



The Downey Patriot



Aspiring to make a difference
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Downey cheer takes first place
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Soloist preps for concert
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Friday, January 25, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 40

8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

Campaign signs turn up missing in city

Residents cry foul over apparent overnight thefts of Measure G campaign signs. Over 350 signs claimed stolen.

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR
DOWNEY – Downey residents expressed frustration this week over Measure G campaign signs they say are rapidly disappearing from outside their homes and businesses.

The issue prompted many residents to speak out at Tuesday's City Council meeting, likening the thefts to a form of censorship of a person's right to free speech.

"These thefts are denying me my First Amendment rights," resident Isabelle Ribeiro told the Council Tuesday. She said her "No on Measure G" sign was stolen sometime Monday morning between 12:30 and 8 a.m.

Mike Prokop, head of Citizens Against Senseless Reform, a campaign committee which opposes Measure G, told the *Patriot* "at least 200" of the committee's signs have been stolen, most of the thefts occurring overnight under the cover of darkness.

"I have received over 30 phone calls from folks from all parts of Downey extremely upset saying that their sign has been taken and more furious at the fact that their First Amendment rights have been violated by this theft," Prokop said Tuesday. "Eight signs on my block were taken Sunday night as were the ones in my yard. So many of the 'No on G' signs have disappeared overnight there must have been a small army out there."

"I am not accusing anyone, I wouldn't think of accusing anyone, however it does seem curious that the 'No on G' signs are disappearing faster than they can be replaced...while the 'Yes' signs remain in place."

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, however, said his group's signs were disappearing as well. By his count, over 150 signs have been stolen in the matter of a week.

All the stolen signs had been placed with explicit permission, said Guerra.

"I've received calls from over 200 people requesting signs," said Guerra, who heads up the Committee for Term Limits Reform. "I wish we could ban signs altogether. It's just a necessary evil with every election."

Officials with the Downey Police Department confirmed they had received reports of missing "No on G" campaign signs, but had no suspects. Sign thefts are treated as property crimes and suspects are subject to arrest, said Sgt. Leslie Murray.

Campaign sign theft could also potentially result in federal charges, said Murray.

Under city law, residents must give their consent for a campaign sign to be placed on their lawn. In non-residential zones, permission is necessary.

See MEASURE G, page 4

I saw (chess) genius in action

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Bobby Fischer, the acknowledged chess genius who died in exile in Reykjavik, Iceland, on January 17, committed a few unforgivable, grievous errors in his life but on the chessboard he had perhaps no equal.

I saw him once make a chess demonstration at Meralco, Manila's power company monopoly, before a packed audience of chess aficionados in the chess-mad city, probably right before he prepared seriously for his world championship match with Boris Spassky in 1972. A guest of the Marcoses, he was attired handsomely in the native *barong Tagalog*, with Imelda hovering about him. I remember the rapidity of his demonstration (woe to the uninitiated!), moving both white and black pieces on a gigantic magnetic chessboard as if by sleight of hand. His play with the rooks after a Ruy Lopez opening was scintillating. After castling, he showed how to move his doubled rooks down the center and effect a back rank mate.

By this time, he of course had already produced what the chess world labeled his first masterpiece, the so-called "game of the century" against the international master Donald Byrne. He was only 13. In 1964, he "blew away the competition" by winning 11 straight games—with no losses, no draws—to win the U.S. Championship, one of eight he would win. It was also in the same tournament that he played (this time against the grandmaster Robert Byrne) a combination so deep (some say 14 moves deep!)—and breathtaking—that he had the chess world at his feet.

I had become enamored with chess a few years previously, so I could appreciate his technical wizardry. I had read and studied techniques on the opening, the middle game, and the endgame, hoping that I would become at least a good player. My hopes in this regard turned out to be ephemeral. In the process, however, I at least became acquainted with the works and tenets of the greatest masters of the game: Tarrasch, Marshall, Morphy, Lasker, Alekhine, Capablanca, Botvinnik, Reshevsky, and Tal. By the time Karpov and Kasparov dominated the game, I had lost my ear-

See FISCHER, page 4

Nissan dealer driving into town

Acura dealership shuttered its doors, making way for new Downey Nissan.

By BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – On Jan. 6, Planet Acura Downey, formerly known as Downey Acura, closed its doors after seven years in Downey. Downey Nissan is expected to occupy the property within the next month, according to Brad Bodoh, former general manager of Planet Acura Downey.

"While we're very sad that Acura is leaving, we're happy that Nissan is coming in," City Manager Gerald Caton said.

Bodoh moved the Acura dealership to Buena Park, where the "opportunity to be off the 5 Freeway was too hard to pass up."

"[Planet Acura Downey] wasn't exactly in the right spot," Bodoh said. "And as the economy turns down, so do our sales."

"People aren't buying houses and they aren't buying cars," said Sue Nordin, executive director of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. "That's just how the market is right now."

Decreasing sales seem to be the trend right now amongst dealerships. On Monday, the *Press-Telegram* reported that Ford West in Bellflower has closed after 15 years in business, joining five other Ford dealerships scheduled to shut down this year, including Claremont Ford, Board Ford in Whittier, El Monte Ford, Don Knott Ford in Carson, and Keystone Ford in Norwalk.

The closures led to speculation about the future of Downey Ford. Tony Colon, Downey Ford general manager, said that although Ford's



Planet Acura closed its doors earlier this month, but in its place will be Downey Nissan, scheduled to open later this month. Photo by Art Montoya

overall sales are down 18 to 20 percent, Downey Ford's sales are up 28 percent.

"Because customers have so many choices and there is so much competition, we have to work harder than usual," said Colon. "It's not as bad as the real estate market, but it's tough and if profits aren't being made, individual dealers are forced to close or merge with other dealers."

Colon said the reason behind Downey Ford's success is keeping a solid customer base.

"If you give customers what they want, they will keep coming back and tell others to come as well," said Colon.

Another recent change to Downey's car market includes new ownership of Don Massey Cadillac and Chevrolet, which is now owned by Casa de Gonzalez. The dealership did not return phone calls for comment.

Although Downey's dealerships continue to keep their doors

open, the closure of any dealership in any city can result in a serious loss of tax revenue. Jack Kyser, chief economist of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, told the *Whittier Daily News* that county-wide tax revenues from car dealerships added up to about \$15.6 billion in 2006, making it the top local source of commercial tax revenue.

"Car dealerships often bring in the top tax revenue in their towns," Kyser said. "The closure of a dealership can cause a city to decline."

Other dealerships that remain open in Downey include Champion Dodge; Honda World Downey; Penske Toyota Scion; and Downey Pontiac GMC Buick.

The lot that used to showcase Downey Lincoln Mercury on Lakewood Boulevard and Gallatin Road remains vacant.

Parking restricted along car dealership on Studebaker Rd.

DOWNEY – Responding to a request by Casa de Gonzalez, the new car dealership which recently took over operations at Don Massey Cadillac and Chevrolet, the city is prohibiting on-street parking on the east side of Studebaker Road.

A market analysis of the dealership property determined that prohibiting parking along Studebaker Road could boost car sales at the site, according to a city staff report.

The City Council approved the request this week.

Vehicles are currently restricted to two-hour parking on weekdays.

City hoping to install 'speed feedback signs'

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The city of Downey is applying for a state grant to purchase 20 solar-powered "vehicle speed feedback signs" that officials hope will prompt drivers to slow down when driving through local school zones.

The grant application, which will be turned in to the state's Office of Traffic Safety, asks for \$250,000 to purchase the signs. The city would be responsible for their installation, which has been estimated at \$50,000.

The installation cost would be paid out of the city's Gas Tax Fund, officials said.

Feedback signs display a vehicle's speed as it travels down the road. The signs also display the road's maximum speed limit, which officials hope will encourage motorists to reduce their speed.

If the city's grant application is accepted, officials said the feedback signs would be placed primarily in school zones and areas with higher rates of traffic accidents and citations.



Margaret Olds achieved her dream by earning a high school diploma.

Margaret Olds knows 'all things are possible'

By BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Margaret Olds has piercing blue eyes, and on this particular day, the turquoise-colored blouse she's wearing makes them stand out as the sky does after a rainstorm.

It was those eyes that halfway through our interview, filled with tears as she shared the journey she encountered in receiving her high school diploma.

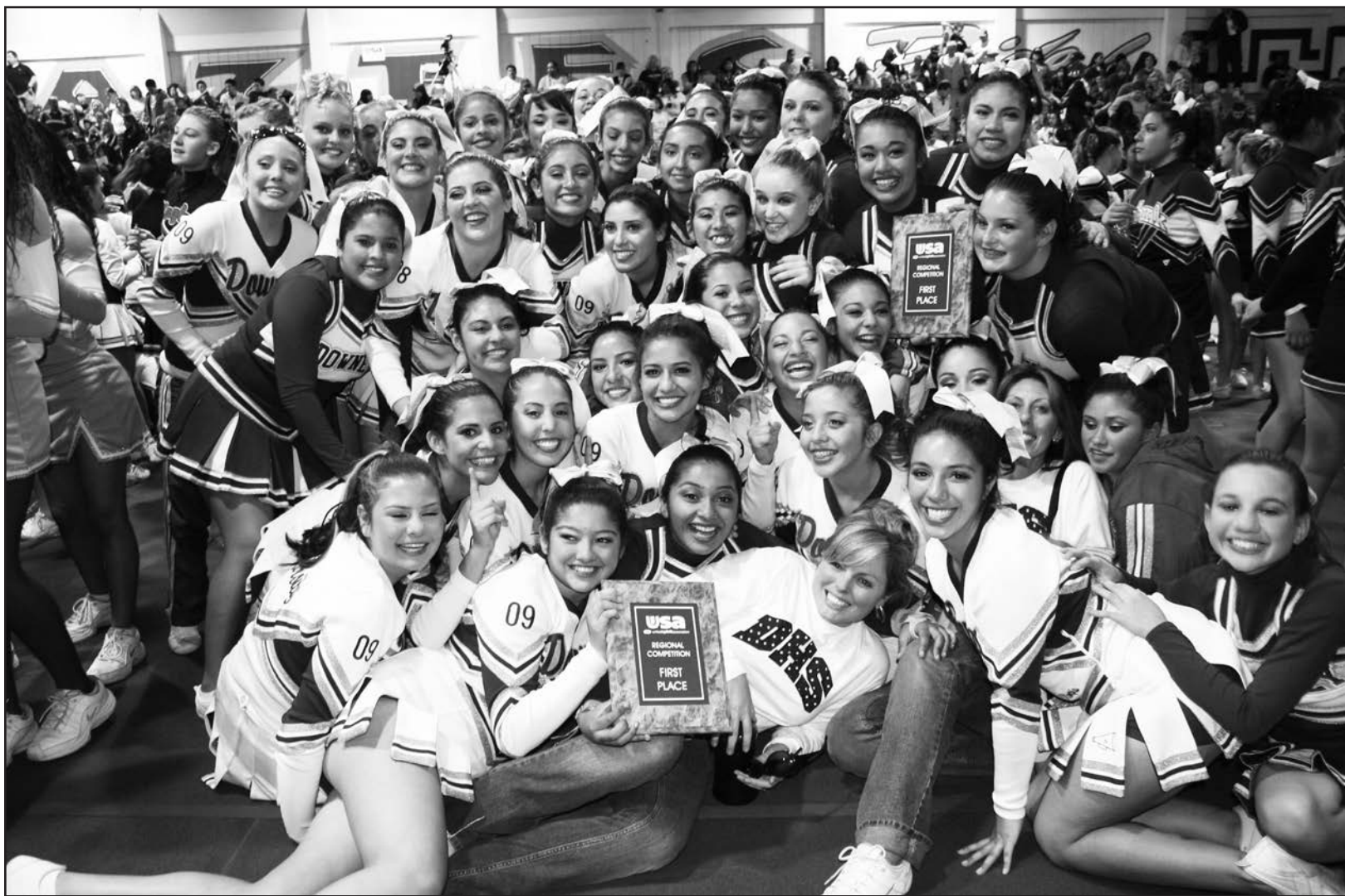
Margaret, 52, has spent the last eight years at Downey Adult School earning her high school diploma, a dream she thought she would never achieve.

Her journey begins back in high school, when she was "busy buzzin' around and not caring about school," she said. "I could've cared less about school at that time – it just wasn't something I wanted to do."

Between then and now, Margaret struggled with alcohol abuse and at the age of 27, lost a son shortly after birth. Then, about 15 years ago, Margaret began to feel ill, suffering from numerous seizures. Upon visiting a doctor, it was discovered that Margaret had a brain tumor. Doctors were unsure as to how the tumor got there, but knew it was serious enough to remove immediately.

However, following her surgery, it was determined that the procedure damaged some of Margaret's memory, causing short-term memory loss. Margaret's memory loss, she said, made it even more difficult to have confidence in herself and allow herself to open up to others, practically giving up all hopes of ever receiving her high school diploma.

See OLDS, page 4



Downey High School's varsity and junior varsity cheer squads took first place at the USA Regionals Competition last Saturday at Esperanza High School in Anaheim. Both squads advanced to the Nationals to be held in Anaheim March 7-9. The cheer teams are coached by Leslie Patterson, Natalie Flores and Cindy Foley.

DUSD hosts School of Choice enrollment

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District will be conducting its annual School of Choice open enrollment during the month of February for the 2008-09 school year.

Downey parents of students wishing to attend a Downey school outside their attendance area may pick up an application at any Downey school, or at the DUSD office, during the Feb. 1 – 29 enrollment period. New students – including kindergarteners – entering a Downey school for the first time and wishing to apply for School of Choice, should also register at their school of residence. This will guarantee registration in the District for the new school year.

Applications must be submitted to the DUSD office by the closing deadline of Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. Applications are not processed on a first come first served basis. A random, unbiased lottery will be held to place students on a School of Choice waiting list for the 2008-09 school year. Schools may accept students from the established waiting lists according to priority, but only if space is available.

For information, call the office of pupil services at (562) 469-6554.

Lifeguard certification training offered

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department will be offering an American Red Cross Certification course during spring break, March 24 – 28, at the Downey Aquatic Center at Downey High School.

The course will be held each day, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The certified instructor will provide the necessary minimum skills training for a person to qualify to serve as a non-surf lifeguard.

Participants must be at least 15 years of age on or before the beginning of the course and show proof of age at the time of registration.

Students will receive certificates of completion on the final day of class if they pass both the written and physical testing.

The cost for the week is \$105 which includes the training book, pocket mask and certification card.

Registration begins Feb. 4 at the Community Services Department office, 11111 Brookshire Ave. For information, call (562) 904-7238.

Scholarships available to local seniors

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey is once again offering \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Downey Unified School District high schools who have excelled as volunteers.

To qualify, students must have a 3.0 GPA and be in good standing, which includes citizenship and attendance. Applications are available at each high school's guidance office.

Completed applications should be mailed to the Assistance League of Downey, Scholarship Award Committee, 11026 Downey Ave., Downey, 90241. Applications must be postmarked by March 31; members of the League or their relatives (including Assistees) are not eligible.

Awards will be announced at the annual awards assembly scheduled at their respective high school at the end of this school year.

The Assistance League of Downey is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who raise funds to provide and administer vital, quality services for people in need in the Downey area. Some of their projects include Operation School Bell, H.O.M.E., Dental Program, Kids on the Block, S.A.T. Program, Hug-A-Bear Project, Books on Wheels, and their Christmas distributions.

Tournament elects new president for '08-09

PASADENA – The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association's Board of Directors recently confirmed Ronald H. Conzonire as president for the 2008-09 Tournament year. Conzonire will provide leadership for the 120th Rose Parade, of which Downey regularly participates, and the 95th Rose Bowl game on Jan. 1, 2009.

Conzonire revealed "Hats Off to Entertainment" as the theme for the 120th Rose Parade.

"I chose 'Hats Off to Entertainment' as the theme for the 2009 Rose Parade because the Rose Parade is a collection of America and the world's great entertainers, both past and present," Conzonire said. "With such amusing Grand Marshals as Carol Burnett, Bill Cosby, Bob Hope, Kermit the Frog, Emeril Lagasse, George Lucas, Mickey Mouse, Regis Philbin, Fred Rogers, Shirley Temple and John Williams serving in the past, and with the wonderful bands, float riders and equestrians that participate every year, the 2009 festivities will pay tribute to all that is entertainment. In its many forms, entertainment touches all of our lives. It brings family and friends together and it brings joy to people everywhere.

"Each year, the Tournament of Roses adds new entertainment elements to the Parade, and delivers a fun-filled, family-oriented celebration of the

New Year. I am honored to be leading the team of 935 volunteer members who work so diligently to continue to evolve the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game into events that are responsive to the needs of our viewers, broadcasters and sponsors while continuing to entertain us all."

Conzonire has been a volunteer member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association since 1987 and was elected to the executive committee in 2001. Throughout his Tournament career, Conzonire has served on and chaired various committees including budget and finance, community affairs, coronation, float construction, formation area, membership, music, parade operations, post-parade, queen and court, and special events, among others. He has also served on the Tournament of Roses Foundation Board.

In addition to Conzonire's many years of service with the Tournament of Roses, he has been actively involved with numerous community organizations. He is currently a member and former president of the Pasadena Optimist Club, and is active with the San Marino City Club, International Council of Shopping Centers, and the California Restaurant Association. He was also a board member of the Pasadena Quarterback Club.

The 120th Rose Parade will take place on Jan. 1, 2009 at 8 a.m.



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CITY

DOWNEY CITY SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

G CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 13: Shall a Charter Amendment, proposed by the Downey City Council, which amends Charter Section 500.1. Limitation of Terms from a two (2) term limit to a three (3) consecutive term limit, and provides for additional terms after a two (2) year waiting period, be adopted?

132 YES ✓

Let's have our citizens vote to make these decisions!

- Sheriff Lee Baca, L.A. County Sheriff*
Dr. Mary Stauffer
Kirk Cartozian, Downey Councilman (Former Mayor of Downey)
Dn. Mario A. Guerra, Mayor Pro Tem of Downey
Rick Trejo, Downey Councilman (Former Mayor of Downey)
Willie Gutierrez, DUSD School Board President
Meredith Perkins, Former Mayor of Downey
Bobbie Samperi, DUSD School Board Member
Dr. Gary McCaughan, Former Mayor of Downey
Martha Sodetani, DUSD School Board Member
Darrell Jackson, Gangs Out Of Downey President
Margo Hoffer, Past DUSD School Board President
Bob Wunningham, Former Mayor of Downey
Keith McCarthy, Former Mayor of Downey
Mike Murray, Downey Planning Commissioner
Roger Brossmer, Downey Planning Commissioner
Mike Hemsath, Community Services Commissioner
Nancy Swenson, DUSD School Board Member

Partial List of Supporters

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Inductees needed for Kids Hall of Fame

DOWNEY – The City of Downey Community Services Department invites community leaders, employers, teachers, coaches and parents to nominate outstanding youth, grades 1 – 12, who are achieving academically, athletically, or improving themselves and their community, to be inducted into the Kids Day Hall of Fame.

All nominees are invited to the Kids Day Hall of Fame ceremony on April 30 at the Downey Theatre at 7 p.m. During the ceremony, the top nominees, as determined by a neutral panel of community members, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

For information, or to obtain a nomination form, contact the City of Downey Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238. Nomination forms can also be printed off the City Web site at www.downeyca.org.

Toastmasters Club hosting open house

DOWNEY – Residents interested in improving their communication and speaking skills, as well as their leadership capabilities, are invited to attend the Toastmaster Club 587 open house on Feb. 19 and discover how a supportive environment can help you face your fear of public speaking.

The open house will be held at First Baptist Church of Downey, room 116, at 6 p.m. Featured speakers will be Mayor David Gafin and Distinguished Toastmaster Norm Cook. The public is invited to attend and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Fionnuala Anderson at (562) 928-2658 or John McAllister at (562) 500-7675.

Float designs now being accepted

DOWNEY – The Downey Rose Float Association is now accepting float design concepts for the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade. The theme of the parade is “Hats Off to Entertainment.”

Entries should be submitted on a 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of white paper with the entrant’s name, address and phone number listed on the back side. A brief description of the design should be submitted with the entry.

The deadline to submit an entry is Feb. 4. For more information, call Gary DeRemer at (562) 260-8503.

Credit union opens new Downey branch

DOWNEY – The Downey branch of the Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union (OCTFCU), located at 9125 Imperial Hwy., will be hosting its grand opening on Monday.

The football-themed Super Kickoff Celebration will include a ribbon-cutting, “tailgate” lunch provided by In-N-Out Burger from noon to 2 p.m., complimentary refreshments, and giveaways, as well as a chance to win a 42” LCD HDTV, among other prizes.

“We are excited to be the new face of OCTFCU in Downey,” branch manager William DeLeon said. “The grand opening celebration will be a way for us to demonstrate that we are here to set higher standards of service and look forward to making our member’s lives better.”

Downey is the 26th OCTFCU location to open in Southern California and provides an onsite ATM, consumer loans, mortgage loans, auto loans, savings accounts, investments, retirement, new memberships and more.

For directions to the Downey branch, hours of operation, and more information about OCTFCU and its services, visit www.octfcu.org.

Sanitation meeting cancelled

DOWNEY – Due to a lack of business items, the Citizens’ Health and Environmental Sanitation Committee will not meet this Monday as previously planned.

The committee’s next scheduled meeting is April 28 in the second floor training room at City Hall.

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ASPIRE makes an impact in Downey

BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON, KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

DOWNEY – Kiwanis works to positively impact the lives of children, so it was exciting to hear Sonya Meacham, program supervisor for the city of Downey, share how the After School Program for Information Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) and Character Counts programs are changing the lives of Downey’s school-age children.

Meacham told the Kiwanis Club of Downey that ASPIRE was developed in 2001 at four schools – Ward and Carpenter Elementary Schools, and West and Sussman Middle Schools – and when grant funds became available in 2005, the program expanded to Gauldin and Alameda Elementary Schools.

In 2007, ASPIRE added Griffiths Middle School and Lewis, Old River, Price, Williams, and Unsworth Elementary Schools for a total of 12 schools with over 1,200 students – and a waiting list.

A school qualifies for state funding for ASPIRE participation when the student population is at least 50 percent low-income and the children qualify for the free or reduced-fee lunch program. It has been determined that these students may also test low for aptitude and comprehension in math and reading and can benefit from ASPIRE.

ASPIRE includes scheduled times for homework and instruction on reading, science, math, nutrition and more. Daily lessons are based on the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and include “learning activities” such as reading a book and then going back through the pages looking for verbs or nouns.

“The children are learning how to make good choices,” Meacham said. “It feels good knowing that the kids have a safe place to go after school. Character Counts plays a large day-to-day role in their lives. Volunteers are welcome. You can adopt-a-day and help with reading or any subject that you would like to promote.”

Meacham can be contacted by calling (562) 904-8145, or emailing smeacham@downeyca.org.

For information on the Kiwanis Club of Downey, visit www.downeykiwanis.org.



Sonya Meacham, city of Downey program supervisor, recently spoke at the Kiwanis Club of Downey, sharing how ASPIRE and Character Counts are changing the lives of Downey’s youth.

Police personnel praised for response to burglary

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The City Council Tuesday heard a presentation by Police Chief Roy Campos commending Cpl. Mark Galindo, Forensic Specialist Ted Hiler and Capt. Larry Stroup for their “outstanding service” in responding to a recent residential burglary. It earned the gratitude of the affected party, who was present.

Except for a few vociferous comments—pro and con—regarding Measure G and the “shoddy” treatment inflicted on Councilwoman Anne Bayer on the matter of the disputed pro tem rotation, the meeting was a speeded-up, relatively brief, one.

In other action, the Council:

•Set a public hearing for Feb. 26 for comment on the 2008-09 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) programs benefiting low and moderate income

residents;

•Approved the agreement with Datanet Solutions, Inc. for LaserFische scanning services and appropriated \$63,600 from the Building Records Management Fee Account for the purpose; this will provide for long-standing (20 years) files to be scanned onto CDs as an electronic document, which will then be placed on the city system;

•Ratified the appointment of Councilmember Rick Trejo as temporary alternate, in lieu of Mayor David Gafin, for the L.A. County Sanitation Districts 2 and 18 meeting held last Dec. 12, 2007;

•Approved the agreement with Willdan in the amount of \$56,000 for consulting services to update the Housing Element of the General Plan; this is deemed necessary as the preparation of a housing element requires extensive knowledge in State housing element law, along with the accept

See COUNCIL, page 10

VOTE NO ON MEASURE G

- **Three Downey Councilmen have SPENT \$85,000 OF TAXPAYER’S MONEY TO STAY IN POWER**
- **SAY NO TO CAREER POLITICIANS**
- **DOWNEY NEEDS TO RETAIN PUBLIC SERVANTS**
- **DOWNEY DOES NOT NEED POWER HUNGRY LEADERS**
- **COUNCIL MEMBERS CURRENTLY HAVE 8 YEARS TO GIVE FRESH IDEAS AND DEVELOP NEW PROJECTS**

STOP THE POWER GRAB

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NO ON MEASURE G

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OLDS

Continued from page 1

But with assistance from the California Department of Rehabilitation, who provided textbooks, supplies, tutoring and funding for tuition, Margaret was able to go back to school in 1999.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all the support I received from so many different people," said Margaret, a Pico Rivera resident. "I have been helped in so many ways and I don't deserve any credit."

When starting at DAS, Margaret entered the Adult Basic Education program, a program geared towards adults who aren't working at high school level reading and math.

"She was extremely afraid, extremely nervous and very closed off at first," said Anita Alltounian, DAS counselor. "But she has never given up and has worked through every obstacle. All of her teachers would say she has persevered through so much."

One of her main obstacles: having to work and go to school at the same time. In the beginning, Margaret would work during the day at Pieloon restaurant, a job she had for over 15 years, go to class during the evening, and then work graveyard at Norms Restaurant.

"Looking back, I don't know how I did it," said Margaret, mother of 24-year-old Amanda Olds, a 2001 Warren High School graduate. "I was wearing myself out."

Margaret then decided to only work at Norms, giving her more time to take classes and volunteer at a local convalescent home.

"I want to give back what's been given to me," said Margaret. "I'm just trying to help others as much as I can."

Margaret's next goal is to work with Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County. With a diploma in hand, she hopes that will come sooner than later.

"I want to work with challenged people," Margaret said, tears in her eyes. "Going to school has not only made me more open-minded and confident, but I also have a whole new understanding on life. We so often take for granted what we're given and I want to touch the lives of others just as my life has been touched."

Currently, Margaret is participating in a post-secondary program at the DAS Office Skills Center, which will lead to her receiving a vocational diploma.

"She is learning a lot faster," said Anita. "Her short term memory difficulty is beginning to be greatly reduced."

Margaret also hopes to someday attend Cerritos College and receive her associate's degree.

"Being a waitress is great and I love meeting different people," said Margaret. "But I hope to get a different type of job someday."

Margaret was also inducted into the National Adult Education Honors Society in 2006, an organization that recognizes adult education students and fosters and encourages adult education.

"At first, I was going back to school to prove myself to others, but really, I ended up proving myself to me. I learned to take things one day at a time and to always do better tomorrow. I learned that all things are possible and that the best things to learn from are experience, strength, and hope."



Longtime Downey residents Donald and Janice Russell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Jan. 5 in the presence of family and friends at the former Officer's Club on the Fort MacArthur Army Base in San Pedro. Donald, a World War II veteran, was stationed at the fort in 1942 before his deployment to Germany in 1945, while Janice worked at the base as a civilian employee. After the war, the couple built their home in Downey, where they raised their five daughters and still reside today.

MEASURE G

Continued from page 1

sary from the property owner and/or tenant, which can sometimes result in multiple signs on a single lot.

Permission forms for these signs must be submitted to the city clerk no later than five days after the sign is placed. A signature from the property owner or tenant is not required.

According to documents filed with the city clerk, on Jan. 12 Councilwoman Anne Bayer placed a "No on G" sign outside her office located in a complex at 10642 Downey Ave. Two days later, Guerra received permission from the Lucia Eye Center to place a "Yes on G" sign outside the same complex.

Both signs were gone by mid-week.

Historically, city officials said, some have used the five-day period as a loophole to inundate the city with campaign signs in the days leading up to an election.

Public comment

Several speakers from the public took the dais Tuesday to speak about Measure G, most notably former council members Gary McCaughan, Keith McCarthy and Joseph DiLoreto.

McCarthy, who was termed out of office in 2004, said Downey was at a disadvantage with the current term limit system. He compared Downey's government to a freshmen or junior varsity team competing against more experienced groups.

Citing recent "Letters to the Editor" in the *Patriot*, McCarthy also urged residents to refrain from future personal attacks.

McCaughan used the "death penalty" analogy in throwing his support behind Measure G. He said council members should be allowed more than eight years in office to remain competitive with other cities.

DiLoreto, a judge who helped initiate term limits in Downey in the early 1990's, said the Council's actions thus far were legally acceptable, "but doesn't seem morally right."

Outspoken City Hall critic Lenny Whittington, meanwhile, blasted the City Council for their handling of the mayor pro tem rotation in December, calling them "cowards" for not confronting Guerra when he allegedly "screamed" at resident Maria Larkin outside Council Chambers on Dec. 5.

Another speaker praised the City Council and likened Guerra to Jesus Christ and the public persecution he endured throughout his life.

The Poets' Corner

For Our Fallen Hero

You have taken the wings of the morning
And flown far away from my sight.
You are beholding new dawns,
I feel immersed in dark night.
Some day I too will reach morning,
Where sadness may all disappear,
Where hope and eternal gladness
Will take away walls of fear.
Then shall the veil be lifted
When we may walk hand in hand,
Darkness to light has shifted
No more foot prints to leave in the sand.

- Terese Akins Anthony,
Lakewood

Years to Live

We've only 100 years to live
Until our Eart will cast its shadow upon us
Now known for human life
But soon to be at its doom

The ocean currents will sweep me away
With poisonous drops of mystery
Slowly devouring the world population
Until our species is at end

The clouds pass over head
Showing signs of doubt and distress
No longer able to support life itself
For its water now filled with sorrow

We think how our future awaits us
But struggle to save the human race
We can only watch as if life were a game
In which we failed to win

- Rebecca Marrick,
Lakewood

Cerritos College begins 15-week session

NORWALK - Cerritos College's 15-week session will begin on Monday and a second nine-week session will begin on March 17.

Students may access a schedule of classes, complete an application and register for classes online at www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

FISCHER

Continued from page 1

lier enthusiasm for the game, although I would occasionally glance at the printed games in the pages of the *L.A. Times*, even clipping the short games which contained flashy sacrifices/combinations. I still have a set at the ready and, in future, I would indeed like to again savor the game's sweet delights. It is indeed still one of the best, most satisfying (and most taxing) board games ever devised by man.

I once took part in an inter-company chess tournament and was doing very well until I competed against the eventual champion. He was the firm's chief accountant and possessed, so it seemed, a cold and calculating, fiercely analytical mind. I had employed my favorite two bishops' attack, and I knew I had him, even saw him squirm and scratch his head, but then, using his native gifts, he extricated himself from a difficult position and, to my chagrin, snatched victory.

Chess of course is notoriously time-consuming and other interests, other pursuits took me away from active chess. Not that I thought I had a great future in it. Like I said, I just wanted to be good at it, a decent player. After all, I thought I understood and knew some good theory, but you have to practice long hours, compete over-the-board, to really gain strong mastery of the game. This is what Fischer did. It is said that he would among other things pore over moves on his tiny portable chess set in the subway.

It's too bad Fischer went his eccentric, erratic, antisocial way after his triumph.

Now he's gone, and the world of chess - and rightly so - mourns his loss.

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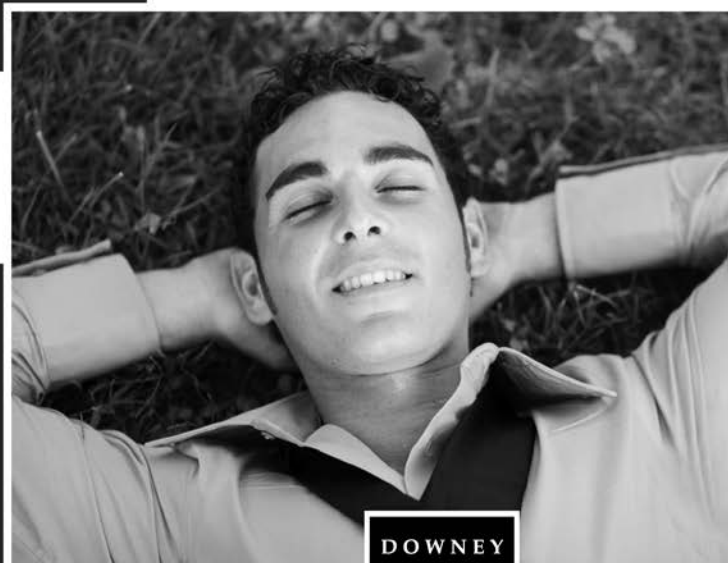
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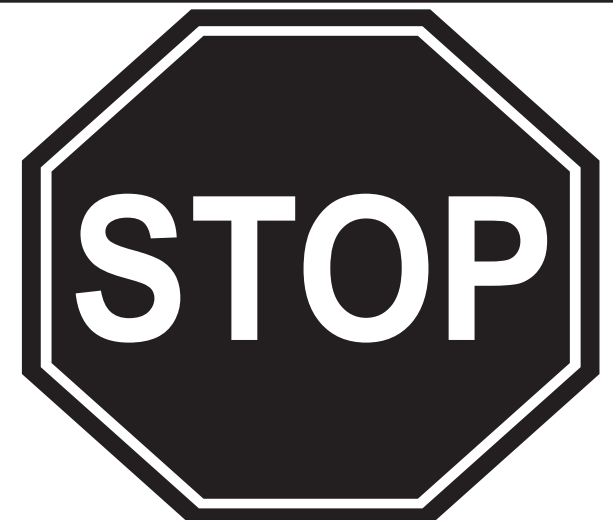
Councilmen too comfortable in their positions become too laid back in doing their job. Vote NO on G

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Term Limits "Reform" in Downey

Measure G Allows Career Politicians on City Council for 36 Years!

Eight Years is Enough for U.S. President and Should be for City Councilman

Vote NO on Measure G on Tuesday, Feb. 5th

Citizen Paid Advertisement

Postmarked

By Eric Pierce

This newspaper has been flooded with letters to the editor the past few weeks as readers have sounded off on Measure G, the controversial term limit issue that would, if passed, grant city council members additional terms in office.

Echoing the comments of City Manager Gerald Caton, this newspaper has "no horse in the race." But we do, however, believe this measure is critically important to the future of this city, no matter your stance. Thus, we are expanding our Editorial page this week to reflect more of your thoughts and opinions.

More letters concerning Measure G can be found on Page 11 this week.

As always, we welcome your input and thank you for taking an active participation in your community.

Letters to the Editor:

More on Measure G

Dear Editor:

Sadly, my "No on Measure G" sign was missing from my yard this morning. I saw a white Toyota 4-Runner at the intersection paying a lot of attention to my front yard just prior to noticing the missing sign. Others have reported seeing a woman in a white car stealing signs. I felt silly calling the Downey Police Department to report this crime but I always call the police to report these thefts...it's a federal offense to steal or vandalize campaign signs.

Someone connected with, or trying to do a favor for, the Yes on G supporters is showing their immaturity by attempting to silence any opposition. I hope this letter will expose the childish level of their political discourse. I know this letter will reach more voters than the yard sign ever could.

Personally, I don't want any elected official in office who requires a four-year on-the-job-training period. If he can't get onboard and up to speed within a few months, then eight (or 12) years will only serve to entrench an ineffective and incompetent incumbent. Our system of government was developed with a constant turnover of representatives in mind: we do not need an established ruling elite. The people of Downey decided on term limits and voted it in as law.

Why? Copied below is the perfect example of why term limits are in effect here in Downey. It's a letter from our Mayor Pro Tem to the Los Angeles Conservancy and the Save Harvey's Broiler Coalition that was forwarded to me by e-mail. The threats and arm-twisting should be apparent to anyone who reads it. There's no room in Downey for a "Boss Hogg."

— Richard McAllister,

Downey

Editor's note: The following e-mail was sent by Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra to members of the Los Angeles Conservancy.

"Happy New Year to you and your friends.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of recent events by friends of Johnie's and others in the conservancy cause that have and will hurt efforts in our city. Your members recently have been sending out e-mails opposing reform in Downey for term limits which makes us the only city in L.A. County out of 88 that has this death penalty. Kirk Cartozian and I have spearheaded this campaign to basically add a third term and then after sitting out two years the citizens can vote somebody back. This makes so much sense that our citizens get to vote for whom they want. In a democracy what a better thing to have than the right to vote.

Under the current death penalty in our city people like Kirk would be termed out next year and can never run for office again in Downey. But it was not done because of him, just because it is the right thing to do. I just wanted to bring to your attention some disturbing facts that you and your group should be aware of. For example, we were all outraged at the illegal demolition of Johnie's Broiler. The law was broken. And yet, many of your supporters feel they should now break the law themselves and put illegal signs on the site of Johnie's Broiler opposing Measure G... Very sad and not right. The law in Downey says you must have permission to put up signs from property owners and file a form stating when such permission was granted... This past weekend there were many illegal signs posted and after seeing an e-mail sent out by one of your members I can see why it was done.

I also feel that your group will also be losing some of your strongest supporters, although you may not be happy with some of our actions. But Kirk and I have been there for your group as it is right and the right thing to do. And yet I now find ourselves with strong words and statements from the same people we supported. I believe in the right to oppose our views of course, but to do so in this manner is disturbing at best.

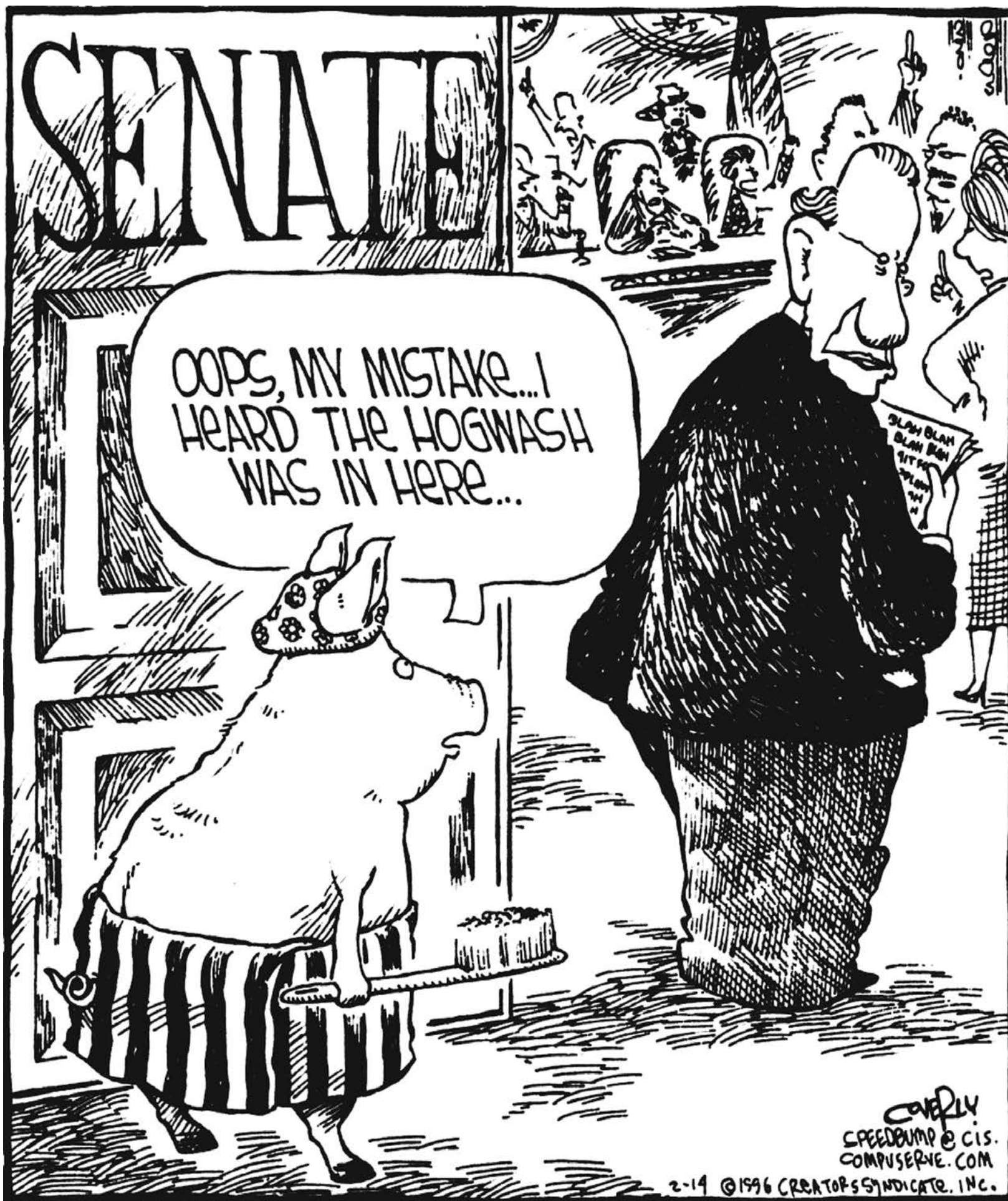
I just wanted to make you aware of this situation and how our efforts of support in the past towards your cause and position has now come back to be hurtful to us.

I hold not personal feelings against anyone, just wanted to make sure you all knew what you are doing is not right.

Dn. Mario A. Guerra

Mayor Pro Tem"

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot, 11525 Downey Ave., Suite A, Downey CA 90241 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com. Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.



Dear Editor:

At this past week's city council meeting, I was dismayed to see most of the opponents of Measure G resorting to personal attacks against Mayor Pro Tem Guerra, as opposed to concentrating on the issue. The same tactics have been well documented in the letters to the editor of this fine paper. I have even heard of a door-to-door campaign doing so. Consider the merits of such a ploy and whether these individuals may lack the ability to debate the issue. They are well within their right to disagree with Measure G, but the attempt to publicly assassinate someone is disheartening. Anyone who knows Mr. Guerra knows that he is man of incredible character, honesty and compassion.

I wanted to share some of my thoughts on Measure G. It really is about reforming a current term limits system that isn't working. I see this as an excellent opportunity to engage our community in civics and I would hope that we could keep the debate focused on the issue's pros and cons. We are free to disagree. This is the beauty about living in a democracy. In non-democratic nations, you don't have such a right. When I taught U.S. History at Downey High School, I tried my very best to make students comprehend just how lucky they were to live in America. We oftentimes take this for granted.

As many of you may know, I am in favor of Measure G, a term limits reform initiative. It is my belief that many people in Downey have changed their mind since instituting our form of term limits back in 1993. Many others didn't formulate an opinion or didn't live in Downey at that time. It also came at a time when term limits were being placed in Sacramento to remove State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Although it may have had positive short-term effects, it has had long-term damage.

Downey has the strictest form of term limits in all of L.A. County. None of the other 87 cities can match us here. Two terms (and a no "comeback" clause) doesn't sound very democratic to me. In fact, it very much seems that voters aren't trusted to decide what and who is best for them. In the very least, 15 years since 1993, Downey voters deserve the opportunity to revisit this very opinion-divisive issue. For years, I have had numerous people tell me that we needed to re-examine the issue here in our city. Much like term limits are being revisited in Sacramento, they are being revisited here in Downey this coming February 5. I hope people go out and vote.

It is my opinion that term limits do not serve us well. However, since Downey now has a legacy of term limits, trying to eradicate them doesn't make much sense. That's why a reform does make sense. It's very simple. If you're in favor of term limits, what's not to say that "one" term or "three" terms make more sense? Why is "two" the supposed magical number? To this date, no one has yet to articulate this to me. Instead of two terms, Measure G proposes the allowance of three consecutive terms.

And, yes, it would only allow for people to run again after sitting out for two years. By this time, the power of incumbency will have been lost and a new member of the city council will have had the opportunity to warm up to the Downey voters. Some people are saying that this comeback clause will theoretically allow people to string together non-consecutive terms, thus being in office for more than 12 years. This is a scare tactic and a situation that I find highly unlikely. Here are the facts: Even before term limits, only four council members ever served three terms, and no one ever served four. Eight previous incumbents on the Downey City Council lost re-election for a third term. Downey voters are smart. Every sitting councilmember is beatable at any time, including me.

The comeback clause helps to reflect this and actually serves two purposes. (1) It serves as a check to current elected officials that previous members of the city council (i.e. Meredith Perkins, Keith McCarthy, Gary McCaughan, Diane Boggs, Bob Brazelton, etc.) could always run against

them. (2) More importantly, it also serves to protect the city should we be confronted with an outside movement to take over our community. Any group with ill-intent wishing to put up enough money could easily accomplish this in Downey. This has been well-documented in the neighboring cities of South Gate, Vernon and Bell Gardens. Why is it that anyone from anywhere can establish residency in Downey after only 30 days and then immediately become eligible to run for city council, but we could never choose to vote for a candidate merely because they've already served eight years in office? Doesn't make any sense to me. If Downey were ever in a crisis and needed some institutional members with sizeable political support, I think we'd want to have that option. I think that would be a pretty good thing.

On Tuesday, February 5, I encourage everyone to vote Yes on Measure G. "G" is simply good for Downey.

— Kirk Cartozian,
Downey City Council

Dear Editor:

First, thanks to *The Downey Patriot* for providing the important coverage of our city affairs.

Measure G is, indeed, a "hot topic!" I feel this controversy has been brought about needlessly. I talk with many people who are interested in local, state and federal government, and until just recently, I've heard no outcry Downey citizens to do away with term limits at the local or state level, and no outcry for the City Council meetings to be televised. Councilman Guerra told me he had received hundreds of e-mails requesting this. However, I asked another councilman if e-mails were received, and the reply was "Not until Councilman Guerra brought it up." (Could the e-mails have been encouraged by Guerra?)

Was Measure G just poorly written, that it allows for the possibility for someone to serve 24 to 36 years, or was it by design?

To the City Council I would say that if they can't get their goals accomplished in eight years, let someone else try. You're free to pass along any knowledge that might be helpful.

Citizens are upset that \$85,000 was spent to get Measure G on the ballot, when it could have been done with \$10,000. Guerra stated that \$10,000 had been spent putting lights under trees at the golf course. Does one waste of money justify another? I could name many areas of wasteful spending at all levels of government!

At the meeting at the Lord's Grace Church (1/15/08), Guerra noted that out of 88 cities, Downey was the only one that had term limits, then went on to say how much better off, financially, Downey was than other cities. It then appears that term limits seems to have helped, rather than hurt Downey.

We need to respectfully advise the City Council to listen to the people who put them in office, and perhaps even ask citizens what they think is important to them.

— Elsa Van Leuven,
Downey

Dear Editor:

In the last eight years, Downey seems to have grown and thrived as a city. I see no reason why Kirk Cartozian or Rick Trejo should not deserve more time in office, if that's what they desire. It seems the democratic thing to do.

— Allison Scott,
Downey

**More Letters
to the Editor, Page 11**

The Downey Patriot

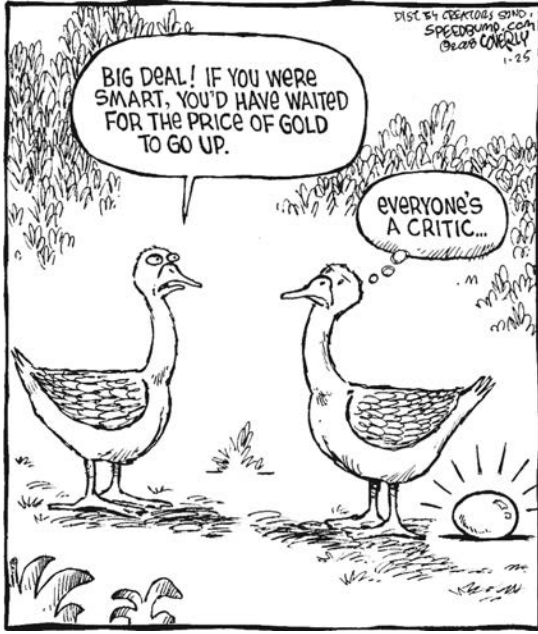


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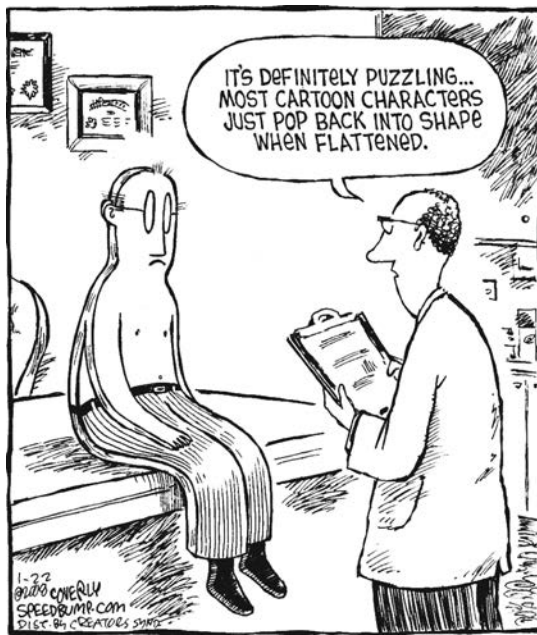
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For January/February

- Sat. Jan. 26: **Enchilada Sale**, Moravian Church of Downey, Noon
- Mon. Jan. 28: **Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union Grand Opening**, Noon
- Sat. Feb. 2: **WWII Photo Day**, Downey Library, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Feb. 2: **Downey Symphony Concert**, Downey Theatre, 8 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.
- 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.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 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 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

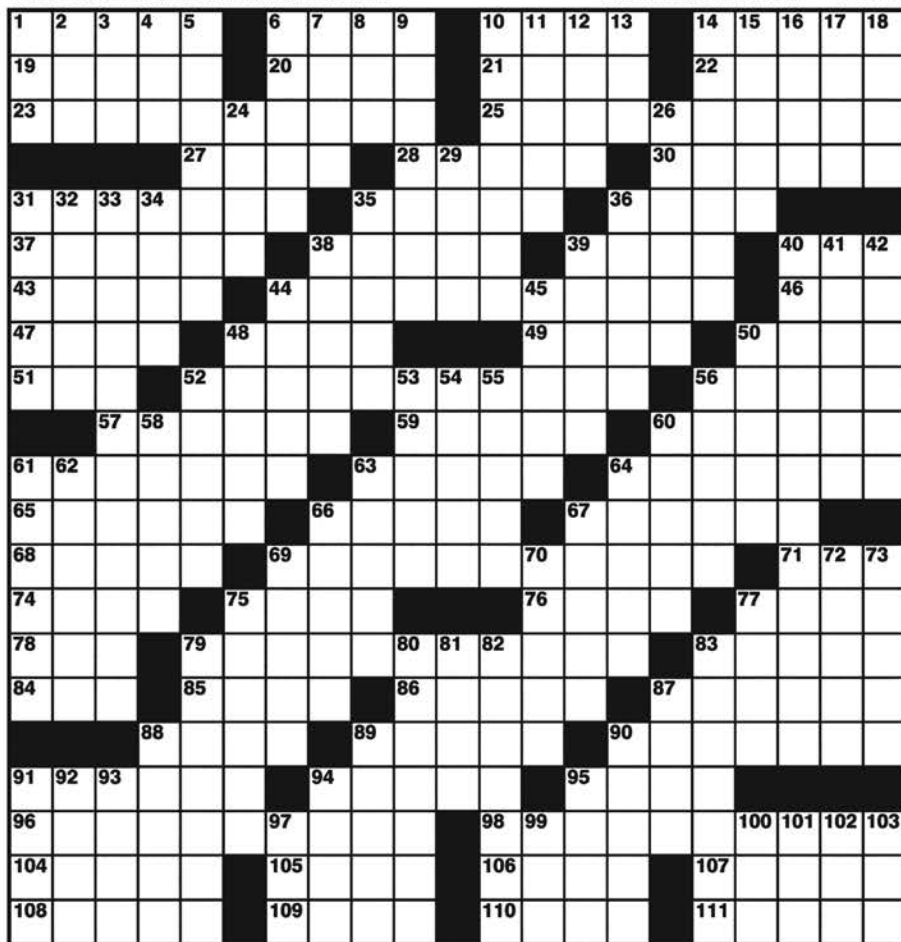
On This Day...

- Jan. 25, 1533:** King Henry VIII of England secretly marries Anne Boleyn, who was subsequently beheaded on charges of adultery, incest and treason.
- 1890:** The United Mine Workers Association is founded.
- 1915:** Transcontinental phone service is inaugurated by Alexander Graham Bell.
- 1961:** John F. Kennedy delivers the first live television presidential news conference.
- 1993:** Two CIA agents are shot and killed outside agency headquarters in Virginia.
- 1994:** Singer/entertainer Michael Jackson agrees to a reported \$10 million settlement to resolve a child molestation lawsuit that had been leveled against him.

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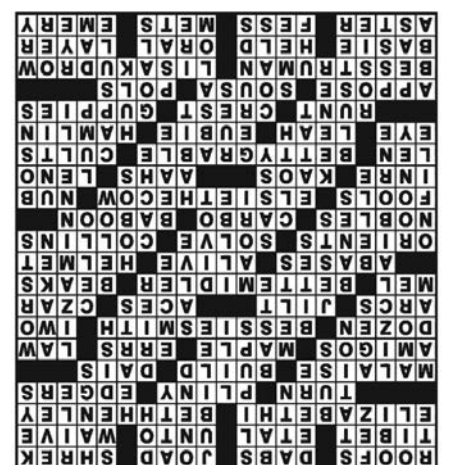
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 - 60 Pate protector
 - 61 Points (towards)
 - 63 Crack
 - 64 Apollo 11 astronaut
 - 65 Second Estate
 - 66 _ loading (marathoner's ritual)
 - 67 Mandrill, for one
 - 68 Hoodwinks
 - 69 Mooring mascot
 - 71 Very short pencil
 - 74 Concerning
 - 75 Maxwell Smart adversary
 - 76 Sounds of contentment
 - 77 Carson successor
 - 78 Author Delighton
 - 79 '40s film superstar
 - 83 Religious offshoots
 - 84 Examine closely
 - 85 Wife of Jacob
 - 86 James Blake's nickname
 - 87 Lincoln vice president
 - 88 Litter member
 - 89 High point
 - 90 Aquarium fish
 - 91 Place side by side
 - 94 "Semper Fidelis" composer
 - 95 Veteran campaigners
 - 96 '40s First Lady
 - 98 *Friends* actress
 - 104 "April in Paris" bandleader
 - 105 Maintained
 - 106 Vocal
 - 107 Cake portion
 - 108 Star flower
 - 109 Admit all, with "up"
 - 110 Big Apple baseballers
 - 111 Abrasive material
- DOWN**
- 1 Numbered rd.
 - 2 Peanut product
 - 3 Kimono sash
 - 4 Tasseled topper
 - 5 Radio studio
 - 6 Plow person
 - 7 Envelope abbr.
 - 8 "Rats!"
 - 9 Minor mistakes
 - 10 Festive occasion
 - 11 Incessantly
 - 12 ABA member
 - 13 *Simpsons* shout
 - 14 Like Nobel
 - 15 Hovers
 - 16 Make angry
 - 17 At any time
 - 18 Answer sheets
 - 24 Smooch
 - 26 Card game
 - 29 Actress Taylor
 - 31 Sir's counterpart
 - 32 Dean Martin song subject
 - 33 Brussels-born designer
 - 34 Long time
 - 35 Sewing term
 - 36 Not as damp
 - 38 Liquefies
 - 39 Quiz host
 - 40 *A That's Entertainment!* host
 - 41 Rise
 - 42 Gets the better of
 - 44 Snacks
 - 45 Soothing substance
 - 48 They're not serious
 - 50 String-section member
 - 52 Undoings
 - 53 Native New Zealander
 - 54 "How about that!"
 - 55 Golf gash
 - 56 In the ship's hold
 - 58 *Beauty and the Beast* girl
 - 60 Boxcar riders
 - 61 In a cabinet, perhaps
 - 62 *60 Minutes* regular
 - 63 Smart-mouthed
 - 64 Hidden supply
 - 66 Fabric
 - 67 Historic Memphis street
 - 69 Annoy
 - 70 Regular tendency
 - 72 Loosen
 - 73 Warship officers
 - 75 Not as dull
 - 77 Gravy flaw
 - 79 Hot air
 - 80 Verb forms
 - 81 Wishes undone
 - 82 Son of King David
 - 83 Medicine container
 - 87 Shell of a wreck
 - 88 Oprah's best-selling cook
 - 89 Barbecue need
 - 90 Objectives
 - 91 Rhyme scheme
 - 92 Pot-pie ingredients
 - 93 Whispered sound
 - 94 *Peter Pan* pirate
 - 95 HS exam
 - 97 TV broadcast band
 - 99 Infuriation
 - 100 Thoroughbred's mother
 - 101 Sandwich selection
 - 102 Anthem contraction
 - 103 Ironic

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

from his middle name of Hubert. Blake (86 Across) got his nickname on the moon. Composer EUBIE strong and Buzz Aldrin landed command module while Neil Armstrong Collins (64 Across) piloted the Apollo II astronaut Michael received a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, to be produced professionally, the first play of BETH HENLEY, "Crimes of the Heart" (25 Across),



Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

While on a recent vacation to China, I was shocked to see thick yellow air filling the city of Beijing. I noticed that my eyes became irritated, my nose started to run and my breath was short.



It reminded me of growing up in the San Fernando Valley in the 1960's, when it was common to wake up to smog alerts. Progress has since been made: in 1976, there were 102 Stage 1 smog alerts (when the air is considered "very unhealthy"), and by 1998, there were only 12. Ozone levels, however, were above standards during 62 days in 1998, and we all know that views of thick haze obscuring downtown skylines remain a familiar sight today. Our South Coast Air Basin maintains the unfortunate distinction of having the worst air quality in the country for both particulate matter and ozone.

Air pollution is made up of gasses, droplets and particles. Cars, buses and airplanes, industry and construction all contribute. Ground-level ozone, the major part of air pollution in most cities, is created when engines and fuel gasses already released into the air interact when hit by sunlight. Ozone levels increase when the air is still, the sun is bright and the temperature is warm.

What are the health consequences of our dirty air? Common symptoms include eye, throat and lung irritation. Exercise tends to increase the symptoms since air-intake is increased. People with heart or lung disease are often more sensitive. Generally, symptoms go away after exposure ends.

Air pollution is linked to multiple adverse health effects in children; their small bodies and developing lungs are especially susceptible. Doctors observe increased respiratory symptoms and hospitalizations for respiratory illnesses, more severe asthma episodes, decreases in lung function, and longer-lasting lung infections. Most studies do not show that air pollution causes asthma, but it can exacerbate it.

Air toxins are an emerging area of concern. There are thousands of chemicals in the air we breathe every day. Other than the six major air pollutants monitored - ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead - there are a number of other chemicals found in the air that are linked to cancer, neurological damage, genetic mutation, birth defects, and other chronic illnesses. There have also been associations in the literature between long-term exposures to ambient air pollution and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. The contribution to atherosclerosis that underlies many cardiovascular diseases has not yet been investigated. Animal studies suggest that particulate matter may contribute to atherogenesis. These are early studies and further evaluation will follow.

What can you as an individual do to protect yourself?

- Stay indoors as much as you can on days when pollution levels are high
- If you must go outside, limit your activity to the early morning hours and after sunset
- Don't exercise or exert yourself outdoors when air-quality reports indicate unhealthy levels of air pollution. The faster you breathe, the more pollution you are taking into your lungs
- Always consult your physician if you are having problems with local air pollution.

As always, good health to you all!



Dr. Cynthia Zuniga answers questions from Sussman Middle School students who joined the Hippocrates Circle.

Eager students join Hippocrates Circle

BY DEVON FRANCE, OFFICE MANAGER, SUSSMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
DOWNEY – On January 9, a large and enthusiastic group of Sussman Middle School students and their families met in the school cafeteria for an orientation meeting introducing the Hippocrates Circle program, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente.

Fifty-four seventh and eighth grade students who are interested in becoming doctors submitted an application and essay in order to be admitted to the Circle.

Eleven mentor doctors, led by Jorge Ramirez, MD, related their desire to become doctors and the challenges they faced achieving their goal. The group listened attentively while enjoying a dinner catered by Rubio's a Go Go.

"They [Kaiser Permanente] did a thorough unit on the medical field," enthused Gloria Widmann, principal of Sussman. "It's definitely the way to introduce and promote a career in medicine."

On January 11, the students and doctors boarded buses for a visit to the UCLA School of Medicine. They toured the school, met and spoke with medical students, and sat in a lecture hall. Each student received a shirt, notebook, and program materials.

Another trip is planned to the Kaiser facility on Imperial Highway in Bellflower. The students are eagerly anticipating a visit to the pathology lab and other departments, including the chance to watch an operation in progress. At the final event, graduation, they will confirm their commitment to becoming doctors and recite the Hippocrates Circle oath.

Lakewood Regional focuses on heart health

CONTRIBUTED BY LAKEWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LAKWOOD – With approximately one death occurring every 36 seconds from cardiovascular disease, Americans need to find a way to beat the odds. That premise is the impetus behind Centennial's new campaign, which encourages the community to "Focus on the Heart" by undergoing regular screenings and adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle.

"Focus on the Heart" was created by Lakewood Regional Medical Center and its sister hospitals as part of a nationwide campaign to promote early detection and testing that could save the lives of the approximately one in three Americans who suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease.

"We chose 'Focus on the Heart' because patients have to keep making their heart health a priority," said Mark Korth, chief executive officer of LRMC.

In support of "Focus on the Heart," LRMC will be offering a \$39 heart-health screening exam with EKG during the month of February. The screening includes: Electrocardiogram (EKG), read by a cardiologist; lipid test, including HDL, LDL, total cholesterol and triglyceride levels; glucose level check; blood pressure check; and more.

To make an appointment, call (866) 491-2273. Cash, check or credit card only – no insurance accepted or filed for this screening.



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Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union, the nation's largest educational credit union, is now open in Downey, and we're inviting school employees to help us kick off our week-long grand opening.

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OCTFCU's Downey location is a full-service branch offering an on-site ATM, saving accounts, investments⁽¹⁾, retirement accounts, new Memberships, loans (consumer, auto, mortgage) and more. For more information on Membership** visit www.octfcu.org or call 800/462-8328.



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Downey Grand Opening Celebration
 9125 Imperial Highway, Ste. A
 Jan 28 - Feb 1 ■ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Downey Grand Opening Sweepstakes offered Jan 28 - Feb 1, 2008. Must be a Member to participate. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Entries and official rules available at the branch.

** Subject to eligibility requirements. A \$15 one-time Family Membership Fee may apply.

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Ann Peck McBride returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera as Eva Tanguay in "Tinytypes" opening Feb. 21 and continuing through March 9 at the Downey Theatre. The performance will mark McBride's 14th appearance with the Downey Civic Light Opera. She has also starred as Dolly, Annie Oakley, Anna Leonowens, Reno Sweeney and Mama Rose. For tickets and information on the show, call (562) 923-1714. Group rates are available.

Symphony's Golden Jubilee continues with concert and ice cream social

BY JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

We are at mid-point in the year-long celebration of the Downey Symphony's 50th anniversary, its Golden Jubilee Season, and it is a promising period.

On Feb. 2, the orchestra will present its first concert under Sharon Lavery, not as a guest conductor this time, but the designated, permanent, new music director of the Downey Symphony. Her appointment was announced just two months ago, and she has selected a beautiful program for this gala evening, featuring Bartoko's Romanian Folk Dances and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

The centerpiece of the performance is Haydn's C Major Cello Concerto, with soloist Alexander Suleiman, who comes to us at the beginning of the prodigious schedule he has set for 2008. He will appear as a soloist in England, Germany, Lebanon, Cairo, China and Oman, and will present debut performances in Canada and South Africa. All this is in conjunction with his position as teacher of cello at USC's Thornton School of Music. Suleiman is also in demand as a jury panelist at international music competitions and as performer/lecturer of master courses at international music festivals.

Suleiman has been praised by many as "a soloist who fascinates musicians and audience alike with unique and powerful interpreta-



Alexander Suleiman

tions that at first shock by their newness and then delight as their logic reveals new realms of meaning."

His mentors include conductor Riccardo Muti and composer Franz Hummel, who hail him as the most outstanding cellist they know, and who are frequently inviting him to perform as a soloist.

"To speak of Suleiman's repertoire borders on the absurd, because he learns even the most difficult piece in no time," said Hummel.

Everyone in the audience and members of the orchestra are invited to a reception following the Downey Symphony's performance to welcome Lavery and to greet Suleiman.

The concert takes place at 8 p.m. in the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd., with a pre-concert discussion held at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$25, and \$10 for students, and are available at the theatre box office on Jan. 30 between noon and 4 p.m., and after 6:30 p.m. the evening of the performance. Parking is free.

Also in February, the orchestra's quintet will begin their annual visits to all of the elementary schools in the Downey Unified School District, demonstrating basic concepts of music and the wonderful sounds and characteristics of their instruments. Year after year, our school children greet the quintet with enthusiasm and an expanding knowledge of good music.

A continuation of Golden Jubilee events comes on May 10, with a gift from the Symphony Society to the community: a yummy Ice Cream Social and unforgettable program by renowned Ragtime pianist Nan Bostick. You'll love it. Save the date!

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Three new members inducted into Rotary

DOWNEY—At a brief ceremony Tuesday, three new members were inducted into the Downey Rotary Club: John Swift, the newly appointed Downey YMCA executive director; Jeff Orlinsky, science department head at Warren High; and honorary member Henry Veneracion, staff writer for *The Downey Patriot*.

After listening to a brief account of Rotary president Stan Carmichael's just-concluded humanitarian trip to Panama, inducting officer Angelo Cardono reminded the new inductees of the importance of regular attendance ("the price of membership") and imbibing the spirit of Rotary—service to others.

Two District officers—Rick Mendoza and Ferris Wehbe—meanwhile outlined the many avenues of service open to the membership. A few of the Rotary projects emphasized included PolioPlus (the eradication of polio worldwide), its scholarship programs, and various upcoming fundraisers. Much anticipated is next Tuesday's Mulege, Mexico (dental services) project orchestrated by dentist Rotarian Wayne Wilcox.

Sponsors sought for Street Faire

DOWNEY – Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 15th annual Downey Street Faire, scheduled this year for May 3.

A platinum sponsor (\$2,500) receives three booth spaces, a banner on the performance stage, and a plaque presented at the Downey Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors luncheon in June.

A diamond sponsor (\$2,000) receives three booth spaces, a banner on a fence facing Firestone Boulevard, and a plaque; a gold sponsor (\$1,500) receives the same benefits of a diamond, but only two booth spaces; a silver sponsor (\$1,000) receives one booth space and a banner along Firestone Boulevard; and a bronze sponsor (\$500) receives only a banner facing Firestone. For more information, call (562) 923-2191.



Kids can enjoy a "Snow Play Day" Feb. 9 at Apollo Park, courtesy of the city of Downey Community Services Department. Cost is \$8 and pre-registration is mandatory at City Hall. The photo above shows children at last year's event.

'Snow Play Day' for kids Feb. 9

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Community Services Department is offering a "Snow Play Day" on Feb. 9 at Apollo Park. The event is open to kids 7 to 11 years old; proof of age will be required.

The 45-minute snow sessions will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$8 and includes admission and supervision.

The event will feature 16 tons of snow, three sled runs, a snow play area, and a snowman.

Pre-registration is required at the Community Services Department at City Hall, and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Permission slips will need to be completed at registration. Sign-ups are limited and no walk-up registrations will be taken at Apollo Park.

City Hall hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Enchilada sale at Moravian Church

DOWNEY – The women of the Moravian Church of Downey will be hosting their annual enchilada sale tomorrow from noon to 5 p.m.

The enchiladas come two to a pan. Meat and cheese combination enchiladas are \$4.75 a pan, and cheese enchiladas are \$5 a pan.

The Moravian Church of Downey is at 10337 Old River School Rd. in Downey. For information, or to place an order, call (562) 927-0718.

Finances for adults discussed at OASIS

DOWNEY – Dagmar Halanka, attorney at law and emeriti professor at the USC Marshall School of Business, will cover the basics of "what you need to know to live a financially educated life" at this Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

Halanka presented the same program in October at the USC Emeriti Center for USC staff and retirees.

All older adults are welcome to the meeting. Enrollment is free and begins at 3 p.m., at which time visitors can purchase an optional dinner ticket for \$3.50. The program will start at 3:45.

Downey Dial-a-Ride can provide transportation to those who qualify. For more information, call (562) 940-6200.

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★ UNTRACEABLE R (11:40, 2:15, 4:50), 7:30, 10:10
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CLOVERFIELD PG-13 (11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:45), 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:20
MAD MONEY PG-13 (11:15, 1:50, 4:25), 7:10, 9:50
THE ORPHANAGE R (11:50, 2:25, 5:00), 7:40, 10:25
JUNO PG-13 (11:55, 2:30, 4:55), 7:35, 10:00
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Source: Amazon.com

DVD Releases
MOVIES
"El Cid"
"King of California"
"Daddy Day Camp"
"Ira & Abby"
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"Curb Your Enthusiasm" - Season 6
"JAG" - Season 5
"Aqua Teen Hunger Force" Vol. 5
Source: Amazon.com

Concerts
FRIDAY, JAN. 25
Bruce Foxton, Rick Buckler - HOB Anaheim
Mirah, Blow - Henry Fonda Theatre
SATURDAY
From the Jam - El Rey Theatre
Garth Brooks - Staples Center
Handsome Devil - Galaxy Concert Theatre
Ramon Ayala - Gibson Amphitheatre
SUNDAY
Aaron Lewis of Staind - Pechanga
TUESDAY
Bravery - HOB Anaheim
WEDNESDAY
The Mars Volta - UC Irvine
Molotov - HOB Anaheim
REO Speedwagon - Grove of Anaheim
Ryan Adams - Royce Hall UCLA
W.A.S.P. - Galaxy Concert Theatre
THURSDAY
Boyz II Men - HOB Anaheim
Mamak Khadem - Skirball Center
Molotov - Wiltern
VAST - Galaxy Concert Theatre
Wynton Marsalis - Orange County Performing Artscenter
Source: Casenet

Video Game Releases
Turok - X360, PS3
Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock - Wii
Bombberman Land - Wii
Source: ebgames.com

Book Releases
Russell Banks - "The Reserve"
Lauren Willig - "The Seduction of the Crimson Rose"

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- "*And Sometimes Why*" by Rebecca Johnson. One morning, Sophia and Darius say goodbye to their teenage daughter, not knowing that one will have a terrible accident and one will meet a boy. Both events will change their lives forever.
- "*The Appeal*" by John Grisham. In Grisham's latest legal thriller, a hurry returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply.
- "*Gone to Ground*" by John Harvey. Police detective Will Grayson and his partner suspect that the death of Stephen Bryan was due to a fatal lover's quarrel. But they soon shift focus to the book Bryan was writing about a film star's mysterious death.
- "*The Outcast*" by Sadie Jones. A sensitive young boy struggles to survive after the death of his mother in post-World War II England.
- "*The Silver Swan*" by Benjamin Black. A young woman's suspicious suicide triggers a new set of dangers in this crime novel featuring irascible Dublin pathologist Quirke.

Non-Fiction

- "*Life's a Campaign*" by Chris Matthews. Insightful and entertaining anecdotes about getting ahead from the television star and columnist Matthews.
- "*Sage-ing While Age-ing*" by Shirley MacLaine. Bestselling author and award-winning actress MacLaine shares surprising insights and reflections from her decades-long journey towards spiritual, physical, and personal enlightenment.
- "*So Help Me God*" by Forrest Church. A prominent religious historian examines the role established religion has played in the administrations of American presidents.
- "*The Teen Whisperer: How to Break Through the Silence and Secrecy of Teenage Life*" by Mike Linderman. Successful in his dual role as cattle rancher and licensed therapist, the author shares his experience in giving hope to troubled teens and their families.
- "*A Time to Lead: for Duty, Honor and Country*" by Wesley Clark. General Clark reflects on his past and delivers his vision for America's future.

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CLOVERFIELD PG13 (10:40 1:00 3:20) 5:40 8:00 10:20
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27 DRESSES PG13 (11:15 2:00 4:45) 7:15 10:15
MAD MONEY PG13 (11:15 1:55 4:35) 7:15 9:55
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There's no question — our league is tough

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

We've heard both coaches say it countless times. The San Gabriel Valley League basketball division is tough.

Warren head coach Brent Willis called it one of the toughest if not the toughest division in Southern California. Downey head coach Larry Shelton called the division very tough citing both Downey Unified School District high school teams being "over matched."

To the normal fan of Downey and Warren, it's possible they are writing off the talent level of both teams. With league records in mind, both teams are having horrible seasons with both teams bringing up the last and second-to-last positions in the standings.

So here we are, more than half way through both teams' seasons and playoff berths most likely out of reach for one team. The key phrase there though is "one team." Warren has more than 10 wins which qualifies them for a playoff berth.

Downey has just under 10 wins but with some luck and hard work could make it to that threshold to get in to the playoffs.

We can talk about the possibility of playoffs all day. But with that possibility comes a long road. With both coaches saying the SGVL is hard, just how tough it is? Let's break it down:

As of right now the standings have Dominguez High School leading the pack with an undefeated record in league, Gahr just behind them with only one league loss which was to Dominguez, Lynwood is in third and Paramount in fourth. Warren and Downey bring up the rear.

Let's start with Dominguez High School. The Dominguez Dons have a history of dominating the SGVL. They have been state champions before and have won the division countless times in the past years.

We continue to see loads of talent trickle in to the high school with notable NBA names Tyson Chandler of the New Orleans Hornets and Tayshaun Prince of the champion Detroit Pistons.

This year is no different as the talent on the team makes the Dons a top squad in California with the Los Angeles Times and Long Beach Press Telegram ranking them no lower than No. 5 in their polls. Dominguez has lost only two games all season compiling at 17-2 record and averages 72 points per game.

Gahr High School has been known as an athletic team through the years but just in these past few have they really turned a corner as an elite team. This year, their athletes have run teams off courts time and time again.

The Gladiators are averaging a league high 83 points per game. Gahr also houses two of the best scorers in Southern California in Casper Ware who averages 27 points per game and Chester Woolen who also tacks on 23 points per game.

Together, the dynamic duo accounts for more than 62 percent of all points scored every game by the team. With that said there doesn't need to be much more offensive help from anywhere else. Like their football team, they put up massive amounts of points and welcoming defense when it comes.

Trying to keep pace with Dominguez, Gahr is 16-6 overall and have been ranked as high as No. 4 in the Los Angeles Times prep polls. They haven't fallen out of the Top 10 in either Times or Press Telegram polls this year.

The Lynwood Knights have surprised a lot of people this year with their success. Before this Wednesday, the Knights had a record of 17-4 overall with standout guard D'Angelo Scott leading the way. The high flying guard has caught the attention of many basketball people with his raw talent.

At times Lynwood gets too complacent with spotting up and firing up 3-point shots, but as Downey proved in their last game against the



The Calvary Chapel School of Downey Elementary Girls Basketball team finished their undefeated season by beating Huntington Christian during the Christian Athletic League of Orange County championship game. Pictured are Joanna Pesce, Alyssa Velasco, Denise Dizon, Cerobie Foster, Jasmin Holiday, Micalya Spencer, Coach Aleta Pesce, Jenae Garcia, Kylah Rodriguez, Abby Luna, Sydnee Mayers, Megan Bermino and Caty Carruth.

Knights, the Achilles' heel of Lynwood is when they lose interest.

More good than bad comes with this though as Lynwood has a team full of shooters who can sink the long distance bomb whenever they want. This team has had more success firing away jump shots than driving to the basket. At the same time, in the games they've lost, they got caught up staying behind the arc rather than keeping the other team honest defensively.

Paramount has always been a scrappy team. They continue to torment teams with their never-say-die style of play. This play causes them to be very streaky. Earlier in the season they won eight straight games, but since that mark they haven't scratched in the win column.

There are tons of signs that this team could do damage if granted a playoff berth showing they could play in preseason tournaments versus good teams. But like Downey and Warren, Paramount is a team looking from the outside in with a fourth place standing in league.

With all of this in mind, it's a little easier to see that Downey and Warren just ran into some bad luck this year with the talent some of these teams have. As Willis said, both teams have to "earn our love."

If not through league play, maybe knock around a few non-league teams. Downey and Warren have done just that in the preseason. If either team manages to sneak in, it's possible that they could upset other teams.

In their league games, Downey had Lynwood pinned in a corner but let them escape. Warren went shot for shot with the best offense in the league in Gahr. Downey and Warren have good teams, it's just they hit a wall in their league.

Shelton has always built a team that responds to his attitude. They will always play hard and never quit until the final buzzer has gone off. Imagine what he could do with a little more talent on his team in this division.

Willis has stated that it would "take a U-Haul and a bulldozer to get me to leave" his program. He has said he plans on retiring as a Bear. That's good news for the Bears because Willis has seen what the best in the state had to offer in defending champions Artesia. If he can replicate what Artesia has, look out SGVL.

Both teams are pretty good, it's just hard to compare them to anyone else because of the rest of the division being that much more elite.

Warren beats Downey for first league victory

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

Downey — In a battle of two basketball teams who have yet to win a game in league play, something finally gave as the Warren Bears (11-10, 1-3) defeated the Downey Vikings (9-12, 0-4) 60-51 last Friday night.

Free throws and senior play were the determining factors in the game with Warren making 19 of 27 free throw attempts and Bears' seniors Mohammed Chehata and Chris Maheras accounting for more than half of Warren's points.

Chehata led all scorers with 17 points as well as making 11 of 13 free throws for a team that showed its true colors according to Bears head coach Brent Willis.

"What you saw tonight in my opinion was a taste of what kind of team

we truly are," Willis said.

"There were still things we didn't do well but I can't nitpick," he continued. "Tonight I was so proud and so pleased because no matter what happened, a missed shot, a turnover, a missed opportunity off a rebound, our guys came back together whenever we had to huddle."

"Whenever we had to get down and dirty and dig in on defense or run a set on offense we came together and just shared the ball and were unselfish and that kind of stuff is going to win rival games every time."

Willis' team was very clean throughout the game turning the ball over only seven times. His team never trailed in the game and always had a lead after the first quarter.

The lead, whenever threatened, seemed to be protected by timely whistles by the referees resulting in Warren making countless trips to the free throw line.

When asked to comment if there was a little "home cooking" being served up, Downey's head coach Larry Shelton didn't lean either way.

"I never comment on officiating and I won't start now," Shelton said minutes after the game.

Whether it was home court advantages or Warren just out-playing the Vikings, Shelton managed to take out a positive from a loss saying he thought his team never quit.

Downey was led by forward Matt Black with 15 points and nine rebounds, just missing a double-double. The Vikings' leading scorer over the season Guillermo Botello also tried to keep Warren honest by scoring 14 points of his own.

"It was obviously a huge win," Willis said. "It's the biggest of the year in my opinion. The only win that would be bigger would be if we beat them at Downey."

Warren visits Lynwood tonight while Downey travels to Paramount. Both games start at 7 p.m.

Reno A. Zuber passes away at age 93

Downey — Reno A. Zuber, a member of Messiah Lutheran Church and a 56-year Downey resident, died Jan. 16. He was 93.

Zuber passed away at Southland Assisted Living in Norwalk.

Zuber was born March 7, 1914 in Hilton Twp. in Iowa. He was retired from Western Ornamental Ironworks and belonged to BPOE for 20 years.

He is survived by his wife of more than 74 years, Arlene; son, Wayne Zuber and wife Jeanette (Rulon) Zuber of Upland; daughter, Barbara (Zuber) Drotter and husband Jim Drotter of La Quinta; grandsons, Jon Zuber and wife Laura Lee Zuber, and Warren Zuber and wife Susan Zuber; granddaughter, Ginger (Drotter) Murner and husband Mike Murner; great-grandchildren, Sarah Zuber, Nicholas Zuber, Shaun Murner and Kelly Murner; brother, Adolph Zuber, and sister-in-law, Betty Zuber; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter, Marilyn Zuber.

Services will be held tomorrow, Jan. 26, at Miller-Mies Mortuary at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Michael Hayes will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Messiah Lutheran Church, 10711 Paramount Blvd., Downey, 90241, or Hospice 10000 Lakewood Blvd., suite 100, Downey, 90240.



Julian Pedersen was a firefighter and veteran

Downey — Julian "Pete" Pedersen, a Downey resident for 47 years, passed away on Jan. 11. He was 86.

Pedersen was born on Aug. 16, 1921 in Los Angeles and grew up in the community of Florence. He graduated from Fremont High School and Compton Junior College, and attended the University of Southern California.

Pedersen was a forest firefighter in the California Division of Forestry in 1941 and 1942. He served during World War II in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Nashville in the South Pacific. Following WWII, he worked for the Southern California Gas Co. for 36 years, retiring in 1984.

Pedersen was active in Boy Scouts of America, serving as scout master for Troop 433 at Gallatin Elementary, and various positions in the Frontier and Downey Districts. He was also a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Downey. He and his wife, Bernice, moved to Anaheim in 2001.

Pedersen is survived by wife of 59 years, Bernice; son Glenn (Laurie) Pedersen; and grandsons Ryan and Wayne.

Services and interment were on Jan. 18 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale.



Jewell Leroy survived by family and friends

Downey — Longtime Downey resident Jewell Leroy passed away Jan. 14 at Southland Care Center in Norwalk. She was 98.

Leroy was born in Wagner, Okla. She lived in Downey for 30 years. She is survived by her daughter, Dolores Markham; grandsons, David and Dennis Markham and Matthew (Brenda) Leroy; great-grandson, David Markham; great-granddaughters, Gabriella and Jacquelyn Leroy; daughter-in-law, Deneen Leroy; and other family and friends.

A memorial service will be held Feb. 9 at noon at Miller-Mies Mortuary Chapel. Pastor John Rose will officiate.

Burial will be at Glen Abbey Memorial Park in Bonita, Calif.

COUNCIL

Continued from page 4

able methods of meeting the city's share of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, which is due on June 30;

- Approved an extension of the agreement with Lehman, Kelly, Sadler and O'Keefe for general advocacy services in Sacramento from Jan. 31, 2008 to Jan. 31, 2009;

- Approved the plans and specifications for the construction and repair of miscellaneous curbs, gutters, sidewalks and curb ramps throughout the city, and granted authority to advertise for bids accordingly;

- Rejected the bid from GMC Engineering, and awarded the contract to Shawnan in the amount of \$2,056,371 for the Lakewood Boulevard Improvements Project, Phase I C;

- Passed a resolution approving the submittal of the funding application for the "Vehicle Speed Feedback Signs" under the (state) Office of Traffic Safety Federal FY2009 grant year;

- Adopted a resolution establishing a "No Stopping Any Time" prohibition on the east side of Studebaker Road;

- Introduced an ordinance amending Section 4600.2 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to noise, which addresses the issue of noise generated in commercial or manufacturing zones adjacent to residential zones.

The next regular public meeting of the City Council will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

Why should anyone vote in favor of Measure G? Here is the reason: because cities compete aggressively with one another. Cities compete for funds, they compete for natural resources, they compete for personnel, and they compete for businesses. With the current law, it is certain that Downey loses in any competition.

By preventing experienced people from representing you on the City Council, it is guaranteed that Downey will continue to send out a freshman team, at best a junior varsity—to compete with the experienced varsity teams of every other city. Experienced leaders in other communities are bewildered and bemused by our city's self-imposed "death sentence" that prevents those with the most experience and wisdom from advocating for our city. Meanwhile, they succeed in providing for their cities by building the long-term relationships needed with the county, the state, and the federal government.

You and I deserve to field a varsity team that can compete successfully for our community. That is why I am supporting Measure G. It does not get rid of term limits, it just loosens the tourniquet.

— **Keith McCarthy,**
Downey City Council member, 1996-2004

Dear Editor:

Is the removal of our signs by the opposition supposed to silence or intimidate us from voting the way we feel? Or, are we supposed to align ourselves with the opposition to keep a sign safely on our lawn?

I taught school for over 30 years, and American History was one of the subjects in my fifth grade curriculum. The students learned that our country was, and still is, "a democracy in a republic." In simple terms, I taught that we, the citizens of the United States, have freedom of choice — whether it be in selecting a TV set, an automobile, a candidate running for public office, or an issue on a ballot.

However, when I was awakened early this Monday morning by several phone calls, I began to wonder if I was still living in that same country that was founded on "freedom of choice." All the callers, friends of mine, were highly incensed over the fact that their lawn signs, "No on Measure G," had disappeared. In looking up and down the street, they noticed that their neighbors' "No on Measure G" signs were no longer standing as well. The signs were either torn from the metal frames or the entire sign was removed from their front lawn.

To win an issue on a ballot, according to the rules in a fair and honest way, is something of which to be proud. To win by deceiving, or conniving in a blatantly dishonest way, is something of which a moral and principled man should be ashamed!

Now, I am waiting even more anxiously to get to the poll on February 5 to vote no on Measure G.

— **Lou Ugliano,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

This letter is being sent to you to express my discontent with the Council majority that voted to waste \$85,000 of our tax dollars to have us revisit the term limit issue through Measure G. Time and time again Council has tried to find ways to modify or do away with term limits, from Gary McCaughan in the late 90s to the current Council majority.

We, the residents, worked diligently back in 1993 to establish term limits and were met with resistance from the then City Council, which included McCaughan. Ultimately the residents prevailed by petitioning and requiring the City Council to call for an election and term limits were overwhelmingly approved by the voters in 1993. Term limits were placed on the ballot in 1993 because of the efforts and hard work of the residents; if there is ever a time to revisit term limits in any capacity it should only come from the residents of Downey and not the Council.

Councilman Mario Guerra spearheaded this term limit issue again in 2007. I supported and voted for Mario when he ran for City Council in 2006. It is apparent that he is trying to make good a political favor by pushing this issue. But why now? Council Kirk Cartozian did serve as Guerra's campaign manager in 2006 and Cartozian is set to be termed out this year. Not once during his 2006 campaign did Guerra ever say anything about term limits. If I would have known Guerra's intent or position on term limits, I may not have supported him.

The motives of the current and past council members that are behind Measure G is clear: they want to stay in office longer. Why did they push to have Measure G on the February ballot as opposed to the November ballot? The reason is obvious. Councilman Rick Trejo (relative of McCaughan) and Cartozian, who both voted to put Measure G on the ballot and spend \$85,000, are both being termed out of office this year, meaning they cannot seek re-election in November 2008. By having Measure G on the ballot on February 5th, and should it pass, both Trejo and Cartozian may be able to pull candidate papers in July 2008 and seek a third term in Downey's next election in November 2008. If Measure G would have been put on the ballot in November 2008, which would have coincided with our country's presidential election and a bigger voter turnout, Trejo and Cartozian would not be able to pull candidate papers in July and therefore not qualify as candidates in the November 2008 election.

Trejo and Cartozian did not want to risk this and are hoping that the people of Downey forget about the purpose of term limits and our 1993 efforts.

Measure G stands for Good Ole Boys Club. This is so obvious and transparent that it is ridiculous. The \$85,000 that is being wasted by the Council could have been used for other pertinent items such as funding the Treasure Island Park improvements or funding community policing through the GOOD program. The Council has ignored the voice of the people. The Council is supposed to serve at the will of the people and be for the people and not to be self-serving.

I am going to stand behind Citizens for Downey and say NO to Trejo, Cartozian and Guerra by casting a no vote on Measure G.

— **Jerry Waldorf,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

I read the article in *The Downey Patriot* concerning Measure G and the question remains: was this measure initiated by Mayo Pro Tem Guerra under the auspice of councilmen Trejo and Cartozian, who will be termed out this year? And, are career councilmen a benefit to the majority of people who live in Downey?

As to the first question, the support of the council men for Guerra prior to his election and his immediate calling for a ballot issue hard on his election, as one person put it, doesn't pass the small test. Concerning the second question, term limits were originally passed by the voters to dislodge politicians who had learned to manipulate the system too well.

If a councilman can't get his ideas facilitated in eight years, he never will. To most people, a lifetime, professional councilman is an unconscionable idea. Finally, I will offer this: why would these people spend thousands of their own money to stay in office?

Altruism, I'm sure.
— **Russell Rankin Sr.,**
Downey



Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, center, announced his endorsement of term limit reform in Downey this week, saying "Measure G is a compromise that satisfies both arguments and allows citizens to vote someone back after sitting out a period of time. It also limits elected officials to only three terms. Measure G is the right thing for the citizens of Downey. I strongly support Measure G."

Dear Editor:

Has anyone had their Measure G signs stolen? Honestly, after hearing about all these people stealing signs and playing these high school pranks, I wish we would just not use any signs at all. What we need is healthy, civil debate. It is OK to disagree, but we all must play by the rules and have integrity.

However, I find it difficult to understand why Mr. Guerra chose an issue that is dividing our community. Instead of trying to find something we can all support and rally behind, something that will have a significant positive impact on our community, we are now all bickering over something that will, in the end, make very little improvement to the quality of life for the citizens of Downey. The president of the United States gets eight years to do his job, do we really need to give our local elected reps more time? What is important in our local government is that we maintain a steady stream of new and fresh ideas, based on solid principles. I don't agree that it takes a term, or close to it, to figure out how to do the job. The mechanics and technicalities of serving on the council, in a way, are frivolous. What is important is the philosophy, the ideas, the principles that the elected official brings to the table. This is why we have citizens to represent us, not career politicians. When a citizen comes into office, they can immediately share and convey their ideas and put them into action — eight years is plenty of time to do this. After which, if the idea stands up to scrutiny and the will of the citizens, it will be passed along.

The problem is people start using the "experience card" to run for reelection, and voters are very easily swayed by this. In reality, experience doesn't necessarily make a good representative and it could, in some instances, hinder someone who would be a good council member from getting elected.

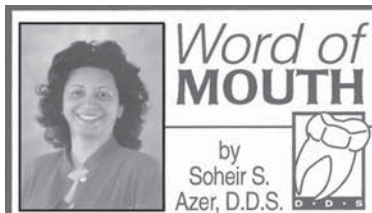
If after eight years a council member has done a great job and has left a positive impact on the city, then I am fairly sure that those policies will be continued by the next council member who replaces them. I believe we are wrong in assuming that someone needs to sit in office to baby-sit their agenda for it to get done. If it truly is good for the community, then as long as we are electing people that believe in the principles of our city, these things will get done.

As for the stolen signs, it's a shame really. I really don't think that our city's voters are ignorant enough to make a decision based on a sign anyway, but it just doesn't look good.

— **George Manzanilla,**
Downey

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Dear Editor:

Regarding Measure G, did everyone notice that 16 of the 17 supporters listed in the expensive ad last week are now or were office holders? (*The Downey Patriot*, 1/18/08) The initiative for this is not from the people as was the existing term limit ordinance but by those whom benefit.

On the state level (Proposition 93), it is the same self-serving political grab. It was put on the ballot by very liberal Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Senate Speaker Don Perata. They want to perpetuate their power. The governor is also term-limited out as the law now stands. If the president is limited to two terms, should not the governor too?

— **Joe Kim,**
Downey

Dear Editor:

Thank you for continuing to provide our Downey citizens with the unique and valuable forum for discussing, yes, and debating, the issues which impact our civic lives. The editorial page of the last issue of the *Patriot* (1/18/08), devoted entirely to reader's letters, is a clear demonstration of this assertion. Six of the eight letters dealt with the objectionable aspects of Measure G, while the seventh also dealt with the deterioration of areas of the City, also hardly a compliment to our City Council.

It is easy to wonder about the motivation of the proponents of Measure G, especially the way it is pursued by them. The argument for the merits of the measure have not been made. Perhaps because the measure's provisions have no merit. Assignments of negative motives to opponents of the measure are not arguments for it. That more time in position will make the office holder more effective presumes that the office holder is ineffective in the first place. Not an acceptable notion, certainly not generally across the board. Motivation also becomes an issue.

And why the urgency? Certainly, spending \$75,000 of city funds to bring the measure to a vote nine months earlier does not demonstrate prudent exercise of fiduciary responsibility for the city's money.

The statement that most, or even all, other cities do not have term limits is not an argument. We limit the terms of the president and our representatives whom we elect to run our federal government. Are Downey's issues that more complex that cannot be dealt by capable councilmen the citizens are willing to let them represent them in addressing city policies and programs? Bob Brazelton rightly reminds us that we have a city manager form of city government. The city manager is the executive officer whom we engage to organize and bring on staff to run the city.

If the candidates city councilmen study the city's general plan and the city's code in preparing to run and formulate clear plans, the implementation for which they ask the voters to elect them, four years would be enough to do so. An additional four years of service may be acceptable.

The proponents of Measure G argue that the voters can always replace incumbents. True. However, history shows that incumbents can be recalled or replaced for malfeasance. One would be hard pressed to identify incumbents who have been replaced for incompetence or ineffectiveness. Incumbency is powerful. Invariably, it is vested interest that fosters status quo. Two cities just west and north of us come to mind. It was this concern that helped persuade Downey voters to opt for term limits. The price of losing the effectiveness of Keith McCarthy or Gary McCaughan after eight years meaningful contribution is an acceptable price to pay to avoid the experience we saw in the afore referenced cities to the west and north of us. The citizens of Downey some years ago opted for limiting their elected councilmen to two four-year terms. Why spend their money to con them to change their minds? How will they benefit from a change in that provision? The case has not been made by the proponents of Measure G. Using the term "death penalty" in discussing term limits is jingoism at its worst. It is unfit discourse.

Instead of Measure G, let's find a way to enhance citizen effective and meaningful participation in city affairs. Elsa Van Luven rightly asks that the City Council listen to the public. Find a way to demonstrate that issues brought to the attention of the Council are earnestly followed up. Maria Larkin and Mike Prokop well point out that the City Council tends to adopt a clubhouse attitude, more like fortress stance, keeping voters out of the city business. Is this the image the City Council wants to perpetuate?

— **Harold Tseklenis,**
Downey

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Easy steps to start saving your money

Contributed by Arkadi Kuhlmann, ING Direct president and CEO

How about a New Year's resolution to end 2008 with hundreds – or maybe even thousands – of extra dollars in the bank?

If saving money sounds about as difficult as losing 25 pounds by swimsuit season, think again. It's actually as simple as promising that this year, you will find a bank that helps you save money.

Here's what you need to do:

First, stop using credit cards. Use debit cards instead.

Credit card companies want you to go into debt. Ever notice how they hand out so many gifts and rewards? It's so profitable to get you into debt that they're actually willing to bribe you to spend. It's pure gravy when you don't pay your balance in full or miss a minimum payment.

Unsurprisingly, credit card companies are good at getting people to spend beyond their means. In 1996, the average U.S. household had \$5,875 in credit card debt. By 2006, that figure climbed to nearly \$10,000.

With debit cards, you're spending your own money. So you can't be lured into debt.

Next, you should avoid fees and earn interest on all your money. Most people use banks that pay virtually no interest on deposits and have a slew of hidden charges and complex fees.

Take overdraft fees. It is estimated that banks make a whopping \$17.5 billion annually through these charges.

The reason this is so profitable is twofold. First, the average overdraft fee has climbed to \$29. And second, banks apply it liberally.

Say you start your Saturday morning with \$1,143 in your account – and then send \$900 to your landlord, \$50 to your electric company, \$150 to your cable and Internet provider, and \$10 to your favorite charity.

Each recipient deposits the checks four days later. Unfortunately, that same day, your nephew cashes the \$250 you gave him for his wedding six months ago. By the time he returned from his honeymoon, you'd forgotten about it.

Because most banks process daily transactions from the largest to the smallest dollar amount, you're looking at four separate overdraft fees. So if your bank charges the industry average, that's \$136 in penalties.

A similar fleecing happens at the ATM. When your bank charges you to use another bank's cash machine, you get socked with two separate fees – one at the ATM and one on your statement. So instead of just paying

what you see on the screen, you're actually paying double that amount – to access your own money.

When this double charge is factored in, the average ATM fee is \$2.91. On a \$50 withdrawal, that's a 5.8 percent charge.

Banking customers shouldn't have to navigate a minefield to avoid hidden fees.

So find a bank that offers a free overdraft line of credit with a competitive interest rate instead of charging overdraft fees. That way, whenever your checking account goes negative, you automatically borrow the cash you need at a reasonable cost rather than a lump sum fee. The "overdraft" simply shows up as a charge on your credit card, and there's no penalty fee.

Banks also shouldn't charge you to use another bank's ATM.

Finally, find a bank that pays high interest on all your money. These days, there's no reason to do business with a bank where you'll lose money over time. According to bankrate.com, the average savings bank pays less than half percent of interest – well under the rate of inflation. The annual percentage yield on the average checking account is even worse. A number of direct banks are now offering savings and checking accounts that pay three percent or more.

Millions of Americans use big banks because they assume that if a bank is well-known and popular, it must be offering its customers a good deal. But this clearly isn't the case.

Making this mistake could be costing you a fortune. In 2008, fixing this mistake could save you thousands.

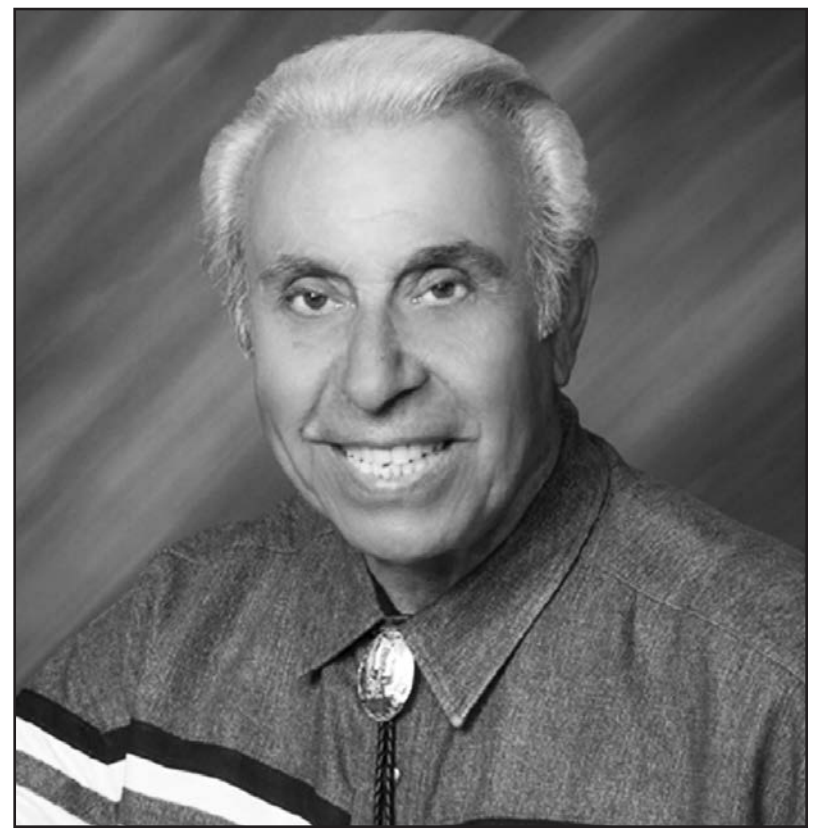
Arkadi Kuhlmann is president and CEO of ING Direct.

Christian club celebrating Valentine's

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women's Club invites the community, including men, to its Feb. 13 meeting at the Los Amigos Country Club. The day's program is titled "Be My Valentine."

The meeting's special feature will be a discussion of the Telephone Access Program and Ed Uray will be the guest speaker. Neomi Hall will provide music.

The buffet luncheon starts at 11:45 a.m. and the cost is \$12. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.



Chuck Gugliuzza, real estate broker, senior real estate specialist, certified property manager, and active member of the Downey Association of Realtors, has joined the office of Red Carpet Heritage Realty. Gugliuzza can be contacted at (562) 869-9456.

Songfest in need of performers

DOWNEY – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints extends an invitation to choirs and other musical groups to participate in this year's Sixteenth Annual Interfaith, Multi-Cultural Songfest on March 15.

Available spots are limited. If interested in participating, contact Lois Buchanan, community relations director for the Downey Stake, at (562) 927-9790.

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Keeping up with tax law changes

CONTRIBUTED BY CCH COMPLETE TAX

Over the past year, a few hundred pages were added to the federal income tax code and knowing about the changes that impact individual taxpayers is important in helping them minimize what they owe in taxes, according to tax analysts for CCH Complete Tax, the online tax preparation and electronic filing solution for the do-it-yourself taxpayer from CCH.

"Keeping up with tax law changes is about as fun as a root canal, which is why so many people rely on tax software or tax professionals to help make sure they have the information they need and are taking advantage of the various means available for reducing their taxes," said David Bergstein, CPA, tax analyst for CCH Complete Tax.

According to Bergstein, changes affecting 2007 tax returns come in all flavors from credits and deductions to exemptions and outright exclusions, with more detail on all included in the free *CCH Complete Tax Tax Guide*.

Below are just a few highlights of the changes for 2007, which Bergstein elaborated on in a podcast recently:

Exemptions

- Personal exemption – this increased to \$3,400 per person for 2007.
- AMT exemption – this increased for 2007 to \$44,350 for singles, \$66,250 for married filing jointly or a qualified widow(er), and \$33,125 for married filing separate returns.

Deductions

- Standard deduction – this increased for 2007 with the standard deduction for singles and married filing separately, \$5,350; heads of household, \$7,850; and married filing jointly, \$10,700.
- Standard mileage rate – the standard mileage rate deductions for 2007 are 48.5 cents per mile for business use of a vehicle and 14 cents per mile for charitable use. Taxpayers using their vehicles for deductible medical travel or for moving can deduct 20 cents per mile.
- IRA deduction – the maximum IRA deduction allowed per person continued to be \$4,000 in 2007. Those who were at least 50 years old can make an additional catch-up contribution of \$1,000 to their IRA (through April 15).

Credits

- Residential energy credits – taxpayers may be able to take a residential energy credit for the costs of having qualified energy-saving items installed in their main home. The credit, available in 2006 through 2007, is subject to a \$500 lifetime limitation and no more than \$200 of the credit can be used towards the purchase of energy-efficient windows. Another credit is available for alternative energy equipment. This covers up to 30 percent of the cost of solar water heaters, solar electricity equipment and fuel cell plants up to the maximum credit of \$2,000 per tax year for each category of equipment and \$500 for each half kilowatt of capacity of fuel cell plants installed per tax year.
 - Adoption tax credit – the maximum credit allowed for an adoption is \$11,390. The credit begins to phase out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$170,820 and is completely phased out at \$210,820.
 - Estates – the amount that can be excluded from an estate for estate tax purpose is \$2 million for 2007.
 - Gifts – the amount of gifts that can be excluded from taxes is \$12,000 per taxpayer for 2007.
- For more information, visit www.cchgroup.com.

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