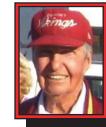


# The Downey Patriot



He's going to Hollywood, baby See Page 8



Downey coach
passes away
See Page 11



Students learn joys of reading See Page 3

Friday, May 18, 2007

Vol. 6 No. 4

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

### A realistic lesson in fire safety



Downey firefighters gave a hot and upclose demonstration at last week's Kids Day event, lighting a truck on fire and then letting their Fire Explorers extinguish the blaze. *Photo by Art Montoya* 

# Bestselling author to speak at luncheon

**DOWNEY** – Mystery writer Jan Burke will be the featured speaker at an upcoming luncheon and book signing sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library, to be held June 9 at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

Winner of the prestigious Edgar Award for mystery writing, Burke is the author of 12 bestselling novels and numerous short stories. Her mystery series, featuring Southern California newspaper reporter Irene Kelly, includes, "Goodnight, Irene", "Sweet Dreams, Irene", "Bones", "Bloodlines", and her latest bestseller, "Kidnapped."



She is also the author of "Flight," featuring Irene's husband, homicide detective Frank Harriman, and a collection of short stories entitled "Eighteen."

Copies of Burke's books will be available for purchase and signing at the event, which will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, which includes an author talk and luncheon with choice of New York strip steak or vegetarian plate, salad, rolls, potatoes, vegetable, beverage and dessert

All proceeds will go towards library programs. Reservation deadline is June 2. For reservations, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32, or visit the Friends' Shop located inside the library.

# Time Traveler 300K acres once belonged to Nieto

By John Adams Editor Emeritus

When Father Junipero Serra walked here from Baja in 1769, supported by the troops of Gaspar de Portola, one of the soldiers was named Manuel Nieto.

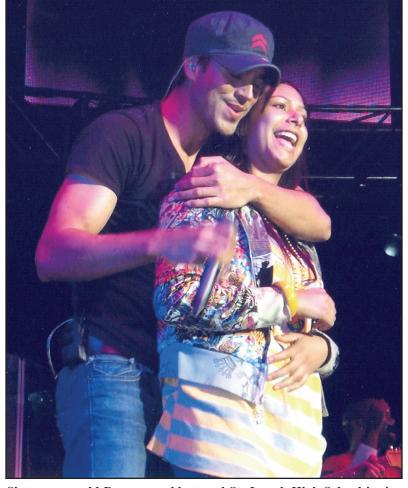
Nieto particularly liked a fertile plain he remembered which lay between two rivers. He liked it so much that when he got back he lobbied for ownership

He was an old soldier looking for a retirement estate. He got it. In 1784 Governor Pedro Fages (once Portola's second in command), wrote his superiors asking for land grants to four old soldiers, one of them Nieto. Despite somewhat casual boundaries, when approved Nieto's was the largest, at least 300,000 acres, an area which would now include Long Beach, Lakewood, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Downey, Santa Fe Springs and even Signal Hill and Huntington Beach.

Nieto retired from the army to give his full attention to his new vast lands in 1795. By the time of his death in 1804 he was the richest man in California.

Huge herds of cattle ran wild here, often crossing the low rivers in

See TRAVELER, page 5



Sixteen-year-old Downey resident and St. Joseph High School junior Henessey Garcia was randomly pulled onstage at KIIS-FM's Wango Tango concert two weeks ago, where she was serenaded by Latin pop artist Enrique Iglesias. "It was amazing to be on stage with one of my favorite singers," Henessey said. "I was so excited, even today I can not describe in words how it felt to be on stage in front of [thousands] of people." Iglesias sang the song "Hero" to Henessey. "I am so grateful for Enrique Iglesias to give me the opportunity to be on stage with him. He was very sweet and sincere."



Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County recognized their students, staff and consumers this week with a recognition ceremony attended by hundreds. *Photo by Eric Pierce* 

# Rancho Amistad Gala raises more than \$125K

■ Black-tie fundraiser is signature fundraiser of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

**DOWNEY** – The Rancho Los Amigos Foundation announced that its recent 21st Annual Amistad Gala earned more than \$125,000 to benefit patients with disabling illnesses and injuries at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

The theme of the black-tie affair was "The Art of Partnership," which commemorated Rancho's partnerships with the evening's honorees and the community. More than 530 persons attended the event, which was held at the Westin Long Beach Hotel. Co-chairs for the gala were Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Vice President Carmen O. Perez and Rancho's Director of Volunteer and Support Services Debbie Tomlinson.

Those receiving Amistad Awards included:

Robert Thome – Amistad Individual Achievement Award

Robert Thome overcame a broken neck that left him unable to move his arms or legs to become one of the world's most admired mouthstick painters, thanks to his Rancho Los Amigos treatment team and the support of his wife, Kathy.

See RANCHO, page 4

### Teachers help battle Alzheimer's in seniors

■ Downey Adult School staff pay regular visits to local Alzheimer's patients, trying for a response.

By Mary Forney Contributor

**DOWNEY** — Suzanne Gilon sings with enthusiasm to an audience who may not recognize her. Singing common songs from yesterday and childhood, Gilon tries to get everyone in the room to join in. Some people are asleep and don't look her way as she walks around the room with her guitar, but Gilon keeps on strumming and returns to the group each week with an optimistic heart.

A nod of the head, a hand movement, or some sign of recognition is what Gilon is hoping for as she sings to the low-responsive patients living at the Lakewood Gardens Alzheimer's Dementia Care in Downey.

"Sometimes I feel I don't reach anyone, but I know I'm doing a good service even when there's no progress or feedback," Gilon said. "Some hear the music and can't sing or move, but we know they're in there."

See ALZHEIMER'S, page 5

# D'Alessandro: a builder in more ways than one

■ 'Del' D'Alessandro is a giant in the building and construction business. He claims he built half the homes in Downey.

By Henry Veneracion Staff Writer

**DOWNEY**—The spring is gone from his legs now and at age 79 he has slowed down a little bit (he sported a 7 golf handicap at one time), but there was a time when he was without question the biggest builder in the Southeast California area. "*Professional Builder*" magazine, the monthly business magazine of housing and light construction published in Denver, Colorado, had him ranked every year invariably as one of the nation's building "giants" in terms of sales.

*The Los Angles Times*, in its annual survey of residential building construction in Southern California, also ranked him high among builders in the same stretch.

See D'ALESSANDRO, page 7

# Learning about the world one trip at a time

■ Whether by boat, plane or kayak, Shirley Johnson is on a mission to travel the world.

By Brooke Karli Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Shirley Johnson has done more than just travel around

In fact, her desire to travel resulted from catching the "travel bug," as she would call it, following two years spent in a preparatory school in England, studying English and history.

Shirley came to the United States from England in the early 1960's while on her way to Australia. What was supposed to be a brief visit to the U.S. turned into a permanent residence, settling first in Riverside with her sister while working for World Travel. She later worked for Downey Travel for over a year, as well as other numerous travel agencies throughout the area.

See JOHNSON, page 7

# Page 2 Friday, May 18, 2007 Community



Over 40 employees from Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center participated in last week's 18th annual "Great Los Angeles River Cleanup" held in partnership with Friends of the L.A. River. Kaiser employees helped cleanup Compton Creek in the city of Compton. "As health care providers, we're committed to improving the health and well-being of our community on a daily basis," said Jane Finley, senior vice president/executive director of Kaiser Permanente.



Three Columbus High School teachers recently participated in the Long Beach State Backwards Triathlon. The trio won first place in the relay division and placed 15th overall in a field of over 200 competitors and teams. Matt Simpson started the race by running the 3.5-mile course in record time, followed by Will Swander, who biked the 12mile course. Matt Sary completed the relay by swimming 50 meters. This was the first team competition for all three who are tenured teachers in the Downey Unified School District.

#### SAT preparation classes this summer

DOWNEY - Downey High School is hosting summer sessions for students wanting to prepare for the SAT I and PSAT.

To participate students must have successfully completed Algebra I (evidence required), and have a photocopy of a report card that includes their first semester or third quarter course grade in their most recent math

The sessions are being offered by the Assistance League of Downey and will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. beginning June 25. The instructors are Josette Bean (English) and Dalyn Miller-Geiser (math).

Students should expect daily rigorous homework assignments and no more than two excused absences will be allowed.

For more information on the sessions, including specific dates, call Alice Yamada at (562) 861-2318.

#### Demolay hosting open house May 21

**DOWNEY** – Downey Demolay, an organization for young men ages 12 to 21, will host an open house May 21 at the Downey Masonic Center from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Demolay teaches members how to run their own meetings, conduct business, handle finances, calendar events and become involved in the community. The local chapter is supported by Downey Masonic Lodge

The Masonic Center is located at 8244 3rd St. For more information on joining, call Russell Baker at (562) 382-3609.

#### Golf Classic tees off in June

**DOWNEY** – Foursomes are still available for the Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club 2007 Golf Classic which will be held June 22 at the Rio Hondo

A foursome costs \$600 but individual players can sign up for \$150.

Sponsorships are also available, ranging from \$100 to \$5,000. To sign up or information on sponsorship opportunities, call (562) 927-2329.

#### 'Relay for Life' scheduled June 9-10

**DOWNEY** – The American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" will be held June 9-10 at Downey Adult School.

The walk will begin Saturday at 9 a.m. The day will include games, prizes, music, a jumper for children, performances and radio stations.

A candlelight ceremony honoring the memory of cancer victims will be held at 9 p.m.

Residents, businesses and community groups are encouraged to participate. For more information, call Karina Madariaga at (562) 940-6236.

#### Concert to benefit Relay for Life

**DOWNEY** – Local bands will be participating in a benefit concert tonight from 7 to 11 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Downey, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The evening will include performances by The Bellflowers, Everdae, She Said Dakota, Ruby Red and Gobloots.

Cost is \$5 at the door. First Presbyterian is located at 10544 Downey Ave. For information, call (562) 619-5356.



Downey Adult School held its first LVN graduation in over 20 years. Twenty-five nursing students completed close to 40,000 combined hours of training over the course of a year, working up to 12 hours per day.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) met with Los Angeles County School Superintendent Darline Robles and members of the school board to discuss the county's federal legislative priorities. Working out of its main office on Imperial Highway in Downey, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is the largest regional education agency in the nation, serving nearly 1.7 million students in 80 kindergarten through 12 school districts. Pictured, left to right: Rudell Freer, vice president of the County Board of Education; Robles; Roybal-Allard; and Sophia Waugh, president of the County

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Burbank	818.525.3760	<b>Huntington Beach</b>	714.843.5360	Pasadena	626.535.4870
Camarillo	805.465.1053	Laguna Hills	949.470.8160	San Marino	626.588.3760
Cerritos	562.916.7260	La Verne	909.593.4944	Torrance	310.891.6240
Chino Hills	909.631.2560	Long Beach	562.668.5050	Tustin	714.368.2100
City of Industry	626.961.3486	Manhattan Beach	310.727.5660	Ventura	805.677.2300
Covina	626.331.0651	Mission Viejo	949.347.7014	West Covina	626.859.4200
Downey	562.658.4460	Monterey Park	323.767.1180	Whittier	562.968.2360



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Four programs to serve our families in the community, by providing a loving and nurturing environment for your children to grow and mature. All programs are open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the school is open 52 weeks a year

The preschool aged child enjoys an individualized program that was developed over the past 30 plus years by William J. Kirkwood,

Preschool (ages 2 - 5)

served daily.

The children have a variety of activities which include arts and crafts, physical

Ph.D.

education, Bible, music, and science time provided for them. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are

Rio San Gabriel / Gallatin Before and After School Extended Education Program

<u>(1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)</u>

Transportation to and from school is provided. The campus is open for full day use on teacher prep days, local holidays, Christmas, and Easter break

Breakfast is served until 7:45 a.m. and snack is served when the children return



**Preschool Office** 

10822 Brookshire Ave.

Downey, CA 90241

562-862-4251

to campus. There is time for homework, Bible, and play.

Elementary  $(K - 3^{rd} grade)$ Our individualized program is the 30 plus year vision of Dr. Kirkwood. Because of our state of the art computerized



program and classrooms the children learn through a multitude of various methods and activities throughout

the day and school year. The children enjoy daily individual time with their teacher, reading groups, Bible, labs, free play, physical education, and arts & crafts.

<u>Summer Program (K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)</u> Our summer program offers children a place to learn and explore. The children enjoy our individualized academic program that helps students stay sharp during the summer months, while also helping them get ahead.

The children also participate in swimming, crafts, music, cooking and other



activities that go along with each week's theme. Some of the weekly themes are cooking, ocean, the planets, and animals.

www.kirkwoodchristianschools.org

**Elementary School Office** 11115 Pangborn Ave. **Downey, CA 90241** 562-861-4419

# Community Page 3 Friday, May 18, 2007

#### E-mail class targeted to seniors

**DOWNEY** – Adults wishing to learn how to use electronic mail can register for a free class at Downey City Library.

"Beginning E-mail" will be offered May 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the computer lab. Students will learn how to create an e-mail account and how to compose, send and receive messages via electronic mail. Students should be comfortable using a computer mouse prior to register-

"This class is ideal for adults who want to learn the basics in a relaxed setting," instructor Claudia Dailey said.

To register for the class, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

#### Church celebrating Jubilee Anniversary

**DOWNEY** – This Sunday marks the beginning of Downey Memorial Christian Church's (DMCC) year-long Jubilee Anniversary celebration.

All three of Downey's Disciples of Christ churches, DMCC, Iglesia Unida En Cristo, and Familia de Fe, will participate in a joint worship service Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The community is invited to attend.

DMCC held its first worship service May 18, 1958. For information or reservations for the luncheon to follow the service, call Tina at (562) 869-

#### Aerospace group meeting Sunday

DOWNEY - The Aerospace Legacy Foundation will meet this Sunday at First Baptist Church of Downey, room 120, at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited.

First Baptist Church of Downey is located at 8348 E. Third St. Visitors should park on the street near the Verizon building.

#### Film chronicles effects of pollution

DOWNEY - The Downey Historical Society's May program will be "A Child's Garden of Pollution, a film by Jeff Vilencia.

The 26-minute color film covers DDT, car smog, oceans, populations, over consumption, land destruction, aircraft pollution and global warming. The film is over 40 year's old.

The program will be held May 24 inside the John Downey room at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

#### Historical Society needs tech help

DOWNEY - The Downey Historical Society needs help copying approximately 25,000 index cards into digital images. The cards hold information of the Society's entire collection of books, photographs, newspapers, biographies, obituaries, memorabilia and more.

Any person, group or company willing to help with the process is urged to write the Society at P.O. Box 554, Downey, CA 90241 or call (562) 862-2777.

#### 'Over the Counter Drugs' discussed

**DOWNEY** – The National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees (Southeast Chapter) will holds its monthly meeting May 23 at Furman Park where a representative from Los Amigos Research and Education Institute will speak about "Over the Counter Drugs."

The program will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. and is open to the public. For more information call Bob Knerr at (562) 943-5513.

#### Carnival at St. Matthias High School

**DOWNEY** – St. Matthias High School will host a carnival complete with rides, games and a dozen varieties of food this weekend, May 18-20. Live entertainment will be featured all weekend, along with talent shows, raffles and a rummage sale.

St. Matthias is located at 7851 Gardendale St. in Downey, between Paramount and Garfield.

#### St. Raymond's celebrates with festival

DOWNEY - St. Raymond's Catholic Church will host a "Homecoming – Let's Celebrate" festival this weekend.

The free event will feature live bands, talent shows, bingo, dance contests, rides, raffles, games and more.

A team of volunteers will also be preparing Mexican, Italian, Filipino and American food.

All funds from the festival will go towards St. Raymond's church and school. Festival hours are Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

#### Good Shepherd celebrating 50th year

DOWNEY - Good Shepherd Lutheran School of Downey will celebrate its 50th anniversary this Sunday with a special 10 a.m. church service featuring former principal James Krafft as the guest speaker.

Tickets for the catered lunch which follows the service are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children.

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

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Students in the ASPIRE program become "reading buddies," pairing older students with younger ones.



Magician John Gabriel shares some of his tricks with Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) ICU nurse Noemi Guevarra at the hospital's May 11 National Nurses' Week celebration. DRMC employs more than 500 nurses.



Two Downey students were declared finalists for Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's 14th Annual 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition. Brenda Calderon of Downey High School won Honorable Mention for her entry, "To Decay like the Day That He Loved." Vicky Eom of Warren High School also won Honorable Mention for her entry, titled "Los Angeles." Both pieces of art have been professionally framed and are being featured in a month-long exhibit at the Pico House gallery.

### Sussman students promote good character

DOWNEY - Students from Sussman Middle School have been practicing Character Counts values by visiting students at Alameda and E.W. Ward Elementary Schools.

Every Friday, fifteen students from Sussman travel to the elementary schools, reading them character-related books to younger students. The program is part of the After School Program in Information, Recreation and Education (ASPIRE), sponsored by the City of Downey.

Sussman's ASPIRE Site Director Francis DeLeon, as well as Sussman Principal Gloria Widmann, decided to implement the program to improve literacy and emphasize the importance of developing character.

"The ASPIRE reading buddy program helps develop self-esteem, promotes reading and listening skills, and builds character," said Widmann. "Walking weekly to Alameda and Ward allows Sussman students to become role models for the younger children, who look up to their reading buddies.'

In addition, DeLeon says the [Sussman] students really enjoy helping the younger kids learn.

"Students who normally wouldn't participate in such activities and have behavioral issues have been members. They show positive characteristics when participating in the reading program," said DeLeon. "Some of the middle school students have actually improved their behavior greatly because of this activity."

Juan Velasco, Ward's ASPIRE site director, and Melinda Camacho, Alameda's ASPIRE site director, also support the visits, saying the reading program has benefited all the participants in a variety of ways.

# Congratulations Class of 2007



Gus Martinez

Congratulations to Martinez, California State University, Fullerton Class of 2007, who will graduate on Sunday, May 20, with his Bachelors of Arts Accounting and is a member of the Accounting Society. Gus is also a Warren High School Graduate. We are so proud of you for the wonderful person that you are, and for all that you have accomplished.

Mom, Dad, Richard, Claudia, Israel, and Julie.



**Kelly Stratford** 

Daughter of Dan and Nancy Stratford, graduates Summa Cum Laude from Cal State University, Fulleton on May 20, 2007 with Bachelor Degrees in English and American Studies. Kelly is a graduate of Downey High School and is currently employed at the CSUF Writing Center and also as a manaer/instructor at the Ultimate Karate Center in Downey. Kelly has been accepted into the Credential Program at Cal State Fullerton.



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#### **Lakewood Regional Medical Center**

Tuesday, May 22: I-2 p.m. Cerritos Senior Center, Pat Nixon Park Conference Center

Wednesday, May 30: 6-7 p.m. Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA, Lakewood Conference Room

**Desert Regional Medical Center** Thursday, May 24: I-2 p.m. Mizell Senior Center, Noia Auditorium

## Page 4 Friday, May 18, 2007 Community

#### **RANCHO**

Continued from page 1

Over nearly four decades, Thome has developed and mastered his painting style based on 'what he discovered in his soul.' He has flourished by being part of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. He has mentored many Rancho artists, exhibited his work throughout the world, and become a powerful spokesman for all Rancho patients.

#### Marilyn Pires, MS, RN – Amistad Lifetime Achievement Award

Marilyn Pires has been recognized throughout the United States as a "nurse's nurse" for her leadership in rehabilitation nursing. She served as National President of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses and has spent nearly two decades on its council of leaders.

She has served as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Rancho Los Amigos since 1989. According to hospital officials, her many presentations, papers and research activities, as well as her daily contributions to the clinical team, have made a tremendous positive impact on patient care at Rancho.

LAREI – Amistad Partner Award

The Los Amigos Research and Education Institute (LAREI) is celebrating 50 years of ground-breaking research and education programs.

These programs have been made possible by a vast array of funding sources whose combined vision provided LAREI the opportunity to pursue major research and education programs for the last five decades. The resulting publications and presentations have been a cornerstone of the shared success of LAREI and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, helping Rancho to remain at the forefront of the art and science of rehabilitation medicine.

LAREI's many brilliant clinicians have established a legacy of worldrenowned excellence and innovation. Beginning with Jacquelin Perry, M.D., John Affeldt, M.D. and Vernon Nickel, M.D. and continuing with noted clinicians such as Robert Waters, M.D., Douglas Garland, M.D., Helena Chang Chui, M.D., Henry Gong, M.D., Bryan Kemp, Ph.D., Sara Mulroy, Ph.D. and many others, LAREI and Rancho are enhancing their tradition of clinical leadership.

LAREI's doctors are teamed with many of the finest therapists and nurses in the business. Today, the LAREI team includes nearly 200

The many breakthroughs achieved at LAREI have played a key role in moving rehabilitation forward. With its talented, dedicated clinicians and staff, LAREI is strongly positioned for the future.

#### Bank of America - Amistad Community Service Award

Bank of America has partnered with Rancho for 34 years. The bank began with participation in Christmas caroling and other activities for Rancho patients, then in 1994 joined the Rancho holiday adoption program. Since then, Bank of America branch offices have adopted hundreds of Rancho families in need during the holiday season, helping as many as 29 families per year.

Rick Velasquez, Assistant Chief Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, was also honored with an "Amistad Star" Award for his dedication to Rancho and its patients.



Robert Thome, a mouthstick artist and Rancho spokesperson.

#### The incredible journey of Robert Thome...a Rancho success story

One second he was making a ferocious tackle in a high school football scrimmage. As he speared the runner with his helmet, he heard a loud "crack!" and realized as he was falling to the ground that his neck had snapped. He lay motionless, unable to move, feeling the sun on his face but little else. In that moment, 15-year-old Robert Thome's life changed

He had suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury that paralyzed him from the neck down. After a few weeks in an acute-care hospital, Robert was transferred to Rancho Los Amigos for rehabilitation. But Robert was dealing with more than just a broken body. His spirit was broken as well. But just as he was about to give up all hope for the future, Donna Barras, M.D., came into his life. A Rancho physician and a polio survivor, Barras helped Robert regain his hope.

'When you have a catastrophic disabling injury, you search for a door or a window so that you can express yourself," says Robert. Thanks to Barras and Rancho's treatment team, Robert soon found his window to the world in art. "After they showed me how to use a mouthstick to paint, it was like learning a different language," he says. "Once you get it, there's no limit to what you can do. You can be free, you can fly, you can be anybody you want to be." Robert and his wife, Kathy, have become an inseparable team, overcoming significant odds to reach their dreams.

Over nearly four decades, Robert has developed and mastered his painting style based on what he discovered in his soul. He has flourished by being part of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. He has mentored many Rancho artists and exhibited his work throughout the world. Along the way, he has become one of the world's most admired mouthstick artists and a powerful spokesperson for all Rancho patients.

#### The Poets' Corner

#### Love

Love comes at us with its special touch And it is like a real, real rush My parents were special persons Expressing themselves for many seasons Our trees and bushes sprout new life Turning everything green within our sight So I have some sisters and brothers And they are sure like no other Our lives are effected by the season Down to each and every person! -- Don Davis, **Downey** 

#### bog queen

we found the bog lily clusters of them in the cool damp of the willow seeps

every walker sees trillium wake-robin they used to call it spread like a coverlet under the hardwoods

but we discovered our patch in marsh mire deep sheltered glowing like ruby lanterns

bog orchid lady's slipper the heel just big enough we said to contain one bubble a champagne fete for a gnat in Paris

> elegant tramp a jewel like you but doomed said the instructor when the pine forest takes over

> > I left Tawas years ago we have never written

but when I heard that Crystal Lake had silted in I knew you must be dead you would never have let that happen -- Lorine Parks,

**Downey** 

Poems for "The Poets' Corner" may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Ave., suite A, Downey, CA 90241

City of Downey
Community Services Department
SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

The traditional camps go on...

#### **SPORTS CAMP**

Ages: 8-12 June 25-August 31 Location: Apollo Park (Independence Park weeks 1&2)

This camp offers children a chance to learn a new sport each week. Every camper will receive 12 hours of instruction from a trained professional. Campers will also go on an excursion every week.

**CAMP** 

FOR CHAMPS

Ages: 6-18

August 6-August 31

Location: Furman Park

This new summer camp is a comprehensive

summer camp program for children who

have physical and mental disabilities that

limit their mobility. The camp staff have

experience working with special needs

and are positive role models the

campers can emulate and work

with to achieve goals in

their own life.

#### **ADVENTURE**

#### **CAMP**

Ages: Middle School (no older than 14 yrs.) June 25-August 31 Location: Independence Park

Campers will be challenged each day with different competitions, learn new skills and have the opportunity to make new friends. Participants will, go on mini-trips throughout the week and enjoy many exciting games.

#### **CAMP WILDERNESS**

Ages: 6-10

June 25-August 31 Location: Wilderness Park Children will make arts and crafts, cook and participate in lots of different activities with children their age. All Campers will go swimming at the Downey Aquatic Center and go on a

weekly excursion.

#### Plus 2 NEW exciting summer camps... CAMP HOLLYWOOD

Ages: 8-13

Cost: \$75 per session

June 25-August 13 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM Daily Extended care available 6 one week sessions Location: Downey Theatre This is a new camp designed to encourage active participation in the arts. Each week campers will learn about and participate in a new area of art including live theatre, film,

#### LITTLE BUDDIES CLUB Ages: 4-5

Cost: \$40 per session June 25-August 17 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Daily 8 sessions \*Each session will meet Monday, Through Friday Location: Gary P McCaughan Gymnasium Children will enjoy music, participate in arts & crafts and cooking, learn basic sports/ skills and weekly

excursion.

#### **CAMP COST**

music,dance, and fine art. There will

be weekly swimming trips and

\$80 per week for first family member • \$75 per week for each additional member Extended Care: Available for: Sports, Adventure, Wilderness and Camp Hollywood

\$40 First child • \$35 Additional children

NO CAMP JULY 4TH

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. Gary P. McCaughan Gymnasium - 12544 Rives Ave.

exciting weekly excursions.

All camp costs include supervision, supplies, daily snack and a weekly bus excursion.

Registration will be accepted, starting May 23, 2007 at Downey Community Services Department Office, City Hall: Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Enrollment is limited and will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis. PROOF OF CAMPERS AGE MUST BE SHOWN AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. More specific information may be

obtained by contacting the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238

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#### The Headless Chicken

By Eric Pierce

Life is full of interesting facts. For example, did you know that all polar bears are left-handed? Or that an ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain?

I live for this stuff.

Here's another: Pablo Picasso's full name was (take a breath) Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Clito Ruiz y

With a name like that, no wonder Pablo cut off his ear!\* More mindless trivia:

- The city of Fruita, Colo. celebrates "Mike the Headless Chicken Day" the third weekend of every May. The event, of course, wouldn't be complete without a rousing game of "chicken bingo," with fresh chicken droppings used to select numbers.
- President Harry S. Truman's middle name was...S. The 'S' was not an abbreviation, but his full middle name.
- Sex expert and television host "Dr. Ruth" was once a sniper with the Israeli Defense Force.
- Chop suey, a popular dish at many Chinese restaurants, was actually developed here in America. Incidentally, eating celery results in negative calories.
- "Jiffy" is an actual time measurement (1/60 of a second), so the phrase, "I'll be there in a jiffy!" is a correct statement.
- It is illegal in Alabama to wear a fake moustache that causes laughter in a church.
  - Did you know apple seeds are poisonous?
- Nobody knows where Mozart is buried. His grave at St. Marx cemetery in Vienna was accidentally lost.
- Donald Duck was once banned from TV in the Middle East... because he doesn't wear pants.

The world is full of oddball factoids, we just have to search for them and be interested enough to care.

\*And, yes, I know Pablo Picasso didn't cut off his ear. It was a joke...He still has a long name though.

#### **ALZHEIMER'S**

Continued from page 1

The high-responsive residents in Gilon's class have surprised Administrator Colleen Turner. "They just bloom here at the center - especially in music class. That's because they often stopped doing things at home like singing." Turner said. "They come here and are reminded of things they once enjoyed doing. Then they start remembering other things about their life," she said.

Gilon has been conducting the music class for three years as a staff member of the Downey Adult School. The school has had a long-standing relationship with Lakewood Gardens, providing instructors to aid in the effort to slow down the progression of Alzheimer's.

"It's our goal to serve and meet the needs of our community," said Downey Adult School Vice-Principal Duane Diulio. "We instruct our elderly citizens because we're all about stimulating minds."

Exciting the senses and practicing recall is vital to prolonging the effects of Alzheimer's disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, affecting 10 percent of people 65 years old and nearly 50 percent of those age 85 or older.

As the disease progresses, the Alzheimer patient can suffer from impaired judgment, confusion and forgetfulness - eventually losing communication skills.

Juanita Barrera from the Downey Adult School uses a variety of creative activities to boost the memories of the patients in her Lakewood Gardens Mental Fitness class. From blowing bubbles to trivia games and spelling bees, Barrera tries to capture the attention of low and high functioning patients.

"I use their sense of touch, hearing and smell to get them to remember things," Barrera said. "Exercises and jokes are good for mental fitness

The Lakewood Gardens facility has rooms designed to remind the Alzheimer patients of everyday actions which can be forgotten. There is a kitchen with a basket of towels to be folded and a nursery to rock baby

"These activities bring back memories and I hear patients say, 'Oh, it's been a long time since I've held a baby," said Activity Director Janet Natividad. "If you stop doing something, you'll forget about it so we try to give the residents quality of life by treating their mental needs – not just the physical aspects of the disease.'

Keeping minds active by using familiar and fun activities is what the

teachers and staff members try to achieve. "If you get them to smile or react, then you're a success," Barrera said.

#### 'Viking Sports Reunion' at the Embassy

DOWNEY - A "Viking Sports Reunion" for Downey High School alumni will be held May 24 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites. A special room rate of \$119 is available for anyone wishing to spend

For more information or to RSVP, call Lash Stevenson at (650) 345-5274 or via e-mail at lashrffox@mac.com.

### The Downey Patriot



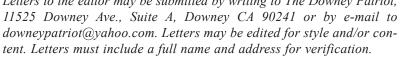
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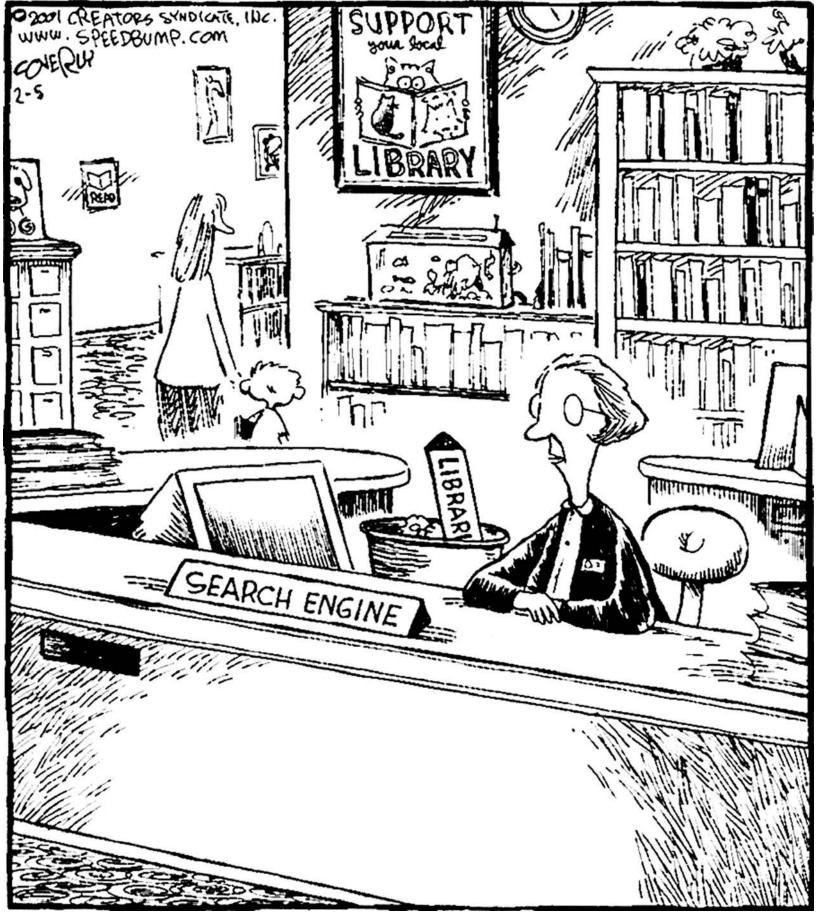
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Continued from page 1

summer to cause disputes with his neighbors, particularly Jose Dominguez

On his death he gave his lands to his four children. By 1833 his heirs tired of bickering and petitioned the Governor, Jose Figueroa, to divide the property equitably.

There was more to this. Mexico had recently become independent of Spain (1821), and a legal division of the property under the new government would insure title. The huge grant was divided into six portions, Santa Gertrudes, Los Alamitos, Los Cerritos, Los Coyotes, Los Bolsas and Palo Alto. Only the last name no longer survives here.

Rancho Santa Gertrudes (geographically today Downey and Norwalk), went to Josefa Cota, widow of Antonio Nieto, old Manuel's

The west boundary was the Rio Hondo River. It ran from the Rio Hondo at the Whittier Boulevard crossing, south to where the Rio Hondo meets the Los Angeles River.

The Santa Gertrudes holding also contained the old Nieto homestead with its vineyards, orchards and vegetable gardens. It was the center of social life east of the Los Angeles pueblo.

It even harbored a political conspiracy in 1835, when some tough freebooters from Sonora used it as a stepping stone to try and spark an uprising against Governor Figueroa in Los Angeles. They clearly misjudged his popularity. They found no support when they got to L.A., and were sent back to Sonora in disgrace.

The guitars and the dancing at the rancho returned to normal.

But meanwhile, California, which had all but been forgotten since Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821, had been quietly rediscovered. The "finder" was none other than the famed trapper and mountain man Jedediah Smith, who in 1826 led a party of his fellows from Cache Valley, Utah, through the Grand Canyon to Needles.

The Indians there directed him to the San Bernardino Mountains. They crossed at Cajon Pass and descended into the San Bernardino Valley, then skirted the base of the mountains until they reached Mission San Gabriel. He and his fellow trappers were greeted warmly at the Mission, but California's Governor, Jose Maria Echeandiar was stunned at the news. He ordered Smith and his men to be brought south to talks in San Diego. The road was right through Santa Gertrudes Rancho.

The door to the Americans had been opened. The mountains had been breached, and the mountain men liked what they saw here. They liked the senoritas, the rich land and the cattle. It was only a matter of time until more would follow.

Originally published October 7, 1994

#### Free oral health exams at Gauldin

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Unified School District, in association with Downey Dental Academy, is offering free oral health exams today, May 18, to children who will begin kindergarten this September at Gauldin Elementary School from 9 to 11 a.m.

The exams meet the California Oral Health Assessment requirements for new students entering kindergarten in Downey.

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot,

#### Coordinating Council honors volunteers, installs officers

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Coordinating Council hosted their Annual Salute to Outstanding Volunteers and Installation Banquet May 10 at the Rio Hondo Events Center.

The Downey United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 2 presented the colors, Pastor Glenn Kravig of Calvary Chapel Downey gave the invocation, Carol Rowland conducted the meeting and Downey Councilmember Dave Gafin installed new board members.

Outgoing board members are Rowland (president); Karol Morrison (2nd vice-president); Martha Sodetani (secretary); Lois Buchanan (treasurer); and Sam Mathis (auditor).

Incoming board members for 2007-08 are Ann Bayer (president); Darrell Jackson (1st vice-president); Barbara Emry (2nd vice-president); Kathleen Midstokke (treasurer); and Linda Malme (auditor).

Outstanding volunteers include Kay Becker (American Association of University Women); George Redfox (Aerospace Legacy Foundation); Grace Eshilian (ARC of Southeast Los Angeles County); Ida Stallcup (Assistance League of Downey); Norm Sipple (Christian Business Men's Committee-International); Yvonne Swain (Together for Hope Chapter of City of Hope); Bernnice Madariaga (Downey Adult School); Gwynn Gustafson (Downey Chamber of Commerce); Ruth De Spain (Downey Christian Women's Club); Helen Tolle (Downey City Library); Rowland (Downey Coordinating Council); Wendy McKinsey (Downey Council PTA-HELPS); Emry (Downey Newcomers Club); Claudia Graham (Downey Regional Medical Center Auxiliary); Annett Pasco (Downey Rose Float Association); Buchanan (Downey Second Century Foundation); Annie Mundia (Downey Sister City Association); Dr. Brandon Sanchez (TLC Family Resource Center); Ellie Harrington (Downey Symphonic Society); Betsy Lightner (Downey Symphony Guild); Colette Stallcup (Friends of the Library); Margarita and Jerry Rogers (Keep Downey Beautiful); Bob Brazelton (Kiwanis Club of Downey Los Amigos); Russ Johnson (Living Help Center); Al D'Alessandro (Optimist Club of Downey); Sharon Riggs (Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center); Monica Goel Hornberger (Soroptomist International of Downey); Edith Baker (Temple Ner Tamid Sisterhood); Cleo Latimer (Woman's Club of Downey); and Eileen Delis (Woman's Guild of OLPH).

#### Early-bird registration for aquatics program

**DOWNEY** – The City of Downey Community Services Department is offering early-bird registration for - Downey residents only - for the upcoming summer aquatics program.

Registration will be held on May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Barbara . Riley Community and Senior Center located at 7810 Quill Dr.

At the scheduled start time, there will be a random selection process that includes everyone present. Proof of age must be shown for all youth classes and students must be minimum age by first class meeting.

Registration for all non-residents and Downey residents that do not attend the early-bird registration will be held at the Community Services Department office, located at 11111 Brookshire Ave., beginning May 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

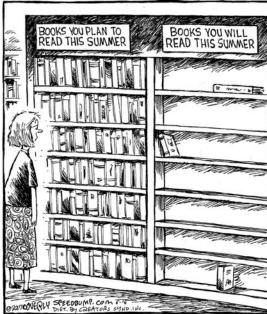
## Page 6 Friday, May 18, 2007 Comics/Crossword \_\_\_\_\_\_ The Downey Patriot

#### SPEED BUMP

#### DAVE COVERLY













23

### On This Day...

May 18, 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte is proclaimed Emperor of the French.

**1920:** Pope John Paul II is born in Wadowice, Poland. Also born on this day: Perry Como (1912), Reggie Jackson (1946), George Strait (1952) and Chow Yun-Fat (1955).

**1958:** A United States F-104 Starfighter sets a world speed record by traveling 1,404 miles per hour. 1974: India conducts their first nuclear test, an experiment commonly referred to as the "Smiling

1980: Mount St. Helens erupts, killing 57 people and destroying 200 homes.

### **Downey Community Calendar**

#### Events For May

Fri. - Sun. May 18 - 20: Homecoming Festival, St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 6 p.m.

Fri. – Sun. May 18 – 20: <u>Carnival</u>, St. Matthias High School

Fri. May 18: Benefit Concert, First Presbyterian Church of Downey, 7 p.m.

Mon. May 21: Downey Demolay Open House. Downey Masonic Center, 6 p.m.

Thurs. May 24: "A Child's Garden of Pollution" Film. Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

#### City Meetings

1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library. 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.

1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall. 1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: Traffic Committee, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.

2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: City Council/Community Development Commission, Council Chamber. 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Design Review Board, Council Chamber at City Hall.

3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: Parking Place Commission, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

#### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### **Mondays**

6:30 p.m.: Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg., for information call 426-6786.

6:30 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.

1st Mon., 4 p.m.: 2nd Century Foundation, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.

1st Mon., 7 p.m.: American Legion Post 270, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.

2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481. 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.

4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.:Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 861-3989.

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.

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 Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.

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.

4rth 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.

You can contact puzzle editor

Stanley Newman at his e-mail

address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or

write him at P.O. Box 69, Mass-

apequa Park, NY 11762, Please

send a self-addressed, stamped

Army Air Forces in World War II.

Down) was commander of the

Henry H. "HAP" Arnold (104

what is today western Turkey.

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or ARCO (107 Across), with the

can be played "pizzicato" (plucked)

In music, a stringed instrument

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MONOPOLYTOKENS

envelope if you'd like a reply.

#### 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) **BOARD MEETING: With the board identified at 118 Across** by Fred Piscop

#### **ACROSS**

- Open a crack
- Club in a Manilow song Facts, for short Like some wire
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- 67 Profession 68 Little rascals Wait patiently 71
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- C.S. Lewis land Consume Choreographer Twyla 88 Start a war
- Playing marble 90 91 Cramming Space-bar neighbor Satchel of Cooperstown
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- Goes ballistic 107 Not pizzicato 109 Salts' assents 111 Zippo
- 112 Kuwait's peninsula 116 GPS offerings 118 What the theme answers
- have in common Introspective query "Ah, so!" Lacking pizazz
- Composer Satie 125 Road-repair sign 126 On ice, maybe
- 127 Fictional governess 128 Some NCOs DOWN

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- 2 Hancock of Massachusetts Pavarotti solo Smacked into
- Herding dog Unlock, to a poet
- More trivial Blessing prompter Nest eggs, briefly Ripley slogan ender

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- 12 Old ball game 13 Frozen dessert Literary miscellany Meet, as a challenge
- 16 They're in charge of rigging It means "internal" Cannon of film Paese cheese
- 25 Bard's dusk breve 33 Salon sound 35 Dogpatch denizen 36 Not just trim Alegre, Brazil
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61

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- Florentine painter 100 Criticize harshly 101 Comes to 103 More vile
  - General Arnold 104 105 Hacienda brick 106 \_y Plata" (Montana motto)
- 107 Like the Gobi 108 Soared 110 Not bad

22

26

- December air 111 113 Arctic menace 114 Handkerchief Itr. Suggests, as a price 115
- Outback bird 117 119 Prefix with classical "Babi
  - (Yevtushenko poem)
- PUZZLE PRIZE CONTEST! Try Stan Newman's WordWit Puzzle™ at www.StanXwords.com

#### **JOHNSON**

Continued from page 1

While pursuing her career in travel, Shirley opened Best Travel Worldwide in two locations -Huntington Beach and Downey, both opening in 1981. After closing the Huntington Beach location in 1990, Shirley expanded her business to include Worldwide Shuttle, serving all major airports and cruise piers. In addition, Best Travel Worldwide currently offers medical transfers, as well as day trips to local attractions, museums and landmarks.

Shirley received her teaching credential from the University of California, Los Angeles through an extension course. She put her credential to use by teaching travel for five years at Coastline College. Following the end of her teaching at Coastline, Shirley decided to start her own travel school in the early 1990's, a class that would take place in her agency once a week for three hours.

Although her travel school has long been closed, Shirley still believes travel is the best educator.

"You learn more when you travel," said Shirley. "You learn about other people's lives, cultures and environments."

One of Shirley's favorite experiences while traveling was when she visited a Catholic church while in Kenya. Being the only non-African in attendance, she was not only welcomed by the church's elders and congregation, but also taught how to sing hymns in Swahili.

She has traveled to many corners of the world, but her favorite places to visit are Europe, Australia and anywhere with culture and history. When asked where she would like to travel that she hasn't already visited, she said "The Horn" in South America, the southernmost tip of the continent traveled around by boat.

Soon, Shirley's desire to take people to the "unusual" will lead a group of travelers 800 feet in the air while crossing the famous

expansion bridge over Sydney Harbor in Australia. She will then lead another group of travelers on a kayaking adventure through the Antarctic waters just below New Zealand.

Taking a trip, as Shirley would say, involves more than just visiting the tourist attractions.

"My interest has always been trying to squeeze as much out of a client's trip as possible," said Shirley. "So I started specializing in planning clients' trips around the world by adding extra things not found in brochures. If you really want to see and learn when you're traveling, stay out of the tourist shops and spend time with the locals in their environment."

Although looking to provide more bang for your buck, Shirley does, however, know that the travel market is constantly changing.

"Travel is not what it used to be it's more work than it once was," said Shirley. "However, if clients plan right and do their homework, then they can make the most of their trip."

When not traveling to and fro, Shirley spends her free time organizing the annual "Walk the Talk Against Child Abuse" fundraiser walk in Downey. This year's walk will be the fourth thus far, taking place on Oct. 20.

Prior to the walk, Shirley will be participating in a 50-mile relay, also held in Downey, on Oct. 6. Proceeds from both events will go to organizations that provide awareness and prevention of sexual, physical and verbal abuse many children face on a daily basis, usually from family members.

"Child abuse is the silent killer against children," said Shirley. "And I feel people need to do something to help.'

For more information on Best Travel Worldwide or the "Walk the Talk" fundraiser, call Shirley at (562) 862-2378 or visit www.besttravelworldwide.biz.

#### **D'ALESSANDRO**

Continued from page 1

He built apartments, townhouses, tracts, office buildings and detached houses under the "Heritage" sign all over the place: in Highland Park, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, Bell, Anaheim, La Habra, Chino, Pasadena, and West Covina, wherever the "soil is good" and whenever the "conditions for building are right.'

"Anytime you see a tumbleweed roll over vacant land," he says, "the soil underneath is not good, and therefore not suitable for building on it. But if you see purple, mustard, and lamb's quarter (a specie of plant) growth in the area, you can bet it's good land." He says many would-be builders fell on hard times because they didn't spend the necessary time or money on just this one key factor. "Downey soil is so good, it's unbelievable," he says. He didn't build in Upland or Cucamonga, he says, because rocks pervaded the area. He claims to have built half the homes in Downey.

Born in 1926 in Hartford, Connecticut of Italian immigrant parents, his father from the little Calabrian mountain town of Mormano and his mother from Reggio, Alfred Anthony ("Del" or "Fred" his friends) to D'Alessandro quit his senior year in high school to join his brothers in the service. Eldest brother Joseph was in the Marines, brother James joined the Navy, and brother Frank was in the Army. He joined Frank in the Army. According to D'Alessandro, his brother Joseph "went to every battle the Marines fought in the Pacific and went on to fight in Korea, while his son fought in the Vietnam War, and his son's son took part in Desert Storm."

He came to California to join James and Joseph who had already moved here in 1949, and he joined the L. A. Fire Department, settling in Downey in 1952. "We had ancient equipment then," he says, "not like the advanced engines and apparatus fire departments use today." "What's more," he continued, "the pay was small then, we had to pay for our own uniforms and what not, so I did landscaping on the side. I did this for several years, getting my builder's license in 1957. Then, while still with the fire department, I took on a partner and formed D & H Construction. I worked seven days a week."

Obviously the business grew and grew until D'Alessandro quit the fire department in 1978 and, with his partner and crew, concentrated on building construction (the partners split later). Nowadays he spends a few hours in the afternoon at his office headquarters at 8201 Fourth Street and La Reina Ave.. and manages his only remaining 10-unit office building complex smack-dab in downtown Downey.

His preoccupation, though, for several years now (since 1977) has been his work with the Optimist

Club of Downey. A president for four years, he to this day oversees its Boys/Girls Home project, which helps young at-risk kids referred by the probation department get a new lease on life at the club's facilities in Highland Park. "Last year, we had an 86 percent graduation rate in the Optimist-run high school there," he says.

He is currently busy working with 5 Sports to provide the kids with athletic equipment. He has also been deeply involved in helping young burn victims recuperate from their burns or cope with their fates. "Some victims, especially the girls, are devastated by their situation," he says. "It's so sad." But to alleviate their suffering, D'Alessandro takes 10 of them at a time on a fireboat, and lets them have fun in the harbor, all the while shielding them from the light.

The club, says D'Alessandro, also gives scholarships to graduating seniors ("Just the other Wednesday, we gave five \$1,000 scholarships") and it gives generously to Arc, works with Boys and Girls Scouts, sponsors the Easter Egg Hunt, supports Women in Crisis, and sponsors an annual golf tournament, the biggest Optimist fundraiser of all. "We just finished the tournament recently, and we raised thousands of dollars to fund these various projects," he says, adding: "If we see a worthy cause, we jump in."

He wishes more people would join the Optimist Club, as "there are many ways to help, but without manpower, the things you can do are limited."

D'Alessandro also served two terms with the Planning Commission, and it was he, he says, who broached the idea of a Design Review Board, of which he is still a member.

He doesn't hide his love for Notre Dame football. Every time his cell phone rings, the caller is greeted with the Notre Dame fighting song ("Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame..."). His office wall is covered with Notre Dame prints and memorabilia, including a huge portrait of Knute Rockne. "I'm crazy about Notre Dame," he says. "I think there are more Notre Dame fans among us Italians and the Polish than there are Irish fans!"

He also pays tribute to his wife, Johnnie, who is active with the Assistance League and other community projects. "She works twice as hard as me for the community," he says. All the four children are grown and have made their own career choices (not one is interested in construction).

Peggy, his longtime part-time secretary, says it's not in her boss' nature to quit, just yet. "He will go on and on until something gives," she says. Knowing him, albeit briefly, I think it's his love for his "kids" that keeps him going.

It's not a bad legacy for a builder, not only of buildings but of future productive citizens.

Those who have inquiries about joining the Optimist Club should contact D'Alessandro at (562) 923-4858, or Steve Allen, Bank of Orange County, (562) 622-7655.





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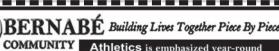
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## Page 8 Friday, May 18, 2007 Dining/Entertainment\_\_\_\_ The Downey Patriot

### New Entertainment this week

#### CD Releases

Maroon 5 - It Won't Be Soon Before

Ozzy Osbourne - Black Rain Erasure - Light at the End of the

The Beach Boys - The Warmth of

the Sun

Joan Osborne - Breakfast in Bed Source: Amazon.com

#### DVD Releases

**Alone With Her Amazing Grace** Apocalypto The Breed Constellation **Epic Movie Fay Grim** The Good German Letters from Iwo Jima Scarface (1932) The 40-Year Old Virgin (Double

Whose Life Is It, Anyway? TELEVISION/MISC. Airwolf - Season 3 The O.C. - Season 4

**Your Pleasure 2-disc edition)** 

Scrubs - Season 5 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles -Season 1, Part 1 Source: Box Office Mojo

#### Video Game Releases

Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End - PS2, PS3, X360, Wii Odin Sphere - PS2

WarTech: Senko no Ronde - X360 Source: ebgames.com

#### Concerts

FRIDAY, MAY 18 Chayanne - Gibson Amphitheatre Doug E. Fresh, Slick Rick - Grove of

Harry Connick Jr - Greek Theatre Mickey Avalon - Galaxy Theatre Paramore - HOB Anaheim

SATURDAY K-ROQ's Weenie Roast: Linkin Park, Korn, Rise Against & more -Verizon Wireless Theatre Chayanne - Gibson Amphitheatre Chris Isaak - Greek Theatre

SUNDAY Chayanne - Gibson Amphitheatre .38 Special - HOB Anaheim Chris Isaak - Greek Theatre

Gipsy Kings - Grove of Anaheim MONDAY El P - El Rey Theatre

TUESDAY Gallagher - HOB Anaheim WEDNESDAY Tyrese - HOB Anaheim THURSDAY

Erykah Badu - Grove of Anaheim Marlanne Faithfull - HOB Anaheim Source: Casene

#### Book Releases

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini The Overlook by Michael Connelly

The Assault on Reason... by Al Gore Lethally Blond by Kate White The Reagan Diaries by Ronald

Requiem for an Assassin by Barry Eisler

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Source: barnesandnoble.com

### Sunil Narkar catches his big break

#### By Henry Veneracion STAFF WRITER

alling it his "big break," 45year-old Sunil Narkar, an /immigrant from Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India and a Downey resident for 17 years, debuts at 9 p.m. tonight on ABC as "Commissioner Sunil" in a brand new show, "National Bingo Night," hosted by Ed Sanders of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" fame.

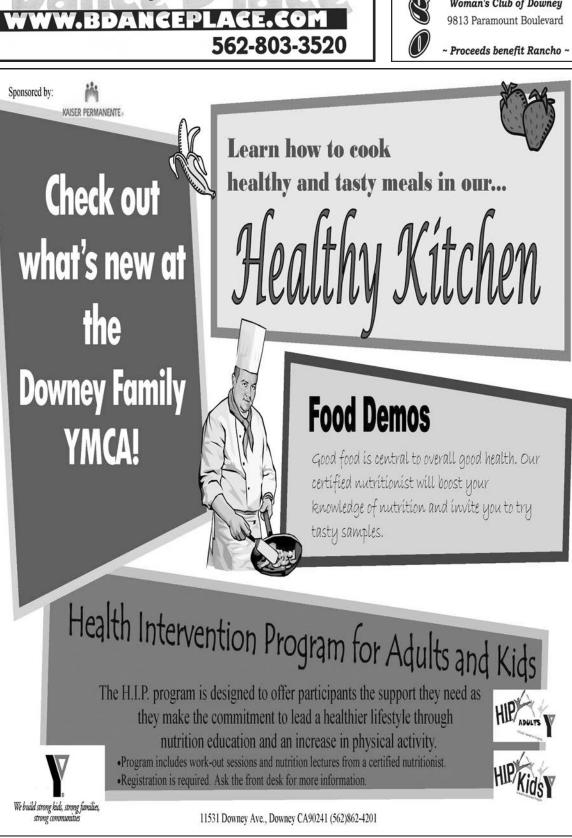
The one-hour show is said to be based on "housie," a hugely popular Bingo gameshow in the U.K. and Australia. ABC-TV describes the Bingo program thus:

In each game, a contestant will try his/her luck, racing against the studio audience as balls numbered 1-75 are randomly selected from a giant sphere set in a high-tech "Bingo Plex" arena. The studio audience will track their own numbers on their own Bingo cards for a chance to win cash (\$5-\$50,000) and prizes, and send the contestant home empty-handed.

At-home viewers will also be able to play along by printing out free cards via ABC.com. Viewers can log on and print out as many game cards as they can play. Each time a person prints, he/she will get three pages, one for each game that is played per episode telecast (a Red, White or Blue card). Each game has three Bingo grids on it, allowing the participant three chances to win per card.

Online winners are not competing against the clock; those who get a Bingo from the numbers called for each Red, White or Blue game on the corresponding cards can log on to ABC.com after the broadcast and enter the serial number from their card to verify their winning card. Viewers at home





who get five numbers up and down, across or diagonally will be eligible for the grand prize drawing for that game. Online players must enter their serial number from their winning cards by 6 p.m., ET, the Monday following the Friday broadcast to redeem their prize. Cards for the upcoming Friday episode are available immediately following the airing of the current episode.

Narkar will be the co-host of what is hoped to be a long-lasting series aimed at the millions of fanatic Bingo players across the nation. The show, with Elizabeth Flores acting as the model, will air every Friday night on ABC-TV from 9-10. The series is executiveproduced and created by Andrew Glassman ("Three Wishes," "Average Joe") for Glassman Media and broadcast with Spanish subtitles via secondary closed captioning. Sponsors include: Mercedes-Benz, K-Mart, and Royal Caribbean Cruises.

Although he started acting in bit parts as a child in Hindi and Marathi theatrical programs, and ever since his arrival on these shores, has already appeared in odd TV commercials (as a Mexican on one, as an Arab in another, and a Bahamian in still another) and a few TV series, versatile Narkar feels tonight's Bingo show business premiere will either get him where no Indian personality has gone before or slow down his burgeoning, dreamlike Hollywood career.

Blessed with talent, incredible curiosity and drive, and undeniable charisma, chances are Sunil's forward momentum will carry him to heights he could only dream about with his childhood pals (now big Bollywood names) on the playgrounds of Prabhadevi (near Mumbai), India.

Armed with a bachelor's in from chemistry Bombay University ('81) when he arrived in California in 1989 (he put down roots in Downey in 1990), he went on to earn an MBA from CSU-Long Beach in 1991. His first job here was with California's State Compensation Insurance Fund as a claims administrator. But he knew he was not cut out to be an administrator. In 1997 he quit the fund and formed his own medical clinic, AME Medical Group, and soon after a cellphone business (Sprint, Verizon, T-Mobil, and, just recently, AMP'd). Both businesses are located on Paramount Blvd. close to Stewart & Gray. His wife, Sudha, helps with the business. A son, 11, is a fifth grader at Old River School while his 14-year old

daughter attends West Middle School. His 80-year old mother lives with them. "I love Downey. It's a good city," he says. A cousin also lives in town.

Aiming to learn the business and crack the Hollywood scene (he has a movie credit in Bollywood playing an Indian doctor, released two weeks ago), he just went ahead and auditioned for TV commercials and roles on TV (with Warner Brothers, ABC, Miramax, whoever), averaging 9 auditions a week. His first break came last April, when he did a Butterfield commercial. He next landed a one-minute appearance in an ad for Chase Card by the Spanish network, "Believe Media Nationwide." This stint got him noticed. He portrayed a Mexican who uses his Chase Card to duplicate a key. The ad is still running on all Spanish channels.

"Imagine," he was quoted as saying in a recent interview. "Thousands of Mexican [hopefuls] auditioned for the role, and it was an Indian who got selected. Now, I am noticed by every Mexican on the streets."

Another TV ad that features him is one he made for Arby's. This, too, is still running.

Meanwhile he landed a role in the indie film, 'Quest of Alchemy," that has yet to be released.

Another role he landed was live, on the Jimmy Kimmel Show, in which he played an Arab who ridicules President Bush. He also got to play a Bahamian in the teleserial, "Cory in the House." While all of this was going on, he acted the part of a Spanish gambler in Warner Brothers' eight-minute film short, "Closer."

"Acting is my hobby," Narkar says. To improve his diction, he early on enrolled in a CNN workshop for anchors. To familiarize himself with film production techniques, he also took courses given by Ron Robeerson, chief of Downey-based Time-Warner Cable. "He gave me some training on lenses, pre- and post-production stuff, things like that."

Bollywood and local Indian TV have begun to notice him, too. The headline in a recent Mumbai article about his debut tonight says: "Bingo! Son-of-the-soil theatre buff makes a mark on US TV." After flying back from the ABC Upfront Convention held in New York City Tuesday, where he appeared in a skit to promote his Bingo Show tonight (it was attended by advertising/marketing directors and other industry heavy players who have a say-so in the fall TV season programming), he was interviewed by all the local Indian TV stations for airing here. He says of his New York adventure: "To be singled out to perform for publicity purposes before such an audience was a big honor," he says.

Narkar's next big project: he plans to shoot his own film, "Guilty Without Sin," in India next year. He is the writer, director and producer, and probably will act in it as well.

But in the meantime, he is holding his breath. He says, "If tonight's Bingo program becomes a big hit, then I will probably become an employee of ABC for a long time."

Otherwise laid back and mildmannered, pragmatic and bemoustached, Sunil says he's merely taking advantage of the opportunities he sees around him. He exults, "This is truly the land of opportuni-



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## The Downey Patriot \_ Dining/Entertainment Page 9 Friday, May 18, 2007

### Tickets to 'Oliver!' musical still available

■ Popular musical opens May 31. Fifty-five actors and actresses will be featured.

**DOWNEY** – For the first time in 21 years, the Downey Civic Light Opera (DCLO) will present the Lionel Bart musical "Oliver!", based on the 1838 Charles Dickens classic novel.

The musical debuted in New York in 1963 and has been an audience favorite for 44 years.

Starring as Fagan and Nancy will be DCLO veterans Bill Lewis and Charlotte Carpenter. Luke Darnell portrays Bill Sykes and Alan Neal Hubbs plays Mr. Bumble. Veteran DCLO performers Ann Peck McBride, Robin LaValley, Nick Menecola, Erin Marie, Tara Alkazion and Michael Lopez are also featured.

"Oliver!" will be directed by Executive Producer Marsha Moode. It will mark her 24th production and the 14th she has directed in Downey. Rikki Lugo will return for the third time as choreographer and Eddy Clement as musical director, his sixth time.

The 1968 movie adaptation of "Oliver!" won six Oscars, including Best Picture of the Year.

The DCLO production will feature a cast off 55 performers. The musical will run May 31 to June 17 at the Downey Theater.

For tickets and information call (562) 923-1714.

#### Anchor Blue unveils a new look targeted to teenagers

**DOWNEY** – Stonewood Center's Anchor Blue retail store will unveil its new look on June 13.

The new design format, titled "Evolution," reflects the measures Anchor Blue has taken to modernize and elevate its store experience. The design is inspired by a warehouse feel, integrating natural elements such as concrete and wood. Some of the store furnishings include a mix of wooden workbench-like tables and metal bins for storing products.

"The store has great lighting and a mix of natural woods and concrete to create a warmer, softer environment," said Bob Higgins, vice president of real estate and store development for Anchor Blue. "Product can be presented in any part of the store. It is very easy to find merchandise and shop enhancing the customer's overall shopping experience."

The layout is also designed to reflect the way teens shop. With more product laid out on tables and placed with other items that compliment one another, teens can find it more easily accessible. The latest addition of a jewelry bar also creates an interactive way for the junior customer to find the right accessories to compliment an outfit.

Anchor Blue proposes that the new format will eventually be incorporated into most stores in existing markets.

#### Playhouse's next presentation is 'Proof'

LONG BEACH – The Long Beach Playhouse will present their latest production, "Proof," a drama by David Auburn, beginning June 1.

Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind.

Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draws Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness - or genius - will she inherit?

Ticket information is available by calling the box office at (562) 494-1014 or going online to www.lbph.com.

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Nicolle Stier will return to the Downey Civic Light Opera when she performs in "Oliver!" opening May 31 and running through June 17. It will mark Stier's 12th local appearance, including "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Music Man," and, most recently, "The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd." For tickets, call the box office at (562) 923-1714 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1 and 5 p.m.

#### Extreme motorsports expo hits O.C.

COSTA MESA - Extreme Motorsports Expo will present a highoctane mix of vehicles and accessories for all off-road and speed fanatics May 18-20. Thrills include FMX jumpers, Rhino demos, monster trucks and Monster Kool Bus rides.

Among the vehicles to be displayed are sand rails, rock crawlers, quads, desert trucks, dune buggies, 4x4s, lifted trucks, ATVs, dirt bikes and high-speed watercraft.

Expo hours are Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 per adult (13 and older); juniors (7-12) are \$5 and children 6 and under are free.

For more information call (714) 241-9055 or visit www.extrememotor-

#### 'Baron Rabinovitsj' making rare showing

COSTA MESA - "Baron Rabinovitsj", a production from the Netherlands about the power of music, will perform for the first time on the West Coast in the Orange County Performing Arts Center's Family Series from May 18-20 in the Samueli Theater.

In "Baron Rabinovitsj", a routine recital of chamber music turns into the silliest symphony ever with musical and visual gags when a madcap maestro takes the stage to lead an orchestra of distracted, ridiculously yet expertly trained musicians.

Tickets are \$15 and available by calling the box office at (714) 556-2787 or online at www.ocpac.org.



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5:45), 6:30, 7:20, 8:05, 8:50, 9:40, 10:25; Mon to Wed [10:45, 11:30, 12:20, 1:05, 1:50, 2:40, 3:25, 4:10, 5:00 5:45), 6:30, 7:20, 8:05, 8:50, 9:40, 10:25

28 WEEKS LATER R [11:50, 2:25, 5:10], 7:40, 10:15 ★ GEORGIA RULE E [11:10, 2:00, 4:45], 7:25, 10:20 ★ SPIDER-MAN 3 PG-13 (10:45, 11:30, 12:25, 1:10, 1:55, 2:40, 3:35, 4:20, 5:05), 6:05, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15,

9:15, 9:55, 10:40

DISTURBIA PG-13 (11:40, 2:20, 5:00), 7:50, 10:15 Times for Friday-Wednesday, May 18-23, 2007

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#### 'Gospel Archery' visits Seventh-day

DOWNEY - Mark West will be presenting the Gospel using archery for Adventurer Sabbath on May 19 at the Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Adventurer Club is for all boys and girls ages five to 10.

West Archery and their team of archers have been performing across the country and around the world, presenting "Gospel Archery." They are the only Gospel Archery Team in the world.

West is a three-time California State Champion, two-time U.S. National Champion and member of the 1972 Olympic Team. His son is currently training to be on the next Olympic Team.

West Archery Team will lead the worship service, followed by a luncheon. Kids will participate in games and an archery demonstration will take place in the afternoon.

Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church is at 9820 Lakewood Blvd.

#### Bellflower concert honors the 1950s

BELLFLOWER - The Bellflower Civic Chorus will honor the City of Bellflower's 50th anniversary with a weekend of music and dancing from the 1950s.

The concerts will be given May 18-20 at the William Bristol Theatre Auditorium, 16600 Civic Center Dr., in Bellflower.

Some of the songs to be performed include, "My Prayer," "Are You Lonesome Tonight," "Unchained Melody," "Blue Velvet," "How Much is that Doggie in the Window," "Surfin' USA" "Chapel of Love," and "The

Adding to the show will be dancing by Carl Pilsecker and Camille Dull and specialty dance numbers by the "Headliners."

Tickets to the show are \$5. The May 18 show starts at 7 p.m. while the Saturday and Sunday performances are 2:30 p.m. matinees

For tickets or information, call Alice Brindle at (562) 866-4664 or







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# Faith in Downey: St. Raymond's/Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

Who, and/or what, do you believe in?

Beginning this week, The Downey Patriot will be highlighting the different churches and faiths in Downey in a summer-long series we hope will enlighten and possibly inspire our readers. We're calling it "Faith in Downey.'

Faith plays a large role in the lives of many Downey residents, as we believe it should. But we also understand religion to be a sensitive topic. If you have suggestions on how we can better improve our series, please let us know. We're striving for fairness, respect and accuracy in every faith spotlight, and we won't know if we're successful or not without feedback from you.

Also, if you would like to see your church and faith spotlighted, please let us know and we will try out best to accommodate.

No matter where you worship, how you pray or to whom, we hope 'Faith in Downey" is a series you will enjoy reading every week. - Eric Pierce, City Editor

### A message from the congregation:

St. Raymond's Catholic Church welcomes all people to join us in worship and prayer, service and joyful community. There are ministries and programs for people of many cultures and all ages. We have an excellent Catholic School (K through 8). Our clergy, sisters and staff are here to assist those in need, guide, teach and council all in the spirit of serving in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the very center of our worship.

This week we our celebrating with Festival, which is Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. Entertainment and games, good food and a large raffle will make this weekend a lot of fun for people of all ages.

All are welcome at St. Raymond's Parish. Join us for Eucharist (Mass) on Sundays or week days. Come and see our school or religious education programs for children, teens or adults. Come and share with us as we minister to the poor, to the sick and to those in need.

If, for any reason, you think you are not welcome in the Catholic Church please know that we can assist you in returning, no matter what the situation. We are here to help.

Blessings and peace in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord!

**Mass and Confession Schedule:** 

Saturday – 5 p.m. Sunday – 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) and 5:30 p.m.

Daily – 6:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. except Saturday 8 a.m. Confession – Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

— Father John Higgins, St. Raymond's Catholic Church



We Invite You To Worship With Us!

Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am

**Christ Lutheran Church** 7707 Florence Avenue, Downey (562) 927-4421

#### Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church



West's Gospel Archery will lead the worship service Saturday, May 19 at 10:50AM Free Luncheon **Archery Demonstration After Lunch** Especially for kids ages 5-10

9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013 http://www.downeychurch.org

St. Raymond's
Catholic Church presents: Homecoming ~ Tet's Celebrate Festival Fred May 18,19,20

**Entertainment** 

**Featured Singers Featured Dancers** Live Bands ~ nightly Improve Contest ~ Fri. **YMCA** Demonstrations Superstar "Dance-Off" Contest ~Sat.

School Talent Show

Bingo in the new hall

All Day Fun!

Family weekend fun: 12348 Paramount Blvd. Downey, xst. Quill Dr.

> Lots of Lood All specially prepared with

love from our volunteers Mexican. Italian. Filipino. American **B.B.Q. GRILL** 

<u> Lots of Games</u>

Fun Rides

Hours Open

Fri. ~ 6:00 - 10:00pm Sat.~ 12:00 - 10:00pm Sun.~ 12:00 - 6:00pm

All Funds raised will go to help St. Raymond's Catho **Alumini Welcome!** 

1st prize \$ 3,000.00 2nd prize \$ 1,000.00 3rd prize \$ 500.00 Sellers prize \$ 100.00

By Brooke Karli STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – If the Catholic Church had a recipe, it would ask for a great amount of Scripture, a dash of prayer and a pinch of worship.

For over two-thousand years the Catholic Church has basked in tradition, holding steadfast in Spirit and beauty. And it's a good chance that at some point in your life, you have stopped and gawked at a breath-taking Catholic church, usually complimented by vaulted ceilings, golden crucifixes, stained-glass windows, wooden pews, and the smell of incense and anointing oils.

In the past 100 years, Downey has seen not one, but two, very prominent – and beautiful – Catholic churches thirve amongst our community.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) - originally named St. Anthony Church – was Downey's first Catholic church and has been here since 1908. The triangular lot – bound by Downey Avenue, Fifth Street and New Street - was purchased from Downey Land and Improvement Association by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Monterey and Los Angeles following a growth in Catholic population in

Currently, OLPH's congregation consists of 3,500 families. They average 80 weddings and 60 funerals a year and thus far, in 2007, there have been 156 First Communions and 97 Confirmations.

OLPH holds Mass at 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, and 8:15 a.m. daily.

Since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the church has hosted a Blue Mass, honoring and praying for the safety and protection of men and women in blue uniforms, both in Downey and nationwide. Each year, Downey's Fire and Police Chiefs are in attendance, as well as many pastors from surrounding churches.

OLPH will also be hosting a year of festivities celebrating their Centennial, beginning October of next year.

St. Raymond's, which has been in Downey since 1956, just finished their year of festivities, celebrating 50 years.

St. Raymond's was established in order to give the Catholic community in Downey another parish to attend, eliminating crowding at OLPH.

The same day Downey was incorporated as a city in September of 1957, was the same day the doors to St. Raymond's school were opened. The school will be celebrating 50 years of operation this weekend at their Homecoming Festival.

St. Raymond's offers a variety of ministries including a thriving Spanish ministry, a Life Teen program that caters to the community's youth, a health ministry that provides assistance and support to patients, a golf tournament that raises money for the church's orphanage in Mexico, and much more.

Their congregation is 2,800 families strong, with an average Sunday morning Mass ranging from 150 to 700 people in attendance, depending on the time of the Mass.

In appearance, St. Raymond's does not share the same grandeur as OLPH. But as Rev. John Higgins would put it, "our church is only beautiful when people are in it."

When it comes to doctrine, all Catholic churches follow the Holy Bible and the Leccionary, a book produced by the Catholic Church that includes daily readings, making every Mass the same globally. For example, what will be taught and read this upcoming Sunday at St. Raymond's and OLPH will be exactly the same as what is taught and read at a Catholic church, let's say, in Rome.

And although there are many similar beliefs shared between Catholics and Protestants – two being they both believe in the Holy trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and follow the Holy Bible – there are also many practices that differentiate the two.

Rev. Mark Warnstedt of OLPH said the five biggest differences include the involvement of the Virgin Mary, the meaning of the Eucharist (Communion), the practice of Sacraments, the structure of the Catholic Church and the interceding of Saints.

"Because Mary is the mother of the Savior, we take pride in her because she said yes to God's plan to give birth to Jesus," said Warnstedt. "She is capable of interceding on our behalf, which is why

"We take the Bible literally at times and in John 6, when Jesus is partaking in the last supper, he says his flesh is real food and his blood is real drink," explained Warnstedt. "So we believe the Eucharist to be a literal partaking of the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, rather than

"The Catholic church practices seven Sacraments," said Warnstedt. "One of those Sacraments is the Sacrament of Penance – forgiveness of sins by a priest. We believe that the Sacraments represent a direct encounter with God and because priests are chosen to be representatives of God and have the power of Jesus instilled in us, the forgiveness we impart on people is not from us, but rather from God. We are just the physical representation of the forgiveness imparted.

"The structure of the Catholic Church is that of a hierarchy. We believe there is a direct line from Jesus Christ all the way down to our current Pope. All of our Popes can be traced back to Peter, who was a disciple of Christ. Because of that lineage, we give the Pope, who we believe to be infallible in faith and morals, more power within the Church.

"Lastly, we ask the Saints - human beings who exemplified the Lord while they were alive – to intercede our prayers. We feel that they have the power and ability to pray for us as well."

Regardless of the differences one church may have from another, it is evident that the Catholic Church thrives to serve God and the community. Both St. Raymond's and OLPH are rich in tradition and wealthy in knowledge.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 10727 Downey Ave. (562) 923-4509

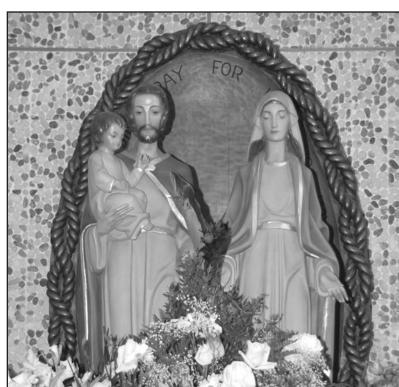
St. Raymond's Catholic Church 12348 Paramount Blvd. (562) 923-3246



Stained glass window inside OLPH.



Exterior shot of OLPH.



Altar inside St. Raymond's.



Exterior shot St. Raymond's. Photos by Art Montoya

Next week: First Baptist Church of Downey



Pictured above are the past presidents of the Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. A luncheon was recently held in their honor at the Rio Hondo Events Center.



Members of Mariachi Latino performed at Arc's recognition ceremo-

### Arc recognizes longtime supporters with ceremony

■ Arc of Southeast Los Angeles, now in its 50th year, gives honors at special ceremony.

DOWNEY - Arc of Southeast Los Angeles recognized some of their longtime students, staff and consumers at a special ceremony this week.

Arc Executive Director Kevin MacDonald was joined by President Dianne Lumsdaine in presenting pins and plaques to longstanding members. Those honored included:

#### Five years

Gabriela Albinagorta, Omar Bonilla, Karen Bouffard, Yessica Bulosan, Anna Cardenas, Gricelda Carmona, Maribel Cerna, Michael Clough, Ericka Costichi, Eliseo Cuevas, Wanda Davis, Emily De La Cruz, Abraham De La Torre, Edgar Godoy, Evelyn Hurtado, Wendy Krause, Ruben Lemus, Adis Lopez, Karina Lujan, Garbriela Machado, Stella Mares, Billie Marshall, Sebastian Mascarro, Antionette Moody, Consuelo Partida, Brent romero, Anabella Salty, Lizette Sanchez and Jesus Sandoval.

#### 10 years

Victor Ambriz, Anabella Barajas, Rosario Escareno, Laura Flores, Mercedes Gonzalez, Victor Montenegro, Minh Nugyen, Jacqueline Nilo, Carmela Ortega, Asvin Patel, Hortencia Rueda and Arlene Smith.

#### 20 years

Theresa Chavez, John Clarke, Yolanda De La Cruz, Steven Grissom, Steven Kowalski, Alanna McGraw, Jose Rodriguez, Timothy Stober and Theodore Watkins.

#### 25 years

Pauline Campos, Cora Conley, Galen Davis, Terri French, John Hurd, George Martinez, Gary Morck, Teri Reyes, Robin Terry and Jill VanSurksum.

#### 30 years

Donna Lindley, Ronald Thums, Linda Ripley and Susan Tankersley.

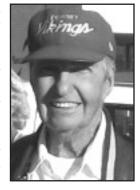
Thomas Graham.

### Coach Roly Averitt loses battle with cancer

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School track coach Roly Averitt passed away last Friday at the age of 86, losing his three-year battle with can-

After retiring from teaching elementary school for the Downey Unified School District, Averitt coached long distance runners at Downey High beginning in 1976, a position he held until

A memorial service will be held at Calvary Chapel of Downey May 26 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



### Velma Dunn Ploessel was an Olympic medalist viewing today

**DOWNEY** – Velma Dunn Ploessel, Downey resident since 1984, passed away on May 8 at the

Ploessel was born on Oct. 9, 1918 to Harold and Velma Dunn. She graduated from Monrovia High School and attained her master's degree in education from the University of Southern California. Ploessel was also a teacher for the City of Los Angeles for over 40 years.

In addition, Ploessel won the silver medal for high diving in the 1936 Olympic Games, also serving as an Olympic torch carrier in 1996, 2000 and 2002. In 1937, she was named the California State Doubles

Badminton Champion.

Ploessel was involved in many community organizations, serving as past presidents for the Downey American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Whittier AAUW, the Downey Alumnae Panhellenic, the California Retired Teachers Association of Whittier, and the Downey Coordinating Council.

Howard, her husband for over 25 years, preceded her in death in

She is survived by daughter Nancy Ploessel; son Dennis Ploessel; and grandchildren Eric, Jeremy and Bryan Ploessel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your favorite charity.



Max was adopted from Seaaca several years ago giving his family lots of love and joy. A donation to Seaaca was made in his memory, to be used to fund medical care, shots, and/or any surgeory for those animals in need of aid. A "Give to the Max" account has been established with Seaaca to accept donations from Red Carpet Heritage Realty at the close of all their escrows. For clients of Red Carpet Heritage Realty \$250.00 will be donated in the memory of their pets at close of their escrow.

For any information call Bev @ 562-244-3241



The Downey Association of Realtors (DAOR) presented five students each with a \$500 scholarship. Awarded were Andrew Juarez (Columbus High School), Danielle Murray (Downey Adult School), Theresa Fiddler, William Gutierrez and Alex Slevcove (Warren High School). The students are pictured above with Superintendent Dr. Wendy Doty and DAOR President Ana Esparza.

# Delfina Gonzalez

**DOWNEY** – Delfina Gonzalez, a wife, mother and sister, died May 9. She was born Dec. 24, 1939.

She is survived by her husband, Lorenzo; son, Lawrence; and daugh-

Visitation will be held today, May 18, from 3 to 8 p.m. at All Souls Mortuary in Long Beach. Funeral services are Saturday at 11 a.m., also at

#### Blood drive at Downey High School

DOWNEY - Downey High School will host its semi-annual spring blood drive on May 23 inside its gym from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Walk-ins

Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. The drive is being produced in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

#### www.thedowneypatriot.com downeypatriot@yahoo.com

### RED CARPET HERITAGE REALTY



#### Open House Sunday 12 to 4 9447 Pellet Street, Downey

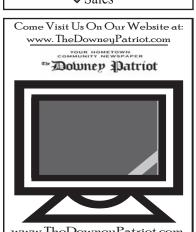
The good life is certain in this 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath home. Beautiful hardwood flooring, gorgeous fireplace and many more features to enjoy.

Asking a low \$609,000.

For further information or private viewing, please call **Red Carpet Heritage Realty** 

(562) 923-5401 All listings can be found at www.downeyrealestate.com







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Master suite w/FP, walk-in closet & large sunken tub. Dual pane windows, copper plumbing, new landscaping, lg. backyard w/bonus room. 12028 Julius Ave.

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his well maintained home features 3 spacious bedrooms one bathroom, 1056 sq.ft., large living room, dining area, central air/heat, fresh paint inside and out, upgraded windows, x-large 4 car garage, RV/boat parking, storage shed, all on 6500 sq.ft lot. Price: \$549,000



Affordable living in Northeast Downey This great condo features 2BD, 3BA, gated pool, spa, and subterranean parking. Great location, 1,467sq.ft. Price:\$409,888



**Great Curb Appeal!** 3BD, 2BA home situated in a quiet Downey neighborhood. Huge family room, 1,622 sq ft. on a 5,720 sq. ft. lot. Close to schools, shopping, and freeways. Price:\$542,888

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ale Jervis has become a staple in the Downey community-plain and simple. His family has called this beautiful area home for generations and nothing makes him prouder than to do his part to make a difference-from his volunteer efforts with the local animal shelter to his generous contributions to the local school systems to his work helping people achieve their real estate dream

The truth is, you're not likely to find a real estate professional who knows the intricacies of the local market like Dale. When you're looking not only for the right home, but the right neighborhood to fit your needs, Dale has the knowledge to make it happen. When you add the fact that he's been in the business since 1983, it seems only fitting that he's considered the local expert. Put simply, when it comes to your next move, there's no better professional to turn to than Dale. Give him a call today. You'll be glad you did!



ATTENTION HOME SELLERS! Ask Dale for his special report, "10 Mistakes You Can Make When Selling Your Home Tha Will Cost You Thousands (and How to Avoid to you free of charge. Just give Dale a call and he'll be glad to send you one today.

(562) 743-2121 • www.DaleJervis.com



### Page 12 Friday, May 18, 2007 Classified/Real Estate\_\_\_\_ The Downey Patriot

#### **INVESTMENTS**

#### **REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SEMINAR**

What will happen with your Real Estate Investment in today's market? Come to our Seminar and find out. Saturday, May 19, 2007 call to reserve your seat. Century 21 Jervis & Associates in Downey.

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Downey Patriot Read the paper today the easy way! Go to our website at your leisure and read

of your own home. www.TheDowneyPatriot.com

in privacy

**Lost Dog** \$500 Reward



Bagel the Beagle, Male, 2 yrs. old. Missing since 5/8. Last seen 8500 Mueller, wearing blue collar with tags.

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### Blanca Pacheco

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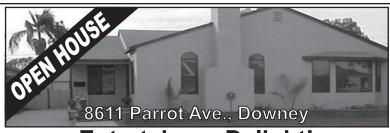
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Downey, CA 90240 Nubia Aguirre @ (562) 843-3734 or (562) 927-2626



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7,900 Sq. Ft. House 7 Bedrooms, 6 Baths only for \$2,750,000.



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6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths for \$1,299,000.

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Call **Linda Larson** to put your ad in The Downey Patriot Classifieds section
Deadline is Wednesday
at 11:00 am
(562) 904-3668

#### **HOMES FOR SALE**

FOR SALE BY OWNER Downey home 3 bed, 1 bath lrg. den, 1,425 sq. ft. Price range \$540,000 - \$550,000.

**Call Christine** (562) 818-3351

#### **OPEN HOUSE**

Sat. & Sun. Noon - 4 pm. 9430 True Ave., Downey Reduced Price - Sellers motivated. Lovely home with large LR. with high ceiling. 3 bed & 1.75 bath, FR, DR, FP & office, with 1,865 sq. ft. & 2 car garage. Agents

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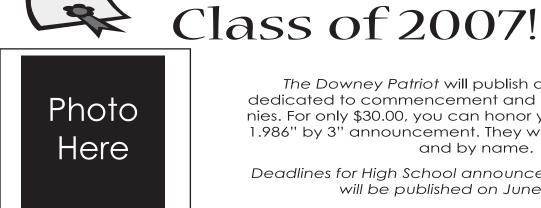


#### **Dive Right In!**

This spacious 3bd 2ba home near Furman Park boasts an enormous family room with wet bar, 2 fireplaces, an indoor grill and slider that leads out to the spacious pool. Central air and heat and all appliance included. All these for \$650,000.

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### Hats Off to the Graduates! Congratulations,



**Graduates Name** 

Line 2 Line 3 Line 4

Line 5

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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.

Deadlines for High School announcements is June 8 and will be published on June 15, 2007.

Include the following information:

✓ Completed Information Card

Photo of the Graduate

-- By Mail - photo must be 2" x 3"

-- By EMail - photo must be 300 dpi (DowneyPatriot@yahoo.com) ✓ Check payable to The Downey Patriot

The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Avenue, Suite A, Downey, CA 90241

	COMMUNITY NEWS , Suite A, Downey, C		
Line = approximately 20 to 23 cl	haracters including spac	es and punctuation	
Line 1 (Graduate's Name)			
Line 2 (School)			
Line 3 (Your message here)			
Line 4			
Line 5			
Billing Information			
Name:			
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City:	State:	Zip:	
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Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562)904-3668

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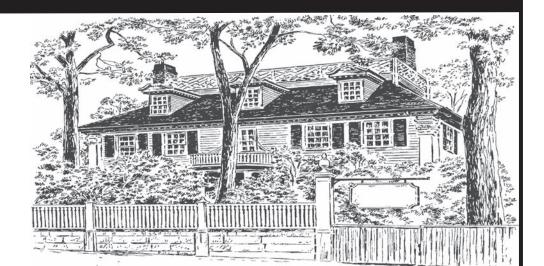
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Downey Patriot



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did a very good job." – Rodolfo Bojorquez "I felt I could trust Alfonso Ortiz with my life long decision. His persistency and diligent efforts to do what I ask made me feel confident that he had my best interest at hand. **Alfonso** will be the only agent I use in the future." – Gamaiel Edmerson

went every which way she could to help me. Maria



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Wish No More and the mountains. Visit www.centurv21mvrealestate.com, see a Virtual Tour and reahe ADDITIONAL INFORMATION of CUSTOM UPGRADES. (Too many to list!) (562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com



waits you at this move in condition Downey home. Remodeled Kitchen, 3 Bedroon ns, Pool, Fireplace in Family room, very nice neighborhood (562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com



The Travertine Open You will be attracted to this Downey home with an Open Floor Plan. Walk on the floor of Travertine. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Jacuzzi, Jungle gym, fruit trees, electric gat Stainless steel type refrigerator, stove, and microwave and more... (562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.c



**Business Opportunity** Transmission Shop with lots of traffic and a great location in Downey. Machinery an ventory, 3 lifts, Snap-on Scanner, computer and software, solvent machine at



Located in best area of Orange Estates, Visit ww.century21myrealestate.com watch the Virtual Tour then call and make an appoin (562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.com



Wood floors, fireplace, alarm system, laundry room, 300 sq. ft. bonus room and a autiful yard with a mature Avocado tree. (562) 927-2626 century21myrealestate.co



s a short walk from this outstanding Venice home. 3 Bedrooms, 2 ½ Bathroom



car garage and close to schools and park



Century 21 My Real Estate - Teaming With Clients For Over 30 Years

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## Page 14 Friday, May 18, 2007 Real Estate



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Mentor Trainer

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Open floor plan. Upgraded kitchen, beautiful abinets, stainless steel appliances, crown molding, impressive tile work, security system, fresh paint inside & out. Master BD, & BA, Call Roger Today! Or visit www.RogerBeltran.com

1. Behind on your payments?
2.Owe more on your house than its worth? 3.Bankruptcy? 4.Need out?

Call today for a private consultation!







*I'm Gorgeous Inside!*Spectacular 9,300 sq. ft. lot w/ pool,
Sport court, 3 BD, 2 BA home. Com-

pletely remodeled kitchen and upgraded

bathrooms, too many upgrades to list.

Price \$699,950

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Remodeled Like New - 2006

4 BD, 3 BA, granite counters in kitchen

& BA, LG. master suite, over 2900 Sq. ft.

Price: \$995,000

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com





3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, with premier tub, master suite w/ walk-in closet, pool, FA/CA, near Furman Park.

Priced @ \$650,000



"Great Downey Buy 3 Bedrooms, 1 3/4 Baths, master suite w/ walk in closet 80 Ft. wide lot, 2 car detached garage, 1,264 Sq. ft. home Priced @ \$560,000 Call Vicki Spearman @ 562-367-9520











North East Downey Townhouse!! This Unit features 3 BD, 3 BA, 1,541 Sq. Ft. Located in higly desriable "Glenbrook North" complex Must Call Mario To See! Price \$459,000

Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433



Lots For Your Money In Downey! 3 bd, 2 ba, open kitchen, living room w/ fireplace, master suite, newer roof (June 2006), fresh exterior paint (April 2007)

central heat & air (4 years new), & 1,722 sq. Ft. Priced @ \$679,000 Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433

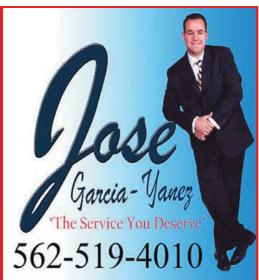


Best Priced Home Per Sq. Ft. In N. Downey! 4 BD, 3 BA, Newer Carpet, Copper Plumbing & 2,111 Sq. Ft. Just Reduced to \$684,950. Send all offers!



Nearly 20,000 Sq. Ft. Lot in Garden Grove! 2 BD, 2 BA, formal dining room, hardwood floors large garage/ workshop, with carport, Tons of possibilities Price: \$898,888

Call Mario Persico @ 562.533.7433 Born in Downey\*Raised in Downey SELLS DOWNEY





Move Right In! remodeled kitchen & bathrooms formal living room and den. Priced to sell \$679,000



<u>Fine Home at a Finer Price!</u> 3 BD & 1 BA, large family room w/ fireplace, remodeled kitchen & new paint. Priced at: \$564,900



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



**Prime Location!** 6 BD, 7.5 BA, executive office, bonus room, Approx. 6,500 Sq. Ft. 10,880 sq. ft. lot w/ pool and state of the art amenities

### www.Prudential24Hours.com



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**Chairman Circle** 

**Award Winner** 

2000-2006!

### Feature of the Week



#### Wont Last Long!

This spacious floor plan includes 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and a large living room. Large backyard and 2 car detached garage.

Price: \$539,950

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



#### Northeast Downey Condo!

2 BD, 2 BA townhouse-style condo w/ Remodeled bath, newer paint & carpet. Now at: \$399,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Honey, Stop the Car! Spacious 3 BEDS, 2 BA, LG. Yard w/ Spa & 500 sq ft guest house. Priced to sell @ \$675,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



A-1 Neighborhood! 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Northeast

Price: \$974,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

Downey with Large backyard and pool!



5 BD, 4 BA newly constructed home (4729 sq ft on a 7560 sq ft lot) with master suite, gorgeous kitchen, and rock pool & spa with waterfall and slide. A must see!!! Price: \$1,549,900



3 bed, 2 bath Downey home w/ guest

house, newer kitchen, central air & heat

Honey, Stop the

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

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com



<u> Upgrades Galore!!!</u> 3 bed, 2.5 bath home in NE section of Downey, 2346 sq ft, 7446 sq ft lot, remod-

eled kitchen and baths, large master suite, loft, and hidden attic room (very neat)! Price: \$995,000

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com





Classic Tuscan Country Estate! 6 BD, 4.5 BA, over 5,000 Sq. Ft., 14,600 Sq. Ft. Lot.

Price: \$2,099,000 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

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

Move Right In!

3 bed, 3 bath, large master bdrm, NE section of Downey, 2144 sq. ft. home on a 7625 sq. ft lot.

Price: \$799,950

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com

<u>New Construction 2007 - on Large Lot!</u>

5 Beds, 4 BA, central air & heat,

Sparkling pool, 3,600 Sq. Ft. Living

Space.

Price: \$1,295,000

Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com