects — would take the money and run. Not Raj. For some not really fully articulated reason, for years now, he has put his art and design work mainly in the service of a higher art—altruism.

Raj doesn't really know why he gives his time, talent, and services to charities, especially those benefiting disadvantaged children around the world—free of charge—but he has, unselfishly, generously done so, because his mother especially inculcated in him such ideals early. He says simply, "I am blessed with this special talent and I have been able to provide such entertainment to all kinds of people, from children to adults (a beneficiary, for instance, is the Chabad Telethon for Families in L.A., as well as the Union Mission)." He adds, "Everyone has something to say...I am even more blessed that I can use my gifts for so much good. I give because I want to, and I can."

Even as he encountered Princess Diane at one time, who was heard to say she liked his work, Raj at another time once presented Prince Charles with a unique "potion" Aston-Martin diamond-sprinkled painting. He says mischievously that the Prince of Wales, "speaking in his usual clipped, convoluted, undecipherable manner," said: "Raj makes every showcase an individual experience and fine example of pieces of substance and movement. It sounded good, but what

did he mean by that?"

Hollywood royalty has also enthusiastically embraced Raj and his art. Walt Disney said of his work: "Raj is a multi-talented and experienced design artist, who has been blessed with rare skill and vision, balancing engineering and imagination to create each meticulously sculptured masterpiece. The details of Raj's work are remarkable and sophisticated." This from Frank Sinatra, for whom Raj made a metallic painting: "Raj prepares every piece from the ground up, with several stages of planning and preparation. This is the reason Raj's work is exceptionally executed and unique." William Shatner: "Raj's creativity is endless as to the choice of venues, thus making his art work unique and exceptionally adaptable within its environment."

George Lucas, who has become a close acquaintance and collaborator, has described Raj's work as "remarkable, carnival-like." It is an apt description of Raj's most recent art work done in conjunction with the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach that will play out this weekend. Usually these annual donated paintings are signed by celebrities who attend such events, and then auctioned off, with the proceeds going to different charities or foundations. This year, attuned to the kids at one of Raj's favorite charities, the Miller Childrens Hospital of Long Beach, his acrylic painting, "Long Beach Grand Prix 2007" features a Smiley face and a racing car looking like a piñata, is being donated straight to the hospital. Lucas is the lead celebrity signer.

Raj's artwork has three categories: Exotic Mishaps, consisting of smashed-up model cars which end up looking like real violent mishaps through his use of micro hand tools, hydraulic presses, blow torches, metal tools, metal grinders, etc.; GoldGraphs, paintings which he originally rendered in gold leaf on black linen paper, and which have evolved using a number of colors and different variations of gold, to silver, to metallics, including holographic metallic foils, such pieces prepared as one unique, single piece of work, or as a limited edition collection; and his Potion Paintings, unique 'potions' of gold and diamonds, each piece utilizing exotic alloys, with precious metals (gold, platinum, titanium, brass, copper), including the use of fine particles of diamonds, sapphires and/or emeralds, and using age-old steel



Raj Champaneri with one of his autographed pieces of art, which he routinely donates to various charities.

nibs ("These have found their way into many homes and castles around the world").

A rough estimate of the total value of donated artworks that have found their way around the world over the years, Raj says, would be in the range of at least \$2 million. He hasn't materially profited by this largesse, except "for an occasional commission here and there" and also forming so many friendships around the globe that "I can go anywhere today and probably find a cordial soul." In any case, he has relatives in Germany, Switzerland, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and others that "I need not worry about a place to stay at those places." His personal travels have taken him to North Africa, most of Europe, parts of Asia, and most of the United States.

He says: "There are some places here that fairly resemble those found in Europe. And I find the people here in America generally more accommodating than those in certain parts of Europe. I like Downey. I settled here in Downey from England. I find it a good place in which to live and work. It has in fact gotten better in the last few years. I think it offers a lot more than other cities."

Taking after his dad, son Spencer, 13, who attends St. Mark's

once was prompted to set up a lemonade and cookies stand to raise money for some charity through CNN. On his banner was scrawled, "Kids helping kids," not realizing that a real foundation bearing that title really existed. He thought the title was his original idea. "To a small kid," Raj says, "that was something." Anyway, Spencer and his pals raised \$300-\$400 that day.

Raj goes on: "My wife, Dawn, is probably more generous than I." Dawn is Swedish, with red hair. "My parents are kind and compassionate, too" says Raj, noting that they live in West L.A. A younger brother, who is in the hotel business, is a "neighbor to the stars" in Brentwood, among them one Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Other celebrities Raj has met/encountered in the course of this charitable work include Paul Newman, Danny Glover, Tom Jones, Mario Andretti, and Jim Carrey ("Now there's a real funny guy.")

Closer to home, Raj designed the float of Santa in a futuristic sleigh that won first prize in the Holiday Lane Parade two years ago. He says, among other things, he has chaired Boy Scouts Downey Troop II. A convert to the Catholic Church, he once donated an art piece to St. Raymond's. The art

COUNCIL

Continued from page 10

Downey and the Downey Firemen's Association, which represents some 78 employees;

- Approved the appointment of Pat Smith to the Library Advisory Board for Council District 4;

- Adopted an ordinance approving certain agreements between the City of Downey and the Community Development Commission of the City of Downey related to ongoing services and public works projects;

- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 4118 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to on-street parking of vehicles for sale;
- Presented City Pins to Miss Downey/Miss Teen Downey and their Courts;

- Presented a Certificate of Appointment to Irma Landesfeind as a member on the Library Advisory Board for Council District 2;

- Proclaimed April 15-20 as National Library Week;

- Proclaimed April 5 as International Day of Comedy and

March 29-April 30 as Aprilfest Comedy Marathon Month; and

- On a 3-2 vote (with Councilmembers Dave Gafin and Anne Bayer against), agreed to consider a Charter amendment regarding Council term limits, and directed staff to take administrative steps towards a ballot initiative for Nov. 6, 2007.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

Nominations taken for kids hall of fame

DOWNEY -- Nominations are being taken for the Kids Day Hall of Fame, which honors the extraordinary achievements of Downey's youth.

Kids should be in grades K-12 to be eligible.

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

work eventually fetched, he heard, at least \$75,000. Sundays, acting as Eucharistic Minister for the hospital here, Raj gives communion to the sick.

Raj is also down-to-earth, practical. A former deputy real estate commissioner, he says although the present real estate picture is not so good now, and people have to deal with escalating interest rates, an uncertain job market, and the current gas prices situation, the industry is cyclical and should rebound sometime down the road. When is the question.

His firm, Real Estate Specialists, is located here in Downey and is, he says "my bread-and-butter." He says over the years, his firm has introduced a few innovations. This year he is introducing to the Downey market what he calls the "One Percent Program," (instead of the usual 3 percent commission structure), which will help real estate sellers save money and enable them to provide more service to clients.

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GARAGE SALE

SAT. & SUN.
April 14-15. Huge garage sale, 3 families, everything must go. Leaving the country. Computers, tons of toys, furniture, VCRs, TVs, tables, chairs, kitchen, bath, bed, DJ equipment, video equipment, vintage clothing, stereos, cars, rugs, lamps.

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GARAGE SALE

Lots of good stuff, bunk bed set with mattresses, TV's, clothes & lots of other stuff! Sat. April 14 & Sun. April 15.

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

Not only are everyone's teeth not the same color, different teeth in your mouth normally differ in shade. On top of that, no matter what color your teeth are, your "eye teeth" (cuspid or canine teeth) are likely to be darker than the rest. The front teeth tend to be the whitest, and the back teeth tend to be a shade between the two. The dentist will take this variation into account when whitening an individual tooth. As far as overall tooth whitening is concerned, many procedures claim to be able to whiten teeth up to nine shades. A change of only two to three shades will make a significant difference in just about anyone's smile.

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P.S. Tooth color can range from reddish brown, reddish yellow, and reddish gray to gray.

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The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to commencement and graduation ceremonies. For only \$30.00, you can honor your graduate with a 1.986" by 3" announcement. They will be listed by school and by name. Call and reserve your space today **(562) 904-3668**

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Anaheim

3 br, 2 bath, fireplace, central a/c, hardwood floors, approx. sq. ft. 1,306. Great starter home in a nice quiet area.

Chris Camarena 562-863-0799



Beautiful home in Downey!

3 bedroom, 2 baths, 1,950 sq ft. of living space.

Oscar Mendoza (323) 842-6222



Great Highland Park Area North Of York!

This house features 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms with oversize living and dining room, hardwood floor underneath the carpet, spacious kitchen w/ lots of cabinets, long driveway, new garage w/drywall and insulation, large backyard with mature Orange and Guava trees. Guest house 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom.

Luis Estrada (323)633-1527



Seller Is Motivated, Buyer's Opportunity

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1,456 sq. ft. family room with fireplace, lot size is 7,349 sq. ft. Laundry room inside, two car attached garage. Seller is willing to pay closing cost and is very motivated on selling. Great opportunity for you to buy!

Abraham Garnica 562-755-7696



Excellent Opportunity 2 Units In L.A.

Front house is 3 bed, 2 bath and in great condition. Back house is 1 bed, 1 bath and currently renting for \$1,000 per month.

Leo Melendez (562)207-7934



Bright Open Floor Plan

3 bedroom, 1 bath, lovely fireplace, kitchen with breakfast bar, formal dining room and a spacious backyard. Seller will help with closing cost.

Bogar Bonilla (562) 228-9168



3 Units - Clean & Well Maintained

(2) 1 bedroom & 1 bath, (1) 2 bedroom & 1 bath. All will be vacant at the close of escrow.

Julio Bonilla (562) 355-8060



Priced To Sell

3 bd, 3 ba home w/ 1,500 sq. ft. of living space. Priced to sell at \$460,000.

Louie Plascencia 562-552-0012



Great Starter!

2 bed, 1 bath, 1 car garage with room to grow. Price at \$475,000. luis@remaxonline.com

Luis Martinez 562-208-1737



Lynwood Home For 2 Families

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath + den on 7,800 sq. ft. lot with a very long driveway. Hard to find. A must see!! Call today to see.

Mel Lopez (310) 635-5662



West LA 405 Fwy. & Pico

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fireplace, pool, 1,425 sq. ft. of living space on 6,440 sq. ft. lot. Completely remodeled inside and out.

Luis Guevara 310-704-6298



Perfect Family Starter

Great property in Long Beach offers spacious living room with formal dining room in kitchen, copper plumbing, up-graded electrical, nice curb appeal with sprinkler system, newer roof. Located in DeForest Park tract, makes this home very desirable for a growing family. Price at \$424,900 to move fast!

Tony Yezpe (562)712-9631

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2 bedrooms, 1 bath each
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5 bedrooms, 3 baths,
approx. 2,800 sq. ft. corner
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some closing costs. Asking
\$928,000. Call for more info.
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2 bedrooms, 1 bath,
7,560 sq. ft. lot.
Asking price \$569,950.
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Brookmill

BRAND NEW HOME IN LOS ANGELES

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
will be complete in February.
Owner may help with closing
costs. Priced at \$410,000.
Make an offer today, call
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Hickory

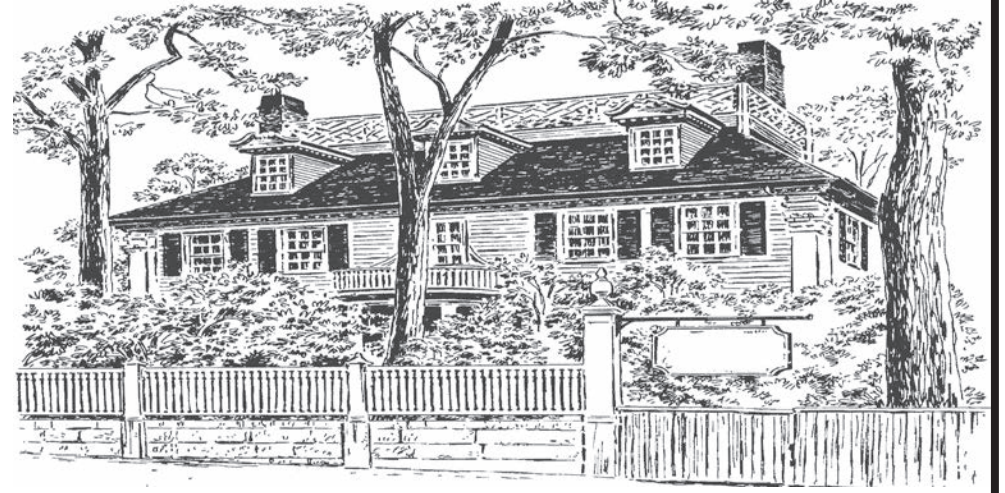
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The Downey Patriot



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THE CLIENTS

THE FANS OUR CLIENTS

#1 "Brain Holden was my agent to purchase a home. Brian did a good job. He was attentive, on top of things and very aggressive." -Jesus Crespo

#2 "We really liked our real estate associate Valerie Reese. She helped us find our home and did a great job. We will definitely use Valerie again." -Diane Sullivan

#3 What a great job Lorena Amaya and Lilian Lopez did as our Realtors. I am just so happy and happy to recommend others to them." - Maria and Jose Yanez

MVPs OF THE MONTH

TOP LISTING
Leandra Tejada
(323) 314-9063

TOP PRODUCTION
Maria Cibrian
(562) 746-8832

TOP SALES
Brian Holden
(562) 964-0520

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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

Open Spacious Floor Plan
Nice North Downey neighborhood is home to this much loved abode kitchen, living room, family room & dining area are all in open great-room set up. There are 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms, a permitted guest house is in the back with separate entrance, living room, bedroom, full bath with dual sinks, laundry hook-ups, 2 water heaters, central air throughout.
(562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com

Bob the Builder Spared No Expense
Brand new home built with the finest construction, spacious home in North Downey, 6 Bedrooms - 2 of them are master bedrooms - 5 Bathrooms, very large kitchen with island and built-ins, high ceilings with crown molding.
(562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com

Mr. and Mrs. Clean Have Been Here
Nice home all clean and ready for new owners, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, formal dining room, new solid wood cabinets, central air and heat, granite counter tops and newer solid wood cabinets.
(562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com

Plant Yourself Here
Great starter home for someone, move in condition home, with 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom and a 2 car garage. Very nice neighborhood.
(562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com

The Bluest Skies Are Here
Enjoy fresh air, pine scented trees and mountain living in this Big Bear City home. This is the Whispering Forest Development, Mountain views, 3 Bedrooms, 1.75 Bathrooms, many newer upgrades, including carpet and paint.
(562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com

Shake That Piggy Bank
Get ready for this great opportunity! This home is in a nice neighborhood on a large lot and has great potential with 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom and a huge backyard.
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Below Market Price
Enjoy the deal on this remodeled 3 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom, 2 car garage. In move in condition and in a nice neighborhood.
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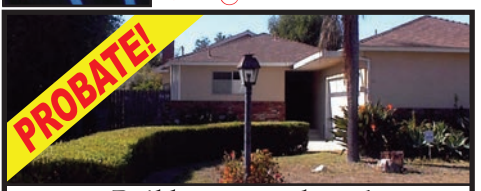
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R-2 Zone 13,910 Sq. Ft. Lot with 2 BD, 1,267 Sq. Ft. house
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Call Vicki Spearman Today @ 562-367-9520

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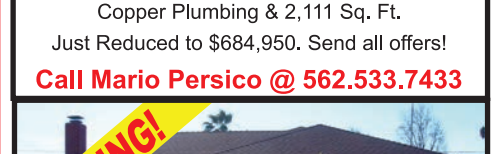
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One Of Downey's Finest Complexes!
This condo features 3 BD, 3 BA, 1,541 Sq. Ft. needs new paint & carpet.
Price to sell @ \$474,900
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Best Priced Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey!
4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft.
Just Reduced to \$684,950. Send all offers!
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In Escrow!!
This super clean home features 3 BD, 2 BA, hardwood floors, newer roof, freshly painted, central air, and so much more. Move In Ready!!! \$599,950
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SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!
Close To The Beach
3 Bd, 2 BA, 1875 Sq. Ft over 6000 Lot located in Beautiful Huntington Beach!
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Mario: Born in Downey/Raised in Downey Lives in Downey/Worships in Downey
*** SELLS DOWNEY ***



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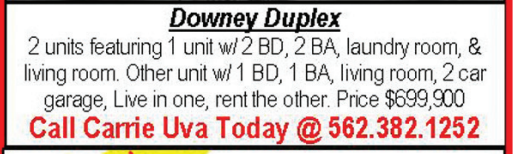
A Super Buy!
Lovely 3 BD, 1 BA home near Warren High School with super large backyard.
Priced to Sell \$499,900
Call Carrie Uva Today @ 562.382.1252



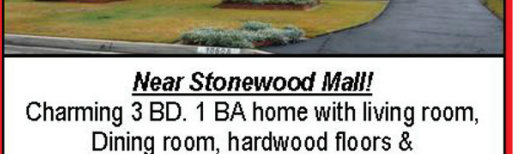
Wanted... Large Family!!
Lovely 6 bedroom, 4 bath home in Downey with 2 master suites, 2 living rooms, family room and dining room. Priced at \$999,900
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Downey Duplex
2 units featuring 1 unit w/ 2 BD, 2 BA, laundry room, & living room. Other unit w/ 1 BD, 1 BA, living room, 2 car garage, Live in one, rent the other. Price \$699,900
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Charming 3 BD, 1 BA home with living room, Dining room, hardwood floors & 2 car garage, Priced @ \$549,900
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Feature of the Week



Move Right In!

3 bedroom, 3 bath home with-in walking distance of East Middle & Rio San Gabriel Elem. schools. This home features living room w/ fireplace, formal dining room and large family room. The kitchen has been remodeled w/ oak cabinets and newer appliances. The large master bedroom includes a walk-in closet and its own bathroom. The backyard has a beautiful patio with wooden deck and tile surroundings.
Priced at \$815,000.

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



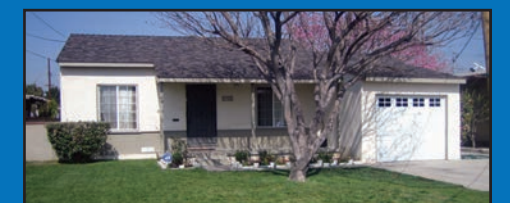
Charming Home near Furman Park!
4 BD, 3 BA, 2500 sq. ft. with guest house, in Orange Estates!
Priced to SELL at: \$859,950
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



I'm Gorgeous Inside!
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: \$995,000
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



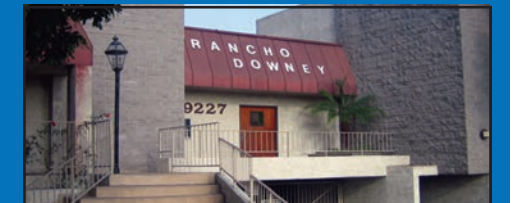
Picture Perfect
3 bedrooms + bonus room, 2 bathrooms, remodeled kitchen & baths, great landscaping.
Price: \$795,000
Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



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
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