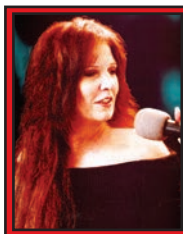




# The Downey Patriot



**Daniel Kingston  
Cable passes  
See Page 12**



**Pixie returns  
to her love  
See Page 8**



**Columbia crew  
remembered  
See Page 3**

Friday, February 1, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 41

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

## Measure 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?

YES

NO

### Official Argument in Favor

Downey City Government Needs Reform!

The revolving door of elected officials in Downey has not served our community in a positive way. Candidates run for office when they feel they have the best chance to win and then run unopposed until the next candidate takes office. Instead of making every election count, we have created a system that encourages people to wait in line until it makes better sense to run.

Term limits have been flawed since they began. The mid-1990s crusade to unilaterally remove policymakers from elected office has had damaging effects. Today, term limits reform is being addressed in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Downey and throughout the state.

Our current system encourages officials to use a narrow vision to carry out short term policies, ones which rarely have the necessary staying power to effectively change and improve Downey. This reform will make every election in Downey actually count, rather than producing a carousel of non-committed leaders.

Term limits reform would limit city councilmembers to only 3 terms.

Term limits reform would bring our city closer in line with the Downey Unified School District's election allowances.

Term limits reform would revise the "death penalty provision" and allow long-term policy solutions to be carried out. City Councilmembers would be required to sit out two years before running for office again.

Term limits reform finally came to Los Angeles County last November when an overwhelming majority of City of Los Angeles residents also voted to limit city councilmembers to 3 terms.

Elected officials will be held accountable to carry out their campaign promises, rather than making excuses for failed attempts. Our community benefits when we hold our elected officials accountable to carry out the long-term impacts of their decisions.

Vote YES on Amendment G!

**Rick Trejo,**

Mayor of Downey

**Willie Gutierrez,**

Downey Unified School Board President, VP of Citizens for Downey

**Kirk Cartozian,**

Downey City Councilmember, Mayor 2003/2004

**Bobbie Samperi,**

Downey Unified School Board Member

**Dn. Mario A. Guerra,**

Downey City Councilmember

### Official Argument Against

Two terms (8 years) is more than enough time for anyone to make his or her contributions to our City. Limiting council members to (2) four-year terms, which voters passed overwhelmingly in 1993, has ensured that new members have joined our city council every election since. These new members have always added fresh ideas, new approaches to old problems, diverse viewpoints and renewed energy to achieve significant building blocks for our city.

Three City Council members want to change our term limits to benefit themselves. They voted to have our city waste \$85,000 on a special election to do it. These Council members placed an amendment on a special low-turnout election ballot for two self-serving reasons. One being to promote their own personal, political goals and the other to take away Downey citizens' initiative and charter amendment rights.

Continual incumbencies are not in anyone's best interest and Downey voters realized that fact by voting in term limits. Term limits discourage political kingdoms which stop fresh ideas from coming to the city council.

Council positions should ideally be filled by citizens wanting to volunteer for a limited period, to give their time and experience, to represent neighbors in solving common problems. Achieving this ideal will be less likely if term limits are extended.

Term limits encourages maximum commitment of effort and enthusiasm while assuring regular introduction of new leaders.

Term limits is not a new idea. When this country was formed, it was done on the principle that citizens would give part of their time to serve the people. Even the president of the United States is limited to two terms. Two terms allows for consistent change and new ideas to benefit our city. Let's continue to limit the city council to two terms.

Vote NO! on Charter Amendment 13.

**Anne M. Bayer,**

Council Member District 4

**Joseph A. Lumsdaine,**

Downey Attorney

**Michael Prokop,**

President - Citizens 4 Downey

### More on Measure G

Page 10 - Letters to the Editor

Page 11 - Official campaign rebuttals

Page 11 - Pollworkers needed

## Symphony concert tomorrow at Theatre

■ Sharon Lavery makes her debut as conductor of the Downey Symphony tomorrow night.

By JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

**DOWNEY** – Throughout its 50-year history in this community, the Downey Symphony has had only four permanent conductors. The late Tom Osborn was the last of those, on the podium for 19 years until his sudden death in the summer of 2006.

Now, after a long search, we will welcome his successor, Sharon Lavery, in her first appearance as our new Music Director when she and the orchestra present a program titled "Dancing with the Masters" tomorrow evening, Feb. 2, in the Downey Theatre.

And dance we shall, to Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances, to Haydn's spirited C Major Cello Concerto, to Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

The six short folk dances are alternately energetic and cheerful, or slow and haunting. Dancing in theater aisles is strictly permissible.

About the cello concerto there is an interesting note. Haydn wrote the work around 1761, but it was considered lost for 200 years. Neither the original manuscript nor a copy of a printed edition was ever located...until 1961, when a copy was discovered in the Czech National Library. That in itself is cause for dancing, and a sure thing in the hands of our gifted soloist, Alexander Suleiman.

And listen to what the great composer Richard Wagner had to say about Beethoven's 7th: "If anyone plays the Seventh, tables and benches, cans and cups, the grandmother, the blind and the lame, aye, the children in the cradle fall to dancing."

See what kind of evening we have in store for us?

The theater is at 8435 Firestone Blvd. near the corner of Brookshire, surrounded by free parking. Tickets priced at \$25 and \$20 (\$10 for students) may be purchased at the box office at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Sharon Lavery's pre-concert discussion starts at 7:15 p.m., the performance itself starts at 8 p.m., and following that, the Symphony Board invites everyone, performers and audience, to dance across the theater courtyard to the Embassy Suites Hotel for an informal reception welcoming conductor and soloist.



**More Inside**

Read an interview with Sharon Lavery on page 9.

## State budget deficit roils fiscal picture

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

As Charles Dickens would say, these are the best of times, and these are the worst of times. Who isn't excited by the hotly contested and increasingly dramatic presidential race, by the potentially earth-shaking fireworks this Super Sunday, by the prospect of future peerless performances on the golf links by Tiger Woods? Further, there's a good chance the writers' guild strike will be over come Oscar time. What about the upcoming empowerment among earners when they finally get a fair amount of cash should the economic stimulus bill finally see the light of day?

All this is exciting stuff. But then there's the dark side of things—the cancer of crime, the stubborn war in Iraq, the ever-present threat of terrorism—evils that rend our very soul. *Yin* and *yang*, light and darkness, the searing heat of summer and the numbing cold of winter—alternating opposites, but part of the cycle of life.

I mention these to highlight the fact that, while Asst. City Manager Lee Powell assures us that the state's announced 10 percent across-the-board budget cuts resulting from a projected deficit of \$14 billion would only have minimal impact on the city's 2008-09 budget (now under preparation), the school district's near-term budget at least is headed for some rough sailing.

In an interview with DUSD's Asst. Superintendents Kevin Condon (for Business Services) and Stan Hanstad, (for Personnel Services), some hard-to-ignore dark clouds on the district horizon were pointed out. Simply put, in the first place, the district faces a decline in revenue in the near to immediate term as a result of negative COLA figures in the base revenue limit per pupil, and in the second place, in the district's Special Ed funding. Both projected funding decreases come out of the general (read "discretionary") fund.

Combined with a third factor, that of categorical services funding, which is also doomed to suffer the same fate, Condon says the district is looking at a total projected loss in revenue per pupil in the vicinity of \$300 next year. "This is only the third negative COLA experienced by the district, and involving potentially the most drastic budget revisions, in the last 25 years or so," he said.

These declines contrast with, in addition to the already negotiated teachers' salaries, the anticipated rise in the cost of utilities, insurance, you name it. It's not a pretty picture, said Condon. "It could be downright painful," said Hanstad. The situation in other school districts is much worse, they said.

As of now, said Condon, everything is really up in the air. "Gov. Schwarzenegger and the state legislature will have to hammer out some sort of a compromise between them, retaining some programs, eliminating others, and so on. But we won't know what the outlines will be until mid-March. Every area will be pared down—education, transportation, parks, etc, etc. Right now, we can only take a look at what expenditure we can cut. Otherwise, it looks like some sacrifices will really have to be made." In other words, he said, "This is not exactly a happy time right now for everyone concerned."

## Cocoon 'evolving' into a Downey favorite

■ Cocoon Evolution finds its niche offering distinct items rarely found anywhere else.

By BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Nuzzled in a strip mall on the northwest corner of Stewart & Gray and Old River School Roads lies Cocoon Evolution, "Gifts for the Imagination," the storefront banner reads.

The store, owned and operated by Jesse Quintero since 2002, is quite the collection of eclectic knick-knacks from around the world, including Indonesia, Mexico, Italy, South America, and more.

Looking around the shop, your eyes can't help but wander into different directions. Hanging from the ceiling you can find wind chimes, dream catchers, decorative beads, and even pirates (you have to see for yourself to understand). At your feet are statues, ranging from monkeys and



Cocoon Evolution, located at 7391 Stewart & Gray Rd. in Downey, carries a cornucopia of oddball merchandise, ranging from the cute to the bizarre and everything in between. Photo by Brooke Karli

giraffes, to skeletons and tribal figures. And finally, the walls of the store serve as a canvas for some of the most unique – and yes, sometimes odd – art.

"When you look at our products, you can see the different cultures and how they compliment each other," said Quintero, a Los Angeles resident. "Everything we have is one of a kind because everything we have is imported from a different country. We have cute and we have bizarre. We have something for everybody."

Quintero wasn't lying. A portion of the store is dedicated to incense and oils, a portion dedicated to sterling silver jewelry, and a portion to religious items such as rosaries and figurines. Part of the store offers toys, such as handmade dolls, toy cars and plastic dice, for kids, while another part of the store is popular amongst teens because of its selection of sunglasses, purses, and body jewelry for ear, nose, lip, and belly-button piercings. In fact, if you don't already have your ears pierced, Quintero can take care of that for you too.

Some of the other items found within the store include bandanas, cigarette holders, magnets, greetings cards, belt buckles, key chains, pottery, picture frames, candle holders, crucifixes, mirrors, and baskets – to name a few.

Cocoon Evolution recently expanded their merchandise by selling items dealing with fairies, dragons, pixies, crystals, prayer wheels, books on meditation and healing, and more. Cocoon is also beginning to feature local artists on a month-to-month basis.

This month's featured artist is Downey resident Eddie Blanck, whose photographs of Southern California beaches can be found hanging in hand-made bamboo frames on the store's back wall. According to his MySpace profile, www.myspace.com/eyesceverything, Blanck's inspiration for the collection comes from "random outings to Seal Beach, Bolsa Chica and Huntington Beach."

"I grew up with a strong appreciation for the surf culture and developed a respect for the ocean," Blanck said. "Weekly trips to San Onofre and camping on several beaches – Trestles, Jalama, and most beaches up and down the coast – comprised of friends and family, helped establish who I am."

Quintero hopes to spotlight a new artist every month.

"There are a lot of artists in Downey that just need the chance to share their work with others," said the 40-year-old Quintero. "And I hope that by allowing them to display their work, they will be inspired to continue in their art."

See COCOON, page 9



## Prolific poet Gary Soto speaks his mind

■ Author of "Too Many Tamales" appearing in Downey next week at free event.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY**—Prolific Fresno-born and -bred author and poet Gary Soto, whose works embrace novels, poetry, short stories, children's books, plays and essays, can only be described as versatile. Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Downey Theatre, he will give a "sampling of my work over the years" and sign books in "An Evening with Gary Soto."

The event, appropriate for ages 8 to adult, is free. It is being sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library.

With some 32 books under his belt and a recipient of many honors and awards, Soto's most recent book out is aimed at the 6th to 7th grade age group called "Accidental Love," about a skinny girl who falls in love with a nerd. His "Facts of Life," a collection of short stories, is due to come out in April. He has just completed a book of adult poetry, "Human Nature," but its date of publication is yet to be determined. Another collection of poems, this time for middle school students, is on hold for now.

Soto is, of course, well-known especially among the youth for his "Too Many Tamales," "Chato's Kitchen," "Jessie de la Cruz: Profile of a United Farm Worker," and his other picture books for children.

He says he gets about 100 fan letters a week—from all over—and is in demand as a speaker in the L.A. area, logging several visits especially in the spring.

Soto was 5 years old when his father was killed, further straining the Mexican-American Soto household's already thin resources. His mother struggled to raise three children. Soto pitched in to help support the family. With sheer determination and fortitude, he eventually earned a B.A. in English from CSU-Fresno and a master's in fine arts from UC-Irvine. He was to say later that he was inspired to write "to express himself and to give the world his perspective on growing up in a Chicano community." This is his second talk in Downey. He says he was here four years ago.

Soto, who along with such Mexican-American writers as Sandra Cisneros and Ruiz Rodriguez ("Always Running"), has tapped into a rich, young adult Chicano literary genre, says his forte in the realm of fiction is narrative, "with strong images." (Let's not forget he's also a poet, and he considers himself primarily a poet). He writes everyday—usually four hours in the morning.

"Afternoons," he says, "I do pushups, stretch, read my mail, answer the phone (like I'm doing now), feed my cat, and so on. When I'm writing fiction, I turn out three to four pages a day. If I'm doing poetry, I produce a poem a day."

So you don't call on your Muse? I asked. "No, she is old now but beautiful still," he said. "I am a professional writer. This is my profession, my calling. This is what I do. I'm dedicated to my craft."

Among his noteworthy awards and honors: his volume of "New and Selected Poems" was named a 1995 finalist for both the National Book Award and the Los Angeles Times book award; inclusion in the prestigious "Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry," one of the youngest poets so honored; and frequent appearances in Poetry magazine, which has honored him with the "Bess Hokin Prize" and the "Levinson Award," as well as featuring him in Poets in Person. His poems have meanwhile appeared in many other literary magazines.



Gary Soto, author of 32 books and the recipient of numerous honors and awards for writing, will speak at the Downey Theatre this Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. Photo courtesy Downey City Library

To the simple question, "What do you like to do?", his reply was: "Read. I discovered that reading builds a life inside the mind." He enjoys biographies, novels and reading in Spanish. He has also said he likes the theater, tennis, basketball, traveling (especially in London) and working in the garden, "sometimes." Among his favorite reading through the years: Robert Frost, W.S. Merwin, Turgenev, Flaubert, Neruda, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, David Mamet, Robertson Davies, and, of course, a writer named Bill Shakespeare, and, lately, David Lodge. ("My wife, Carolyn, and I read every night.")

Come Tuesday, don't miss a chance to meet someone who may just enlarge your field of vision. And it's all free. For information, call (562) 904-7230, ext. 32.

## Downey author makes book signing appearance

**PICO RIVERA** – Former Downey resident and Warren High School graduate Shannon Capps will be at Borders Books & Music in Pico Rivera to sign copies of his new novel, "Salmon Run," on Feb. 9 from 3 to 5 p.m., and hopes to see lots of familiar faces.

"I'm excited to be coming home," said Capps, who graduated from Warren in 1982 and writes under the name S.W. Capps. "It'll be great to see old friends, classmates, and neighbors – and to catch up with everyone. The more Downey people there, the better."

Capps had hopes to make Waldens Books in the Stonewood Center (now Borders Express) a stop on his 2008 book tour, but the store no longer hosts book signings, referring authors to its larger Borders counterpart in Pico Rivera.

"I spent hours upon hours at Waldens growing up," said Capps. "As kids, we used to ride our bikes there, pick up a book or magazine, then head down to Farrell's for ice cream or the Showcase to catch a movie – as long as it wasn't raining, that is. In those days, Stonewood was an outdoor mall!"

Capps credits his Downey upbringing and the excellent teachers in the Downey school system for his inspiration to become a writer. He attended Roger Casier and Maude Price Elementary Schools, Griffiths Middle School and Warren, before graduating from the University of Southern California in 1987.

"The Downey school system did an amazing job preparing us for college and the world beyond," Capps said. "And for me, teachers like Martin Townsend at Griffiths and Bill Allgood at Warren inspired us to believe in ourselves and follow our dreams. In my case, those dreams involved writing novels."

"Salmon Run," Capps' first novel to be published, is the story of a man hunted. With the law, a bloodthirsty ex-wife and a hired killer on his heels, Woodrow Salmon, a desperate corporate executive turned fugitive, embarks on a strange and harrowing journey, one that will lead him through the minefields of his past and change his life forever.

With "Salmon Run," a 350-page novel set partially in the southland and released last month, Capps has also done something few authors are willing to do. He's made himself available to book clubs.

"Normally, I speak with club members by phone or e-mail," Capps said. "But I'll be meeting with at least four in person while I'm in town. As a reader, I always wished the writer was around to answer questions when I finished his/her book. So I wanted to do that for my readers when I got the opportunity – plus it will give me a chance to thank them firsthand."

Borders in Pico Rivera is the second stop on Capps' 2008 book tour. Copies of "Salmon Run" will be available for purchase at the signing. The book is also available in hardback and paperback on Borders.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, Amazon.com, and InkwaterBooks.com.

For an excerpt of the book, a calendar of events or more ordering information, readers can visit Capps' Web site at www.swcapps.com. Borders in Pico Rivera is located at 8852 Washington Blvd.



## 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**

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## NO ON MEASURE G

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## Hughes graduates combat training

**SAN ANTONIO** – Air Force 2nd Lt. Jessica E. Hughes has graduated from Combat Systems Officer (CSO) training at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.

The course is designed to provide training for Air Force and Navy student navigators. CSO training combines portions of navigator and electronic warfare training to produce an aviator skilled in advanced navigation systems, electronic warfare and weapons employment. The new training gives aviators a cross-flow capability between the two positions on combat aircraft.

Hughes, an MC-130H aircraft electronic warfare officer with one year of military service, is assigned to Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. She is the daughter of Wayne and Virginia Brown of Downey.

## Internet resources for Downey seniors

**DOWNEY** – “Internet Resources for Senior Adults” will be offered at the Downey City Library on Feb. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Cormack Room. The free class will focus on Web sites helpful to seniors, including legal issues, consumer resources, health, aging and caregiver topics.

The class will also include several sites for senior fun and relaxation. Students should have a basic familiarity with using the Internet to access Web addresses. For reservations, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32, or visit the library’s Web site at [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org).

## Your chance to be ‘Princess for a day’

**DOWNEY** – The Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey Courts are hosting a fundraiser March 1, “Princess for a Day,” to benefit the Downey Rose Float Association.

Participants ages 5 to 12 will be treated to a “princess treatment” by the Courts, with hair and makeup treatments, dance/exercise routines, a tiara craft, lunch with the Courts, and a take-home goody bag.

Miss Downey Brianna Arceo is seeking the help of past Court members to assist at the event. Sponsors are also being sought. To help, call Susan Domen at (562) 824-7172 or any other current Court member.

Flyers and tickets for the event will be available Feb. 11. All proceeds will benefit the production of the 2009 float entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

## Sidi filming concert for PBS

**DOWNEY** – Downey resident and musician Sebastian Sidi will be recording a PBS television special April 25th at the OC Pavilion Performing Arts Theatre. Tickets are priced between \$25 and \$35.

The concert will air in June during PBS’s pledge month. Sidi will follow the broadcast with a small Southern California tour.

The OC Pavilion only holds 500 guests and tickets are expected to sell out. For tickets, call (714) 550-0550 or visit [www.ocpavilion.com](http://www.ocpavilion.com).

## 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.



Five years ago today, the seven crew members of the Space Shuttle Columbia died in a tragic disaster over the skies of southern Texas. The city of Downey named the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center in their honor; it is slated to open, according to Mayor David Gafin, this August. *Photo courtesy NASA*



Junior Girl Scout Troop #248 from Downey represented Mexico at the Downey Girl Scouts’ 19th Annual International Fair held Sunday at Downey High School. Each participating troop represented a different country with the food, clothes, dance and craft of that country. *Photo courtesy Cheryl Collier*

## 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.

## Free immunizations for children

**DOWNEY** – St. Francis Medical Center, in cooperation with the Downey Unified School District, is sponsoring free immunizations for children ages 4 to 18 on Feb. 27 at Maude Price Elementary School.

Children can be immunized for chicken pox, hepatitis A and B, DPT/Tdap, MMR, polio, meningococcal, human papilloma virus, and receive TB skin test.

All immunizations are free and no appointment is necessary. A parent or guardian must accompany children, and should also bring the child’s official immunization card with past immunization history. Immunizations will be given from 3 to 7 p.m.

Maude Price Elementary is located at 9525 Tweedy Lane. Their phone number is (562) 904-3575.

## Mixer being hosted by DFCU

**DOWNEY** – Downey Federal Credit Union will host a business mixer Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Admission cost is \$3 and includes refreshments, door prizes and networking opportunities.

Downey Federal Credit Union is located at 8237 3rd St. For more information call (562) 923-2191.

## Project aims for clean drinking water

**DOWNEY** – UNICEF is sponsoring a nationwide campaign to provide clean drinking water for children worldwide. Inaugurated last year in New York City, “Tap Project” is a grassroots effort through which local restaurants invite patrons to contribute \$1 or more for a glass of water normally provided for free.

The campaign will take place during the UN’s “World Water Week,” March 16-22. For every dollar raised, a child will have clean drinking water for 40 days, according to UNICEF.

Interested restaurants, organizations or individuals can visit [www.tap-project.org](http://www.tap-project.org) or contact local volunteer Lars Clutterham at (562) 928-9849 for more information.

## Students urged to apply for scholarships

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Association of Realtors will be awarding several \$500 scholarships to students from Columbus, Downey, Downey Adult and Warren High Schools in May.

Applications can be downloaded at [www.daor.com](http://www.daor.com), or by visiting either one of the schools’ guidance/scholarship counselor. Application deadline is April 1.

For more information, call (562) 861-0915.

## ‘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.

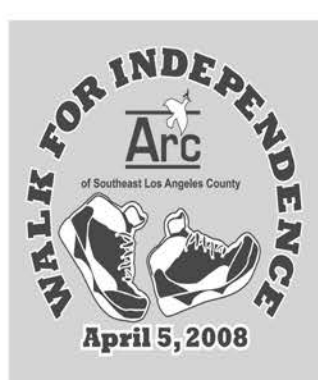
City Hall hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.



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## Vote YES on Measure G

The official position of the Press-Telegram endorsing Measure G appeared in Sunday’s (1/27/08) edition. This comes from an impartial, independent source...They made the points we have been saying all along... Below is their column, word for word...Nothing has been changed and nothing has been added. We couldn’t have said it any better...G is reform.

### Press-Telegram

# Yes on Measure G

## Downey term limit reform would give voters options.

**D**owney Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra makes a compelling case to loosen his city’s slipknot term limits. Downey has some of the tightest election rules in Los Angeles County.

The Southeast-area city operates under a 1993 political “death-penalty” law that bans two-term councilmembers from running for council again.

Ever.

More sensible laws, like the one in Cerritos, allow two-termers to sit out for two years and then try again.

Long Beach has a good method as well. It allows second-term incumbents to prove their popularity by running as write-in candidates.

Though we generally like term limits, Downey could use a loophole about the size of those in Long Beach and Cerritos to ensure that true public servants can return to office.

Guerra has proposed Measure G on the Feb. 5 Downey election ballot. The proposal would extend Downey’s maximum of two, four-year terms to three, four-year terms.

But here’s the catch: Councilmembers would have to sit out between the second and third term for at least two years.

Since Downey is composed of five districts - four are drawn, one is at-large - some of the incumbents would have to wait four years to run again, depending on the election cycle, or would have to move to another district.

Two or four years is enough time to ease the benefits of incumbency. Downey, which is rich with small-town charms and boasts an attentive electorate, would run little risk of candidates moving all over town to win office, particularly for part-time work.

Measure G is not a power grab on the scale of termed-out Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, who have jointly backed statewide Proposition 93 so they can keep their own jobs. (We have formally opposed that measure.)

Only a year and a half into his first four-year term, no one can accuse Guerra of self-interest.

If Measure G fails, another option for Downey in the future might be found in its at-large seat, District 5. The city could possibly allow termed-out incumbents to run only for that citywide position, but not in their home districts.

Nevertheless, the “Downey death penalty” warrants a stay of political execution.

Vote yes on Measure G.

Paid by Citizens for Term Limits Reform ID 1300387 - (562) 706-4114



## Chamber celebrates 105 years in business

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Chamber of Commerce held their annual Anniversary Luncheon on Jan. 25 at the Embassy Suites in Downey.

The chamber celebrated their 105th anniversary and members were honored in five-year increments with certificates presented to five, 10, 15 and 20-year members. Plaques were given to those with 25 years or more of membership.

Cathy Buddenmeyer, Assistant Medical Center Administrator of Kaiser Permanente, and sponsor of the event, spoke about the future opening of the new hospital in Downey.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard presented Chamber President Jaime Garcia with a certificate honoring the chamber's 105th anniversary and spoke about the value of the chamber and its members.

Past chamber presidents Fionnuala Anderson, Diane Boggs, Jerry Brady, Mayor David Gafin, Steve Hoffman, John Lacey and Jim Reynolds participated by doing the honors of cutting the cake.

Recognition for 65 years of membership went to Downey Regional Medical Center and 50-year members recognized were Downey Association of Realtors and Downey Savings & Loan. Fifty-five members were recognized in all.



**Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, right, presented Downey Chamber of Commerce President Jaime Garcia with a certificate honoring the Chamber's 105th anniversary. Photo courtesy Sue Nordin**



**Downey members of San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles tour some of the new patient rooms currently under development. Photo courtesy Dorothy Pemberton**

## Open enrollment at DUSD schools

**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.

## 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](http://www.downeyca.org).

## First Presbyterian offers new program

**DOWNEY** – The First Presbyterian Church of Downey will be offering an after school program from 3:30 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning Feb. 12.

The program will offer tutoring in reading and math, as well as the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument and participate in sports such as soccer and basketball.

For more information, call Alfredo Delgado or David Leckington at (562) 861-6752, or email [fpc.downey@verizon.net](mailto:fpc.downey@verizon.net).

## Curious George stories at storytime

**DOWNEY** – Preschool children and their parents can attend a special storytime featuring stories about Curious George Tuesday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in the Cormack Room at the Downey City Library.

A bilingual storytime on Wednesday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. will feature the same stories in Spanish.

"The classic picture books by H.A. Rey are a favorite with every generation," said Children's Librarian Gina Orello. "Join us for stories, a special craft and some of George's favorite snacks."

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

## Guild takes Childrens Hospital tour

**LOS ANGELES** – Downey members of San Antonio Guild of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles took a recent hospital tour and were able to preview the new patient rooms which will soon be located in the newly-constructed hospital building.

Members also toured the mock-up room which features state-of-the-art technology, as well as family and clinical space. Each room is colorfully decorated and a hand-painted canopy is over each bed, depicting a nature scene.

Due to state mandated standards for earthquakes, construction began on a new 460,000 sq. ft., 317-bed hospital building at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, which will be complete in 2009. According to hospital officials, it will be the finest medical and surgical environment for seriously ill and injured children anywhere in the United States.

For membership in the Guild, call President Rosie Shelton at (562) 928-4303.

## 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.

## The Poet's Corner

### The Ladies of the Patriot

There's a paper here in Downey  
Getting better week by week  
Lots of front page pics and features  
Lots of color – take a peek

I'm speaking of the *Patriot*  
Ads by Linda, Dorothy too  
With a dandy Poet's Corner  
Sometimes filled by – you know who

Brooke's a writer without question  
Stories appear with her by-line  
From modern dance to ghosts in bed sheets  
Fill the pages up just fine

Jennifer's the boss and owner  
Her work follows master John  
She's a credit to the teacher –  
Best of luck as time goes on

Best of luck to all the ladies  
And we'll mention Eric too  
Not forgetting dear old Henry  
In this *patriotic* crew  
– **John Vincent,**  
Downey

### The Weeds

My dear and lovely wisdom plant  
Let all your sadness fly.  
Don't worry what the Flowers say  
Or life will past you by.

Yes, you are one of the disgraceful Weeds  
Stolen buds and stolen seeds.  
Growing in the Flower's garden,  
None of them would give thee pardon.

Strangely what the Weeds do know  
Will make them multiply and grow.  
Lesser in their numbers too  
These things the Flowers never knew.

If once a Flower blazed with Weeds  
How the world would change to thee.  
Peace and Love and Truth would make  
The Garden more a friendly place.  
– **Jenerous,**  
Downey

### Sheep Less Nights

Why do nightmares befriend my dreams  
I sleep atop a bed and rest  
Wilst a dream enters a head of screams  
Awake my lids slit now confess  
I dreamt nightmares during my death  
And wedded sheets claim I too held my breath  
So right before you go to bed  
I hope you think or steam one thing I said  
If sand is to wipe your eyes and lower your head  
Then sleep as soft and merry atop your bed.  
– **James Hernandez,**  
Downey

## Belly dancing class begins Feb. 12

**DOWNEY** – New belly dance class sessions, presented in conjunction with Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC), will begin Feb. 12.

Belly dance students will learn basic hip techniques, shimmies and muscle control, in addition to basic combinations, isolations and strengthening exercises.

Mixed level classes will be offered Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at Sky Dance Studios, 12405 Woodruff Ave., and Thursdays from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. at the Wellness Center of DRMC, 11420 Brookshire Ave.

The cost is \$35 for five classes. For more information, or to attend a class, call Raquel at (323) 244-0475 or e-mail [shimmies10@yahoo.com](mailto:shimmies10@yahoo.com).

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Sandra Martin

## CITY of DOWNEY

Community Participation Meetings for CDBG and HOME Programs.

The City of Downey has scheduled several meetings on the City's federal CDBG and HOME Programs for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The City is now working on the required Action Plan and Application for these federal grants. These meetings are provided to give those in attendance information on these federal programs, and allow an opportunity to provide input in the annual development process. Interested Downey residents and representatives of community groups are encouraged to attend and comment on the City's housing and non-housing needs, program priorities and propose uses for either of these funding sources. The City estimates it will receive \$1,484,754 in CDBG and \$712,852 in HOME funds for this fiscal year.

Community meetings will be held on:

**Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** Barbara J. Riley Community/Senior Center 7810 Quill Dr., Gallatin Room **6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** Golden Park Multi-Purpose Room, 8840 Golden Avenue **6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** Downey City Library Cormack Room, 11121 Brookshire Avenue. **1:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing will be held on:

**Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.:** Downey City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Brookshire Avenue

For additional information or to arrange special accommodations to attend any meeting, please contact Ed Velasco at (562) 904-7167.



# Still Waiting

By Eric Pierce

At this point, there doesn't remain much that has not already been written or ranted about Johnie's Broiler, the iconic drive-in restaurant that was illegally razed (nearly to the ground) last January, more than one year ago.

But at the risk of sounding like a broken record, it bears repeating that the property is still a dump – literally. Garbage, including half-eaten food containers, shattered glass, and bright, neon-colored campaign signs from elections long past, is strewn about the property.

Graffiti has been splayed on the famous "Fat Boy" sign, in vivid red and blue-green colors no less. More graffiti decorates the block wall enclosing the former restaurant. (You can view photos of the dilapidated Johnie's on my blog, which is linked off our Web site.)

Even worse, two dangling electrical wires hang off the mangled roof and droop down onto the sidewalk, easily within arm's reach.

How long before somebody yanks on a wire and hurts themselves?

Last December 14, this newspaper declared, in large, front page type, "City makes progress in plan to clean up Johnie's Broiler."

Looking back, that headline looks rather silly now.

I have no doubt city staff is working hard behind the scenes to secure a viable and prosperous future for the Johnie's Broiler property, possibly by luring another restaurant to the site.

But in the meantime, Johnie's Broiler should be cleaned up.

For a city so quick to ticket a homeowner for leaving their garbage cans in the street after trash pick-up day, I think 390 days has been long enough.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Unnecessary information

Dear Editor:

I wanted to comment on the article about Conor Robles ("Conor Robles' Death Determined Accidental," 1/18/08).

In your article you mentioned "while living at a Brookshire Avenue home Downey police responded to four incidents involving narcotics..." I believe it was unnecessary, under the circumstances of Conor's tragic death, to mention these police calls. Additionally, I believe the cause of his death is not known at this time. I think it is important to consider the Robles family's pain and perhaps be more sensitive to their feelings.

I enjoy and appreciate *The Downey Patriot* and look forward to receiving it every week. Your paper provides an invaluable service to our community.

— Barbara Samperi,  
Downey

### Empty nest syndrome

Dear Editor:

I would like to share an experience of parenthood with my fellow Downey residents of when children grow up...

I know there are many parents out there holding their breaths – praying their children won't move out and leave their nests.

It happens people! Your child reaches the age when the world offers them more than your open arms can hold. It happened to me – my baby, my precious, welcomed into this world, with dotting grandparents and healthy, young parents. My child grew up and left the nest. What worst experience can a parent endure? It felt like the amputation of my right arm. Why does this process have to be so painful? I kept the door of his room closed for two weeks before I could actually think about his departure.

Children grow up and move out. But why you ask – why would a perfectly, well-nurtured human being want to leave? Freedom. Pure, unadulterated freedom. I felt it, my husband felt it, and your children will find and feel it to. However, I never knew how much my parents would feel it. I have never known a more deeper feeling of loneliness than when my child moved out of the family home. I felt so alone, abandoned, discarded, and left behind. I did not realize how much my child moving out would affect me.

It is so quiet, non-dramatical, and did I already say quiet? I've never felt so alone. There are millions of parents out there feeling the same way. Yet I feel elated when my child felt the need to find life on his own. The freedom to make their own choices, make their own way of life. You feel as though you haven't taught them enough, it happened so soon. So quick, that you feel ambushed. I myself e-mailed every female friend with children. "What do I do now?"

I was bombarded with responses. There were friends that responded with, "you should feel wonderful, your child has that determination to make it on their own." OK, I do not feel that great. And then there were others that stated, "you have to remember they have experienced your teachings and lifestyle, so they will in essence, be like you." That was a little more acceptable.

Then the piece of resistance – everything you did, everything you said,



everything will come to mind when your child is out on their own. That was the hardest comment to take in, considering I am a clean freak and a compulsive arranger of furniture. Oh my, will my child carry these strange behaviors into his lifestyle? It's true, my child called me to say, "Thanks, I now have the clean freak genes – thanks, mom. I can't go to sleep until all the dishes are washed." How funny – it's true your family does carry on. I can only hope that family traditions do carry through – this is what keeps me sleeping calm at night. I have so many terror nights, that the hope of family tradition carries through because that's all I have to help me through this transition.

A dear friend once told me what you lived with your child will carry through – they are a part of you, and this will never change. Thank God. I can sleep at night.

Being a parent is hard, but no harder than being a parent to a child that's moved out. God bless the mothers and fathers all over the world. May we sleep knowing our children learned what we know to be best for them.

—Stacey Rodgers,  
Downey

### Neighborhood watch

Dear Editor:

I live in Northeast Downey. On Jan. 17, after dark, there was a knock on my security screen door. A clean cut young man who may have been 16 or 17 years old stood on my porch. He told me he was new in the neighborhood and pointed to the west, indicating where he had recently moved in. He told me he was trying to get into the ROP program at Downey High and wanted to know if I would subscribe to the *Los Angeles Times* or a Whittier paper. When I told him I already take the *Press-Telegram*, he began taking some papers out of his jacket pocket (but never actually showed them to me) and asking if I could extend my subscription and that he would deliver the paper for the ROP program. He quoted me a price for the paper, to which I replied that I currently pay a better rate. He even offered to bring doughnuts with the paper on Sunday mornings. Throughout this short conversation, he was very polite.

Shortly after he left, my neighbor called me and asked about somebody going door to door. A young man had knocked on her door, and as she opened it and was trying to quiet her dog, she told him that she didn't want anything. His reply was that he wasn't selling anything, but that he was new in the neighborhood (pointing in a southern direction) and that he was just trying to meet other teenagers in the area. She told him that her kids were all adults.

At another neighbor's house, he claimed to be collecting donations for uniforms at Downey High.

At another house, it was something about soccer.

My neighbor thought it odd that a kid would be banging on doors after dark, looking to meet other teenagers so she followed her gut and called the police. The police quickly responded and listened to her relate the story about this kid. At the time, she didn't know anything about all the different stories he was telling the neighbors. The officers told her that they would be patrolling this area during the night, would keep their eyes open and then left.

Later the same evening, the officers returned to my neighbor's home to report that they had found them. There were two men and a car involved. They were not from Downey, and in fact, lived in Cudahy. The officers ticketed them and told them to leave the area. The officers also told my neighbor that they were most likely casing the neighborhood, and that their polite, clean cut appearance is how they gain your trust.

I was surprised, the following day while talking to several people who

live in the same general area, to hear three others tell me that they too also had somebody knock on their doors the same night, after dark, two of them supposedly selling newspaper subscriptions.

I find it ironic that just [two weeks ago], there were articles in your paper calling for an establishment of Neighborhood Watch programs and also reinstating the old "police blotter" that ran in the Downey paper every week. I am fortunate that I have neighbors who watch out for each other. We share our telephone numbers and pay attention to anything unusual on our street. I know this street is probably the exception to the rule. I suspect that there are many more people who haven't got a clue about their neighbors and may not want to know their neighbors. Downey may be the "Rose in the Toilet Bowl," but there is still crime in Downey. I would like to see a return of the "police blotter" in the paper each week.

The reason for this letter is to alert the citizens of Downey that they shouldn't be complacent about their supposed safety. Unless something happens that directly affects you, it is easy to begin to feel invulnerable. Keep your doors locked. Be especially cautious when you are returning home, between your car and your door. I'm not putting anything sinister in a bad guy's head that isn't there already when I warn you about your vulnerability in those few moments. They've already thought of it and they're counting on your distraction. Don't become a victim and don't allow your neighbors to become victims.

—Paula Mayfield,  
Downey

### An inspiring role model

Dear Editor:

What a wonderful and inspiring story about Margaret Olds on the front page! ("Margaret Olds Knows All Things are Possible," 1/25/08). Her education has been so important to her that she has stood fast through many "difficulties" to meet, and exceed, her goal of a high school education. Her challenges have given her a strength and determination that is admirable and an excellent example to all of us, no matter what we deal with in our lives.

Now she chooses to give back to the community because she has received so much. Not only has her education expanded her mind, but her heart and spirit have grown as she has learned and grown.

I'm proud to have Margaret as a part of our community and wish every student who struggles could read and be encouraged to give just a bit more in the realization of their dreams. All things ARE possible!

—Joyce Beach,  
Downey

### It's all politics


Dear Editor:

I know more about politics than anybody, and I don't know anything. I don't know anybody that knows anything about politics, and we all know that politicians don't know anything. If we could all get together, we couldn't accomplish anything because we don't know anything. So if you know anybody that knows anybody that knows anything about politics, don't have them call me, because I don't want to get confused.

—James E. Jones,  
Downey

## Measure G

### The Downey Patriot

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For February

Sat. Feb. 2: **Downey Symphony Concert**, Downey Theatre, 8 p.m.  
Tues. Feb. 5: **Election Day** from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Tues. Feb. 5: **"An Evening with Gary Soto,"** Downey Theatre, 7 p.m.

### City Meetings

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

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner**, mtg., for information call 426-6786.  
6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.  
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.  
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 862-2658.  
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., 7:30 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 776-3388.  
4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.  
2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

#### Fridays

7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call 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...

**Feb. 1, 1893:** Thomas Edison completes construction of the world's first motion picture studio, the Black Maria, located in West Orange, New Jersey.  
**1896:** Puccini opera "La Boheme" premieres in Turin, Italy.  
**1982:** "Late Night with David Letterman" makes its premiere on NBC.  
**2003:** The space shuttle Columbia, of which the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center in Downey is named after, disintegrates as it re-enters the Earth's atmosphere. All seven crew members are killed.  
**2004:** Labeled a "wardrobe malfunction," singer Janet Jackson exposes a breast during a Super Bowl halftime show performance with Justin Timberlake.

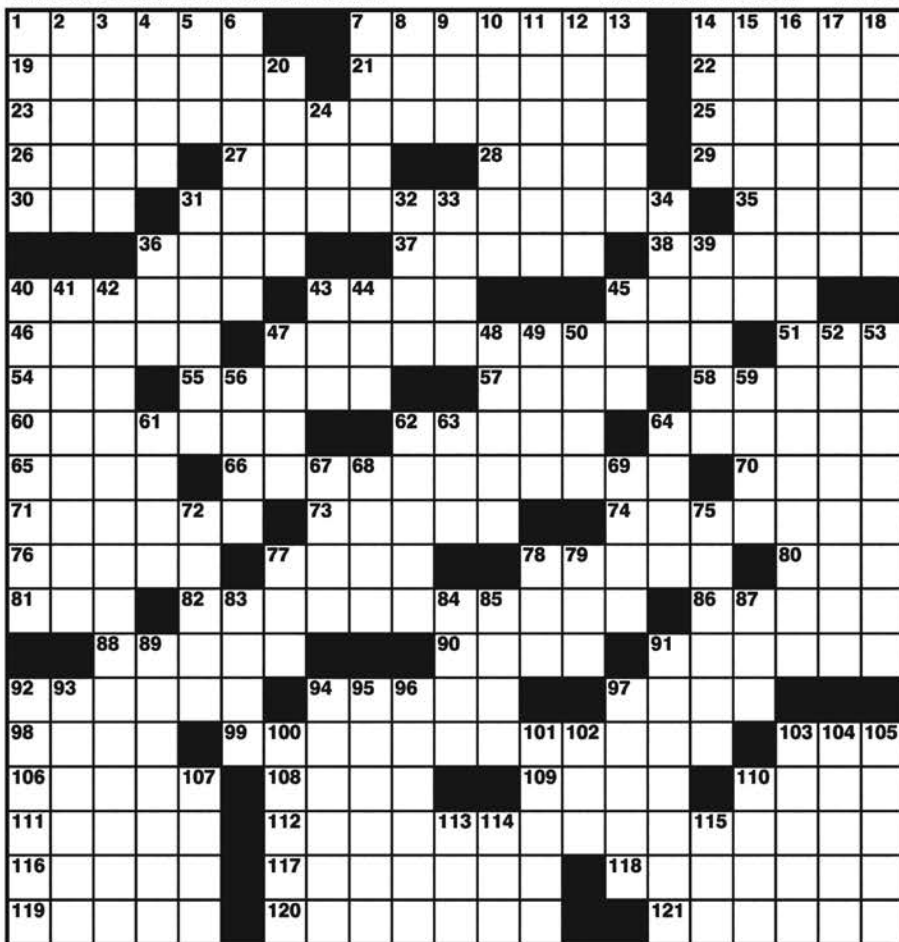
## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

**FEATHER OR NOT: Avian allusions**  
by Merle Baker

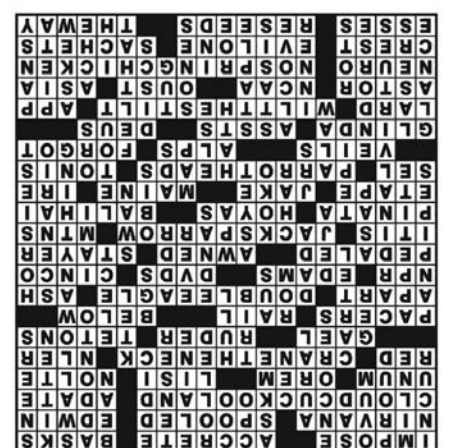
- ACROSS**
- 1 Slap on
  - 7 Grow together
  - 14 Soaks up sun
  - 19 Blissful state
  - 21 Wound on a bobbin
  - 22 Astronomer Hubble
  - 23 Idealistic state
  - 25 "\_\_\_ which will live in infamy"
  - 26 Word on pennies
  - 27 Utah city
  - 28 Actress Virna
  - 29 *Prince of Tides* Oscar nominee
  - 30 Like a classy carpet
  - 31 Evince curiosity
  - 35 Dodger, for example
  - 36 Highlander
  - 37 More uncouth
  - 38 Wyoming range
  - 40 Indiana team
  - 43 Banister
  - 45 Ranked lower than
  - 46 Not together
  - 47 Gold coin
  - 51 Bat wood
  - 54 *All Things Considered* airer
  - 55 Wax-coated cheeses
  - 57 Film rentals
  - 58 \_\_\_ de Mayo
  - 60 Rode a bike
  - 62 Like barley
  - 64 One hanging around
  - 65 "How sweet \_\_\_!"
  - 66 Fictional pirate
  - 70 38 Across, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 71 Party animal?
  - 73 Georgetown athletes
  - 74 *South Pacific* song
  - 76 Infantry campsite
  - 77 OK
  - 78 Senator Snowe's state
  - 80 Indignation
  - 81 French seasoning
  - 82 Jimmy Buffett fans
  - 86 Morrison and Tennille
  - 88 Covers
  - 90 Heidi's home
  - 91 Drew a blank
  - 92 *Wizard of Oz* witch
  - 94 Aides: abbr.
  - 97 \_\_\_ ex machina
  - 98 Shortening
  - 99 Hoops Hall of Fame nickname
  - 103 PC program
  - 106 First female member of Parliament
  - 108 Final Four org.
  - 109 Depose
  - 110 China setting
  - 111 Prefix for surgeon
  - 112 Over the hill
  - 116 Summit
  - 117 Fiend
  - 118 Drawer fresheners
  - 119 Twisty turns
  - 120 Spruces up the lawn
  - 121 Chinese philosophy
- DOWN**
- 1 Become liable for
  - 2 Pooh creator
  - 3 Haughty
  - 4 Egg: Lat.
  - 5 Dejected
  - 6 Curtain calls
  - 7 "\_\_\_ no questions..."
  - 8 USN rank
  - 9 Dove sound
  - 10 Like some oats
  - 11 *Seinfeld* character
  - 12 Not as relaxed
  - 13 Of ancient Icelandic literature
  - 14 Noggin
  - 15 Enlarge, as a house
  - 16 Be gullible
  - 17 Stray, perhaps
  - 18 Belittling looks
  - 20 Hearing-related
  - 24 100 yrs.
  - 31 OPEC, for one
  - 32 Chi paper, with *The Shuck*
  - 34 Music-compilation company
  - 36 Switz. neighbor
  - 39 Choose
  - 40 Ancient instrument
  - 41 Craving
  - 42 Prudence and temperance, for two CD follower
  - 43 Switz. neighbor
  - 44 Cols.' superiors
  - 47 Man Ray's genre
  - 48 Ferber et al.
  - 49 At any time
  - 50 ID info
  - 52 Screenplay summary
  - 53 Most suitable for equestrians
  - 56 \_\_\_ vu
  - 59 "\_\_\_ Said" (Neil Diamond tune)
  - 61 Pronto
  - 62 To date
  - 63 New Deal agcy.
  - 64 Aquatic bird
  - 67 Scorch
  - 68 *Mikado* character
  - 69 Kimono sashes
  - 72 Halfhearted
  - 75 Released
  - 77 Yearbook sect.
  - 78 Encyclopedia illustration
  - 79 Paid spots
  - 83 "There oughta be \_\_\_!"
  - 84 Biblical verb
  - 85 Alternatively
  - 87 Hosp. areas
  - 89 Back
  - 91 Bowler, for one
  - 92 Quick view
  - 93 High-tech pointers
  - 94 Recess
  - 95 Equilibrium
  - 96 Principal commodity
  - 97 Brake parts
  - 100 Word with circle or tube
  - 102 Harbor craft
  - 103 Out of whack
  - 104 Michelangelo sculpture
  - 105 Garden flower
  - 107 Goes bad
  - 110 Aspirin target
  - 113 Future fish
  - 114 Beethoven's Symphony #2 \_\_\_ major
  - 115 \_\_\_ as in Innsbruck

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: [StanXwords@aol.com](mailto: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.

concerns often wear parrot hats. HEADS because attendees of his (82 Across) are called PARROT-Fans of singer Jimmy Buffett the U.S. Mint from 1850 to 1933. is a \$20 gold piece produced by THE DOUBLE EAGLE (47 Across) Aristophanes play "The Birds." lation of such a place in the local comes from the literal trans- (Across) as a term for an idealized CLOUD-CUCKOO-LAND (23





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## Student milks her shot at making art history

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – While the majority of her classmates will be painting on canvases or drawing on paper, 16-year-old Warren High School AP Art student Brittney Dreher will be painting on a life-sized cow made of fiberglass.

Dreher is one of 30 finalists in the 3rd Annual Lucerne “The Art of Dairy Art Contest,” a contest sponsored by Safeway that challenges students between the ages of 12 and 19 “to neatly design, decorate and color the cow...implementing an historical theme,” said the official contest rules.

Here’s how it works: Dreher, along with three other students from Warren, were given 8.5” x 11” pieces of paper with an outline of a cow. Allowed to use a variety of materials, methods and media to decorate the cow, the entries were to depict an element of history, or the history of dairy.

More than 10,000 entries were submitted nationwide and only 30 were chosen to be finalists. In choosing finalists, judges were looking for originality, creativity and relevance to the theme, “Cows & History.”

Although Dreher, whose cow depicted cattle ranchers herding cattle across a river, was the only student from Warren to become a finalist, she looks forward to having her classmates help in completing the final project.

“I’m so excited and ecstatic,” said Dreher, president of Warren’s Art Club. “This contest is not only giving me the opportunity to display my work, but also the chance to win money for my school and teacher.”

As a finalist, Dreher automatically receives \$250 for the purchase of art supplies to be used in decorating the fiberglass cow. Grand prize for the contest includes \$20,000 awarded to the winner’s school’s art department, \$5,000 to the winner, and \$5,000 to the winner’s designated teacher, as well as trophies for both the winner and teacher. First prize award includes \$5,000 to the winner’s school’s art department, \$2,500 to the winner, and \$2,500 to the designated teacher.

Three honorable achievements will also be awarded, with prizes including \$1,000 to the winner, \$1,000 to the designated teacher, and trophies for both. The remaining 25 finalists will each receive a \$500 savings bond and a plaque.

“I’m really excited for Brittney,” said Doug Andrews, Warren High School Art Department chair. “She’s an all-around good student who is pro-active in the arts and I’m really jazzed about her entry.”

Safeway will be delivering the 5’ x 8’ cow to Warren within the next four weeks. Dreher will then have until the end of March to replicate the design originally submitted in order to meet the April 1 deadline. Although contest rules allow for different and/or additional materials to be used, the cow’s overall appearance, design and colors submitted on the original entry must be accurately duplicated.

Once completed, Dreher will submit four photographs, one of the front, one of each side, and one of the back. The judges will then determine the prize winners.

Regardless of how Dreher places, her cow will be displayed at a local Vons or Pavilions. Location and length of the display is determined by Safeway. However, once the cow is no longer on display, Dreher can obtain the cow to either keep for herself, or display at school.

Dreher lives in Downey and hopes to pursue a career in either graphic design or special effects and computer animation. She finds inspiration in photographs, traveling and life in general and has great respect for artists such as Andy Warhol and Carol Hagan. She will also be entering Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard’s 2008 Congressional Student Art Competition.

For more information on the 3rd Annual Lucerne “The Art of Dairy Art Contest,” visit [www.artofdairy-artcontest.com](http://www.artofdairy-artcontest.com).

## Returning to her love

Overcoming heartache and grief, Pixie Bavlé-Nolin finds the strength to return to the stage, minus her deceased husband and singing partner.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – For the longest time, Pixie Bavlé-Nolin’s husband wouldn’t let her perform with him.

“It’s not happening – it doesn’t work when you’re married and work together,” he would tell her.

Little did he know that soon after saying that, his singer would quit on him and Pixie would be the one to fill the position.

Pixie, 52, first saw Lloyd Nolin at the Stardust in Downey back in 1983. The two didn’t reunite until 1991, at Bruce’s in Santa Fe Springs, at which point they began dating. Within the year, they were married and in 1995, performed their first professional gig together as the “Silver Lining” at Basin Street in Lakewood. While Lloyd played keyboard and took care of sequencing, Pixie sang songs ranging in genres from old time rock and roll, to smooth jazz, to love songs.

“Silver Lining” performed in Downey venues such as the Embassy Suites, Stardust, Dixie Bell, Hully Gully and Granata’s. The two were actually engaged and married at Dixie Bell.

In December of 2002, Lloyd’s life – and Pixie’s career – came to an abrupt end. At the age of 55, Lloyd collapsed in his backyard after his heart suddenly stopped beating.

“Doctors couldn’t figure out what happened,” said Pixie, a 45-year Downey resident. “I just knew that God had his hand in it because he wasn’t in any pain.”

Following Lloyd’s death, and two years thereafter, Pixie felt she couldn’t continue to sing without her husband and music partner by her side. For her, there was nothing left to sing about.

“I thought I was never ever going to sing again,” she said. “I didn’t even think about singing again until about three years ago, and even then, I wasn’t pushing for it. I told God that if I wasn’t to sing again, to remove that desire from within.”

Pixie’s relationship with music began at a young age, when she purchased a karaoke machine that played 8-track tapes. Ironically, she has never really enjoyed listening to music, because after all, it’s more fun to sing than to listen, she said. But when she does listen to music, you’ll find her listening to Cher, the Righteous Brothers, Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, and Tony Bennett, whom she wishes to someday perform with.

During that period of not performing, in 2003, Pixie wrote a book, “The History of a Mystery,” which is compiled of photos and memorabilia of Lloyd. In the book, she writes about their journey as a couple and as individuals, before and after Lloyd’s death. For Pixie, it served as a type of release in an attempt to move on in her life.

When Pixie realized she wasn’t going to shake her desire to sing again, she thought of a possible return to the stage. But getting back into the groove of things was a lot harder than it seemed. And after three years of trying to get her feet back on the ground, Pixie finally got her act together and updated her Web site, business cards, pictures and so forth in July



Pixie Bavlé-Nolin is returning to performing after dealing with the unexpected loss of her husband.

of 2007. By August, she was receiving phone calls to perform at local venues.

“Originally I wanted to perform as part of a duo,” said Pixie, a 1973 graduate of Central High School. “But now, we’re a trio, with Marvin Sims playing the saxophone, Kenny Kasoff playing the guitar, and me at the microphone.”

The group just landed a weekly gig at My Maria restaurant in Bellflower, playing every Tuesday night from 7 to 11 p.m.

Pixie currently hosts a discussion group at [www.eons.com/groups/musicians-singers-and-bands.com](http://www.eons.com/groups/musicians-singers-and-bands.com), and is also a member of the International High IQ Society, with an IQ tinkering around 130.

“I sing because I love it, and now I know nothing will ever truly stop me from doing what I love,” she said.

For more information, or to book Pixie, e-mail [realpixie@juno.com](mailto:realpixie@juno.com), or visit [www.maxpages.com/pixiesplace](http://www.maxpages.com/pixiesplace).

## Travelers required to carry proof of citizenship

**DOWNEY** – The Automobile Club of Southern California’s Downey office would like to inform land and sea travelers to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda and the Caribbean that beginning yesterday, they will be required to carry a government-issued photo ID and proof of U.S. citizenship in order to either enter or leave the U.S.

Sea and land travelers to these regions do not yet need to carry a passport, but if they don’t have a passport with them, they need to have another form of proof of citizenship such as an original birth certificate or naturalization certificate. And all travelers aged 19 and over are also required to carry a government-issued photo ID.

“Identification requirements for travelers have been changing frequently in the last couple of years, and travelers need to stay aware of these changes so they bring the correct documents on their trips,”

said Rosa Salazar, the Auto Club’s Downey district manager.

The U.S. government was planning to require all seas and land travelers to these adjacent international destinations to carry passports as of this summer. But that requirement has been pushed back to 2009, when a smaller, less expensive version of a passport – known as a “passport card” – should be available for U.S. citizens to use in lieu of a passport when they travel to countries adjacent to the U.S.

However, in the meantime, travelers must carry some proof of citizenship with them if they travel by land or sea to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or the Caribbean, Salazar said.

For travelers who do want to obtain or renew passports for upcoming international travel, the Auto Club has passport applica-

tions available at the Downey office, located at 8223 Firestone Blvd., and can also take passport photos for a fee of \$8 for members and \$15 for non-members. After filling out an application, new passport applicants must complete their passport processing at an authorized processing location such as a U.S. post office.

The Auto Club also reminds travelers to Mexico that if they plan to drive their vehicles there, they need to purchase Mexico auto insurance for their trip. U.S. auto insurance is not accepted in Mexico, and drivers without auto insurance in that country are subject to immediate arrest. Mexico auto insurance is available for purchase at the Downey Auto Club office, or online at [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

For more information about the new travel requirements, visit [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

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MEET THE SPARTANS PG13	(10:45 1:05 3:25 5:45 8:05 10:25)
RAMBO R	(11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30)
RAMBO R	(10:30 3:40 6:55)
MAD MONEY PG13	(1:00 6:10)
UNTRACEABLE R	(12:00 2:35 5:10 7:45 10:20)
HOW SHE MOVE PG13	(10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:50 10:15)
CLOVERFIELD PG13	(10:40 1:00 3:20 5:40 8:00 10:20)
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MEET THE SPARTANS PG13	(12:25, 2:50, 5:20), 7:50, 10:20
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN R	(2:20), 7:25
RAMBO R	(12:30, 3:00, 5:30), 7:55, 10:30
★ UNTRACEABLE R	(11:35, 2:15, 4:50), 7:30, 10:10
27 DRESSES PG13	(11:00, 1:45, 4:35), 7:20, 10:05
CLOVERFIELD PG13	(11:00, 1:15, 3:25, 5:45), 8:00, 10:25
THERE WILL BE BLOOD R	(11:50, 3:30), 7:05, 10:30
THE ORPHANAGE R	(11:45, 4:55), 10:00
JUNO PG13	(11:55, 2:35, 4:55), 7:35, 9:55

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# Sharon Lavery: 'this is a perfect fit for me'

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

Music entered Sharon Lavery's life early. Lavery, chosen in early December from an original pool of 95 candidates to replace the late Tom Osborn as conductor and music director of the Downey Symphony, says the elementary school she attended in Ossining, New York where she grew up, had a very strong music program.

"When I was in first grade, there was this excellent music teacher, Mr. Arthur Jay," she recalled. "He used to write his own plays and musicals and he got everybody involved in all sorts of musical programs. We sang and danced to music and all that. I remember he gave me two prominent parts in, I think, the second grade. So, literally from day one, I was exposed to good music. To a young child, it was pure joy."

Born in North Tarrytown (since renamed Sleepy Hollow—yes, that place of legend), which is some 25 miles from Ossining, Sharon, inheriting good work ethic genes from her lawyer-dad and her nurse-mom, would go on to get her bachelor's in music education, *cum laude*, from Michigan State University in 1991; a first master of music in clarinet performance, again *cum laude*, from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1993; and another master of music in orchestral conducting, this time *magna cum laude*, from USC's Thornton School of Music in 2000—all on scholarships.

Jay, who was "an excellent elementary school music teacher," at one time, in fourth grade, demonstrated all the musical instruments, and Sharon was asked to pick a favorite instrument. She chose the clarinet. She had heard it played previously by her first band teacher, a Mr. Beckman, and Sharon knew it was what she wanted to play. A third big musical influence was her high school band director, Kal Gancos.

"They all pushed me, challenged me," she says. "I knew then that I wanted to be involved in music all my life, although I didn't know I would be involved in conducting." Enthusiastic learner that she is, she also learned to play the piano.

Lavery to this point has been active on several fronts. She was for many years associate conductor of the Herbert Zipper Orchestra of Los Angeles, has led the La Jolla Symphony in concert, served as assistant conductor to the Pasadena Symphony (she resides in Pasadena), and currently holds the post as cover conductor for the Pacific Symphony of Orange County. In addition to being a guest conductor for various wind ensembles and orchestras, she appeared in a scene once as orches-



Sharon Lavery has traveled the world studying and performing music, including visits to Japan and Bulgaria. She'll lead the Downey Symphony tomorrow. "With all the things that have happened in my life, winning this Downey job is a perfect match for me," she said. Photo by Kathe Osborne

tra conductor in the Columbia Pictures film, "Centerstage," and did a stint as conducting trainer to the actor, Ed Harris, for the 2005 MGM Studios film, "Copying Beethoven."

She is also a member of the faculty at the USC Thornton School of Music, where she serves as professor of conducting and is the resident conductor of the Thornton Symphony, Chamber Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. The position was created especially for her by director of orchestras Larry J. Livingston. This has allowed her to collaborate as a rehearsal conductor with such renowned conductors as Sergiu Comissiona, Jorge Mester, H. Robert Reynolds, Stanislaw Skrowacewski, Carl S. Clair and John Williams (she met with Williams as recently as two months ago).

"I teach everyday," she says. "There are 30 conducting students. And I run the rehearsals for the Chamber Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra, and the Wind Ensemble. USC keeps me quite busy."

She has led the Thornton ensembles in concert on many occasions, and dedicated seven years to her post as music director of the Thornton Concert Orchestra. Lavery has been active on the national and international levels as well.

She has meanwhile conducted in many concert halls across the U.S., including Carnegie Hall in New York City. She had also previously served as music director of the MUSE International Music Day festival held in Chiba, Japan. She was one of several conductors who visited Sofia, Bulgaria in 2004 for a conducting workshop run by St. Clair, who is conductor of the Pacific Symphony and the principal conductor for the USC Thornton Symphony.

"I was in my office at USC when Lorine Parks called to say I was chosen [Downey Symphony conductor]," Sharon says. "It was the best Christmas present I could imagine. My family and friends were so supportive and excited and happy for me. My sister Kathleen, she is 14 months older and is a nurse practitioner, found the Dec. 7 Patriot cover story on her Web site announcing my selection, and e-mailed it to everyone she knew. When I opened my e-mail at the start of classes at USC on Jan. 14, I had received many, many congratulations from students, faculty, colleagues, friends and family. My old music teacher, Mr. Jay, who must be 70 now and with whom I've kept in touch, said he's so proud of me."

She's also kept in touch with her best friend, Tara Butcher (they've been friends since third grade), who lives in Cos Cob, Conn. Another close friend, from her New England Conservatory days, is Kelly O'Connor. Kathe Osborne, from Pasadena, is a third close friend.

Her retired dad now lives in Marco Island, Fla. (her mom passed away in 2001); a younger brother, Daniel, works as a program events coordinator for the San Francisco Bar Association.

Sharon says she chose Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances, Haydn's C Major Cello Concerto ("One of my favorites"), and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 for her inaugural symphony performance tomorrow at the Downey Theatre to "fit the size of the Downey Symphony Orchestra." Carolyn Osborn will be one of the performers.

Young, globe-trotting cellist and USC music faculty member Alexander Suleiman will be soloist for the Haydn concerto.

She noted that her favorite con-

ductor, Zubin Mehta, started conducting at age 26. Sharon, 5'8" tall and full of energy, is only 38. In fact, when we met for this interview in Monterey Park, I didn't recognize her right away. I had a stereotype conductor in my mind, that of a Toscanini, or a Leonard Bernstein, and was expecting a much older person.

Do you have your favorite pieces of music? I asked. "I love all of classical music. When I perform, I don't worry about anything else but to do justice to the music I'm going to play, catch the spirit of the composer. This is always my number one priority. I want to make sure the musicians are happy, and the audience is happy."

"Before," she continued, "I used to rehearse with students, prepare for other conductors. Now that I have my own orchestra, I will be working with professional musicians, not just students. And I've got the opportunity to prepare for myself. Am I happy? You bet."

"I have one regret, though, and that is not being able to play my clarinet," she says. "I used to play it regularly, used to teach it until two years ago. Now I desperately miss playing it. I just simply cannot find the time. But I need an outlet. I would pick it up now and then, just to keep in touch, just make sound. I'm constantly waving a baton, but it doesn't make a sound."

"With all the things that have happened in my life, winning this Downey job is a perfect match for me," she says. "It's so close to my home in Pasadena. I love Downey. I just golfed at Rio Hondo two weeks ago."

And: "I know now that I was put on this earth to be a conductor. It's a perfect fit."

## COCOON

Continued from page 1

Although the majority of what is sold at Cocoon Evolution is from other countries, Quintero is beginning to sell American art as well, ranging from Native American pieces to American folk art.

"It's so important to recognize and respect what we have in our own country," he said.

As Quintero's merchandise — which ranges in cost between five cents and \$1,000 — continues to expand, so does his customer base. Not only do his customers vary in age, but also in ethnicity and religion.

"Sometimes it's surprising to see what some people buy," Quintero said. "But that just goes to show how art brings out the inner soul."

Quintero does admit, however, that because the store offers items many aren't used to seeing, many are scared off by the merchandise.

"People either like us, or they're scared of us," Quintero said. "But I consider this to be a miniature museum — people can come in and buy something, or they can just come in and escape from everyday life."

Cocoon Evolution is located at 7391 Stewart & Gray Rd. Visit them online at [www.myspace.com/cocoon\\_evolution](http://www.myspace.com/cocoon_evolution) or call (562) 927-3934.

## New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **"Big Boned"** by Meg Cabot. In the third Heather Wells mystery, life finally seems to be settling down for the pop-star-turned-amateur sleuth - until she finds her third boss in one year facedown in his morning latte.
- **"Diary of a Bad Year"** by J.M. Coetzee. The Nobel Prize-winning author Coetzee has created his fictional counterpart in Senor C., an aging author who has been asked by his publisher to write his thoughts on the state of the world.
- **"Foreigners"** by Caryl Phillips. This historical novel blends the stories of three Black men in England, their struggle against racism and their search for identity.
- **"Salmon Run"** by S.W. Capps. Woodrow Salmon has it all - a great career, money, a beautiful wife. He has no idea his wife has hired a scuba diver to kill him.
- **"Terra Incognita: A Novel of the Roman Empire"** by Ruth Roberts. Army doctor Gaius Petreius Ruso strikes out for the uncivilized borders of Roman Britain in this sequel to the author's debut, "Medicus."

### Non-Fiction

- **"Anne McCaffrey: a Life with Dragons"** by Robin Roberts. This new book chronicles the life of McCaffrey, creator of the "Dragonriders of Pern" series, and one of the most significant writers of science fiction and fantasy.
- **"House of Mondavi: the Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty"** by Julia Flynn Siler. Set in the lush vineyards of California, this is the history of an immigrant family that created - and then lost - America's first wine emoire.
- **"No Excuses: Confessions of a Serial Campaigner"** by Robert Shrum. One of the most sought-after strategists in the Democratic Party reveals how key personalities and decisions shaped major U.S. elections during the past 40 years.
- **"The \$100,000 Entrepreneur"** by Wendy S. Enelow. The author shares steps for building a successful new business in 90 days, from managing daily operations to using new technology.
- **"The Spectrum"** by Dr. Dean Ornish. This new book helps you determine where you are on the spectrum of health and gives you nutritional and lifestyle choices for greater longevity.

Visit the library at 11121 Brookshire Ave. or [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org) or call (562) 904-7360 ext. 3 to check out or reserve these new titles.

## International flavor imbues Rotary projects

BY HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** — Two major Downey Rotary projects, both with international overtones and occurring one on top of the other, once again underscored the extensive humanitarian work Rotary clubs worldwide are noted for.

In his report Tuesday on his just concluded annual visit to Mulege, Mexico, local dentist Wayne Wilcox used slides to show the devastation wrought in the area by Hurricane John on Sept. 3, 2007. Downey Rotary has had a presence there, assisting the local Rotary Club in providing dental care to a virtually unserved, scattered native population, for more than 20 years.

The hurricane could not but

disrupt its normal operations, as it uprooted vegetation and for the most part demolished structures around.

In fact, Wilcox said that Mulege's distinguishing and "beautiful-to-behold" date palms that were planted by the Franciscans hundreds of years ago and overlooked the usually placid Mulege River, were victimized twice: the first time by the hurricane, and then by an equally destructive fire that "burnt the trees to a crisp."

Wilcox meanwhile lauded the Soroptimist Club's monetary donation to the clinic. Accompanying him on the trip were fellow Rotarians Chris Larson (pilot) and Rio Hondo's Dave Johnson.

Newly-appointed Downey

Symphony music director and conductor Sharon Lavery in the meantime was introduced and urged the members to attend her first "dance-themed" Downey concert tomorrow.

Current Downey Rotary president Stan Carmichael headed a four-member team to the "Panama Humanitarian Trip" on Jan. 18-21, in the other 'international' Rotary project, which distributed 65 wheelchairs to Panama City's disabled and burn victims.

They were not alone in the service-oriented trip. Other district Rotarians from the L.A. area, numbering 100 in all, also delivered much-sought services in the following areas: education (books, etc.) and daycare supplies; literacy/

computer lab; forestation program; medical supplies travel pack; water (purification) projects; and construction materials for housing, schools and hospitals.

Carmichael, who said the Panama trip was his first 'international' project, was so excited and inspired by what he called a "life-changing" experience that even a delayed touchdown at LAX at 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 22 did not prevent him from rushing straight from the airport down to Downey for the Rotary's first meeting of the new year.

He arrived, without so much as a sweat, at 12:25 p.m., in time to preside over the meeting and make a brief report. He said he hopes to go back on a similar trip next year.

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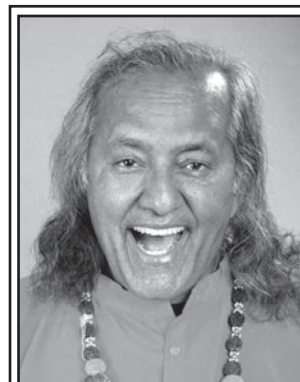
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not valid with any specials or 10% Senior Discount. Expires 2/29/08



## Letters to the Editor:

### Measure G

Dear Editor:

Signs! Signs! Signs! As my grandmother would have said, "Quit your [whining]!" Both sides of Measure G have had their signs taken, not just those against it. It's not right that it happens but it happens. It happens in every election, in every state, in every city, on every measure, on ever level, all of the time. Get over it. Why don't you campaign to outlaw yard signs altogether? You won't have to waste so much energy complaining about someone taking them, or even worse, falsely accuse someone of stealing.

It is our right and duty as citizens to vote. Voting is a precious gift. I believe one should be educated on the issues, informed on candidate's positions regarding issues, and know the measures proposed. If all you can give me is vote against Measure G because you THINK those for Measure G took your lawn sign or you THINK those already in office are on an ego trip, then I am insulted and the rest of the citizens in Downey should feel the same. READ Measure G.

Finally, for all of those who have recently written and have resorted to name-calling in their letters, you should be ashamed of yourselves. I am disheartened over the name-calling of the people elected or appointed to various positions in our city who give so much to our city, to us. We can and should agree to disagree but you should not demean yourselves with name-calling.

It is juvenile, unjustified, and just not right.

— **Diana Hansen,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

The more I hear current and past City Council speak about Measure G the more I see that it is nothing but a power grab and a self-serving measure. Councilmen Kirk Cartozian and Rick Trejo are termed out and are using their position on the council to push for this measure.

Cartozian and former Councilman Gary McCaughan insult the intelligence of our community by stating that the current system would allow outside groups to come into our city and run and win a council seat. The residents of Downey are smart enough to research candidates and review their record of community service and recognize a carpet bagger when one appears.

Former Councilman Keith McCarthy says we need experienced council members and in a sense is saying that there are no experienced and politically astute residents living in our community that would make good council members. This statement fails to recognize that there is an abundant amount of professional and talented individuals that reside in the city of Downey. We need to keep in mind and recognize that council members sit in as policy makers only and have the task of steering the city while the experienced city staff and a strong city manager drive the city and keep the city competitive.

The fact that Sheriff Lee Baca supports Measure G is irrelevant. Baca does not live in Downey and does not know anything about Downey or its characteristics and nuances. We have our own police and police chief in Roy Campos and (Campos) has our trust. The fact that Downey is only one of the few cities in Los Angeles County to have term limits is a positive attribute. In Downey we take pride in being unique and the current term limits have worked for our community since 1993 as evident by the current healthy state of our city.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra talks about the "death penalty" clause in the current term limits. If this was the true concern why didn't he and his little group of current and former council members that are trying so desperately to stay in power and/or come back on to the council propose only to omit this provision and leave the term limits alone at two terms? No, instead this group opted to sneak in another term under the disguise of the "death penalty" at the community's expense and hoped that the residents would be oblivious to the true motives behind Measure G in their effort to add another term.

Current term limits, if modified, should at best leave the two term limit in place and only include the possible consideration of removing the "death penalty" and have a sit-out period to be a full term of four years as opposed just two years under Measure G.

Additionally, in an effort to be fiscally responsible, this measure should have been placed on the ballot in November. These options would have made more sense and would have taken away the suspicious motives behind Measure G.

Thus, based on all that I have read on Measure G and after hearing all the comments expressed by current and former council members, I will vote no on G and urge all of you to vote no on G. This will send a strong message to the City Council that we, the residents, will not tolerate self-interest and that we believe and expect transparency in government.

Thank you and let's keep the best interest of our community in the forefront.

— **Maureen Ziegler,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

For those "who care," I altered my lawn sign to read: **I Voted No on Proposition G.**

— **John Lacey,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I honestly don't see what the big deal is all about. Even if Measure were to pass, council members would still have to run for office every four years, meaning we, the citizens, can choose not to vote for them if they are not doing a good job.

Measure G gives us the option of keeping a competent council member on the job. We don't have to, **it's only an option.**

I will be voting Yes on Measure G.

— **Bryan Winters,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

Measure G has become quite the topic of discussion in our little town of Downey. However, it appears that big politics seem to be the driving force behind the measure that is dividing our city. This measure has become such a hot topic that campaign signs have been stolen, thousands of dollars have been spent and words have been said that lead one to wonder, what is the true agenda of those who support Measure G? Had certain members of the City Council chosen not to force this particular measure onto the ballot, it would have saved taxpayers an expense of \$85,000.

Currently, council members in Downey have up to eight years in office to provide new ideas and policies to improve our city. Eight years is more than enough time to make a positive impact on our community. Keep term limits in Downey by voting No on Measure G.

— **George Redfox,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot written in favor and against Measure G. In this country, we enjoy the freedom to speak and to have newspapers not censored by the government.

This freedom is one we should all enjoy and protect. Words written are spoken should be based on truth and facts and directed at the subject, not individuals. When directed at individuals it becomes a name-calling situation and the subject matter is lost. We all can see that on TV with some of the candidates that are running for the President of the United States.

My service for the city has been a long and enjoyable one. Starting back in the 80's with the development of the South Campus of the Rancho Hospital, serving on the General Review Committee, six years on the City Planning Commission and eight years as a council member.

Our city is a leader in many ways and in others we are not. Some in our city like it the way it was in the 50's. We all know we can not remain in the past and must move forward. This is what Measure G offers us. Measure G balances experience with term limits.

No, I will not be running for office as some have said. But it would be a big advantage for our city to do away with "sudden death term limits." No other city in Los Angeles County has this form of term limits.

The decision you make at your polling location is important. Your decision is a personal one and, no matter what it is, I encourage you to vote.

— **Meredith Perkins,**  
Former Downey Mayor

Dear Editor:

Mario Guerra bullies, yells and tries to intimidate anyone who has a different viewpoint from his. (Webster's definition of a bully is an overbearing, quarrelsome fellow. To insult and overbear, to bluster or domineer.) He publicly yelled at the city clerk and citizen Maria Larkin after the recent transition ceremony and has not yet apologized to either lady. Do you think the City Council censored him? No. When he ran for office he never mentioned term limit reform, I guess he knew he would not win if he did. Instead one of the first things he did was begin on Measure G.

This is a man who likes to bully others but walked away from the meeting when I went to the mike to speak during public comments because he knew I would be speaking about his obnoxious behavior. Where are all these people that are backing him? So far during public comments, one lady from his church said he is a nice man and another man likened him to Jesus Christ and his persecution. Is this the kind of person you want for another 30 years? This could happen. Vote No on G.

Kirk Cartozian, who we believe does not live in Downey and he needs to prove that he lives in Downey, expects to get paid when he goes on vacation out of the country because he sends one or two e-mails to the city when he is gone. No one else does this. He used the young and impressionable students from Downey High School to do all his campaign work over his eight years and on Measure G. Is this right? I don't think so. He has a conflict of interest voting on the Downey Landing Project because he is a real estate broker and stands to gain by future business to his own office from these people. Have we forgotten what happened to Councilman Santangelo? What is wrong with the city attorney, he should put a stop to this. Cartozian is being termed out, do you really want him back? Vote No on G.

Council member Rick Trejo is also being termed out. He wants to come back and has a lot to gain and word has it that his brother-in-law, a past council member, wants to get back as well and we can then have two from the same family on the council. Is this what you want? Vote No on Measure G.

This council was not happy with just one segment of the council meeting set aside for their comments to ramble on and on how wonderful they are. They now have another segment to toot their horn, one in the beginning and one at the end where they bash the people who speak during the public comments. If the public only gets five minutes to speak then the council should only get five minutes to speak. Vote No on G.

I have attended the City Council meetings for over 35 years. I sometimes praise them and sometimes criticize when warranted.

— **Lennie Whittington,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

It is interesting to see Sheriff Lee Baca interested in a city proposition because this man wanted to raise taxes throughout all of the unincorporated areas for monies to be given only to the Sheriff's Department. Could it be that the Downey City Council plans to replace the Downey Police Department with the Sheriff's Department? It looks that way. If that is not the case, why didn't then a county supervisor come out in support of their measure?

Other cities have complained that the cost of the Sheriff's Department keeps going up and the station officers are non-permanent. The cities of Cudahy and Santa Fe Springs contracted with other police departments for better coverage. The Lancaster/Palmdale area in Southern California want to rid of the Sheriff's Department because they want better coverage.

Last but not least, when it comes back to the issue of taxes, you will have the county supervisors and Sheriff's Department coming down every time there is talk of a tax cut, saying that if it happens, they will have to cut services. The coverage which Downey Police Department and Fire Department provides is second to none. The Sheriff's way of looking at it is to cut those services in half.

Could it be that the Sheriff wants to expand the county jail into the Downey area as well, with the help of the Downey City Council?

Food for thought – these facts should be looked at very carefully.

— **Gladys Miller,**  
South Gate

Don't forget to vote  
February 5  
[www.thedowneypatriot.com](http://www.thedowneypatriot.com)

Dear Editor:

In 1993, term limits were put on the ballot by the voters in Downey through the petition process with over 12,000 signatures. At that time, the voters approved term limits by an overwhelming margin of 2 to 1. Now, three members of the City Council are telling the citizens of Downey, "You made a mistake!"

Measure G, the measure that will eliminate term limits, was brought forth at a Downey City Council meeting by first year Councilman Mario Guerra. It was narrowly approved by a 3 to 2 vote by the City Council.

Term limits has served Downey well for 15 years. There had been public outcry to change or eliminate term limits. Now, three council members, two who will benefit **immediately** by the passage of Measure G, are telling us "G" is "good for us." That "us," my fellow citizens, is certainly not you and me.

The cost of Measure G to "us" citizens of Downey will be at least \$85,000. The same end could have been accomplished by waiting until the November election. That wait would have saved "us" taxpayers over \$70,000. But by waiting until November, two council members would have been termed out. As guardians of our tax dollar, a decision to wait until November would have been **the right thing to do.**

The proponents of this measure call it term limits reform. It is not reform! It actually **eliminates** term limits! Currently, the city charter allows council members to serve two four-year terms for a total of eight years. Measure G will extend terms to three four-year terms, a total of 12 years. Under "G" they would sit out two years, hold office for 12 years, sit out two years, hold office for 12 more years, and on and on.

The three members of this council who have forced this issue on the Feb. 5 ballot say that it takes a term or more to become effective as a council member. If a person is incapable of getting views and ideas presented in eight years, he/she should not be on the council.

Mr. Guerra and Mr. Cartozian bring up the issue that out of 88 L.A. County cities, Downey is the only city with term limits. And they are correct. However, that is good for us! Without term limits, Downey could very possibly end up with the same problems that have plagued the cities of Vernon, Inglewood, Lynwood, South Gate and Bell Gardens over the past years, where several council members were indicted and jailed. We don't need that to happen here in Downey!

What we do need are public servants. We don't need career politicians in local government. George Washington set the example many years ago. Eight years were enough for him and those who followed in his footsteps. Eight years should be enough for the Downey City Council. I urge you on Feb. 5 to vote No on G.

— **Mike Prokop,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I wish to commend the publisher and editor of *The Downey Patriot* for what appears to be fairly neutral coverage of the Measure G issue, until the January 25th edition of the paper.

The proponents of Measure G have gotten more ink, if you will, than the opponents, despite the extension of the letters to the editor column in that edition.

I'm particularly concerned with the publication on page 11 in the January 25th edition of a photo of Sheriff Lee Baca and the caption claiming his support of Measure G. There is no credit shown with the photo, which leads me to question its source, as well as the endorsement from Baca.

Did staff of the *Patriot* independently confirm Baca's endorsement? Did his office put out a press release along with the photo? What is the background on this photo opportunity and the supposed endorsement?

The photo and caption looks like a plant from the proponents of Measure G. If that is the case, it should not have been placed on the letters page, but instead should have been treated as advertisement, identified as such, and paid for by the proponents.

There may be a hard news story here involving the authenticity of the Measure G endorsement from Baca, which an investigative reporter should write about after the election.

Vote No on Measure G.

— **Brian Heyman,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

You may not have a "horse in the race," but the copious amount of coverage you have dedicated to Measure G opposition leads me to question your stated neutrality.

As a former longtime Downey resident, and one that actively attended City Council meetings for more than a decade, I can attest to the diligence of former council members such as Meredith Perkins and Keith McCarthy. I question the sanity/wisdom of those who proclaim Downey a better city in their absence.

Sheriff Lee Baca's surprise endorsement of Measure G should not have been hidden in the back trenches of your newspaper where, I presume, you hoped less readers would find it. Shame.

I don't live in Downey anymore but heck, vote Yes on Measure G.

— **Mike Alstott,**  
Seal Beach

Dear Editor:

I wanted to call readers' attention to an inaccuracy in the arguments of those who favor Measure G in the Feb. 5 election. In their ballot arguments and a recent campaign mailer, they make this claim: "Downey is the only city L.A. County where citizens can never vote someone back in." This is a reference to the city's current limit of two four-year terms on City Council members – that's two terms per lifetime.

The problem with the proponents' argument is that Downey is not the only city in the county that has lifetime term limits on City Council members. The city of Redondo Beach has had the same limitations for years; council members cannot run again after serving two full terms. (The city also has an elected mayor, who is restricted to two terms for life.)

Term limits are simply a way of citizens giving a reasonable deadline to their elected leaders: You have eight years to accomplish your vision for improving life in the city. Then it's time to let someone else have a chance. And by the way, if two-term council members want to continue serving their community, they can do so by serving on any number of city commissions. It may not be as high-profile as serving as a council member, but if termed-out leaders are as community-minded as they say they are, that should not be a problem.

— **Michael Carroll,**  
Downey

**Steve Lopez**  
ATTORNEY at LAW

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## Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

Many of the supporters in favor of Measure G claim, and moan, over the fact that Downey is the only city out of many L.A. County cities with term limits. I say 'Bravo' to that fact!

Downey residents have been concerned, alert and informed as to what has happened in cities like South Gate, Bell Gardens, Vernon and others. These cities, without term limits, have been plagued with leadership corruption issues. They have had council members indicted and jailed. I pray that Downey residents will continue to stay alert and informed and beware of the power of a 3 to 2 vote on the City Council; especially when the vote is a hindrance to the taxpayers.

I don't believe I have ever felt as disappointed and aggrieved as I am now by members of our Downey City Council. Three of the five members voted without conscience to cost the taxpayers, you and me, \$85,000 for self-absorbent purposes. These members are Mario Guerra, Kirk Cartozian and Rick Trejo.

It seems ironical that last year these same members on our council commended our school district program that worked on building character for our young people. I remember the signs around town that read "Responsibility - Integrity - Honesty." The program was called Character Counts. I would be most pleased to see the example of these virtues to our youth come from our leadership.

I urge a no vote on Measure G.

— **Terry Lambros,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

The character assassination of Councilman Guerra is indicative to me of the shallow and hurtful crusade the "No on G" campaign has chosen to embark on. Right or wrong, the man is standing for what he believes in and he does not deserve the verbal abuse heaped upon him in your newspaper or at City Council meetings.

Guerra is the chaplain to our fine police department and a deacon at a local church. How anybody can be so hurtful to a man who is only doing what he thinks is right...well, it hurts me, too.

I am also dismayed when people bring the topic of recording council meetings into this debate. That is an entirely separate issue, one already past. To me, it's just another sign of the opposition's weak case against reforming term limits in Downey.

Judging from your letters to the editor (and word around town) it appears to be only a small and select group of citizens who actively oppose Measure G. I admire their persistence and passion on the matter, but urge them to stop with the smear campaign. Resorting to juvenile name-calling and baseless facts doesn't do you any good.

As unpopular as it may be, I will vote Yes on Measure G.

And for those who are wondering...No, I am not a friend or relative of Mario Guerra. I have never even met him. But as a taxpaying citizen, I think he is being treated unfairly.

— **Jeannine Niemira,**  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I am responding to some of the comments from last Friday's letters to the editor. I do agree with Councilman Cartozian that "this is an excellent opportunity to engage our community civics," and that is exactly what I am going to do. However, if we disagree with the Yes on G Measure we are accused of assassination.

I can articulate his question on why two terms is our magical number. The president of the United States serves two terms and if eight years is good enough for the president, it should certainly be good enough for Downey.

When he mentioned that an outside movement could take over Downey, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. However, I want to assure him that in the event we were going to be "taken over by an outside element," what that means, we, the senior citizens of Downey, would show them what we are all about. We might be senior citizens but we are not senile. We helped shape and build this community and make it a wonderful place to live and raise our children. I know because I came to this community as an immigrant 50 years ago when Downey became a city. Maybe we need an age limit together with term limits (a candidate should be able to pass the mature adult test to be on the City Council).

Just imagine comparing us to South Gate, Vernon and Bell Gardens. With regards to the comment that we need "sizeable political support," we get tremendous political support from our legislators, or have we forgotten how hard our Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard worked getting the funds we needed to go on with Downey Landing. I have a very good rapport with all our legislators and know they have stepped up for us when we needed their help. I would hate to think my future in Downey depends on the passing of Measure G.

The proponents of Measure G said that some elections in the city have only one person running for a seat on the city council. These were incumbents who obviously were doing a good job and no one wanted to oppose them. By the way, some of the incumbents that ran unopposed in the last eight years were Meredith Perkins, Rick Trejo and Anne Bayer. So don't mislead the public by saying there were no opponents and that is why you spent a log of our money to put Measure G on the ballot.

I would like to respond to past mayor Keith McCarthy regarding his comments that "Downey loses in any competition," and "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." I am listing names of the past mayors that you are referring to as the freshman teams. To name just a few because there were so many great mayors are Walt Temple, Scott Temple, Ken Miller, Bob Brazelton, Diane Boggs, Joe DiLoretto, Joyce Lawrence, Bob Winningham, Hazel Scotto, Barbara Riley and many others.

We have the best of the following: City Manager Gerald Caton, City Clerk Kathleen Midstokke, Economic Development Manager Steven Yee, Building and Housing Director Linda Haines (who took you all through the process and completion of Downey Landing). Let's not forget Desi Alvarez and Lee Powell who have served us well and others too many to mention.

Last but certainly the best, Police Chief Roy Campos and Fire Chief Mark Sauter. I am truly sorry you feel this way about our wonderful city, people who all work hard for us. I don't think any outside element is going to take us over any time soon, not with the above city staff.

This is why I urge Downey to vote no on G.

— **Maria Larkin,**  
Downey

## Rebuttal to Argument Against\*

Here are the facts that opponents of Term Limits Reform don't want you to know:

•They don't want you to know: This proposed Term Limits Reform Measure will not get rid of term limits.

•They don't want you to know: Downey had 4 unopposed council races in the past 4 elections.

•They don't want you to know: Success on the Downey School Board is the result of stability, not constantly forced turnover. Our fine School District does not have term limits.

•They don't want you to know: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that federal term limits were unconstitutional. They did not address State and local jurisdictions.

•They don't want you to know: In the 40 years before Downey had term limits, only 3 people ever ran for a third term.

•They don't want you to know: An overwhelming majority of Los Angeles citizens voted to reform term limits by allowing a third term last November.

•They don't want you to know: Downey is the only city in L.A. County where citizens can never vote someone back in.

•They don't want you to know: Term limits was a novel idea 15 years ago which has been proven disastrous today. Every election should count. Under the current system they do not.

•They don't want you to know: We live in a democracy and have elections to choose the people we want to serve us.

Vote YES on Measure G!

## Rebuttal to Argument in Favor\*

SAY NO TO CAREER POLITICIANS FOR DOWNEY

Term limits was initiated by a concerned group of Downey citizens. Challenge to term limits had been put on this ballot by city councilmembers who now claim that term limits produce "a carousel of non-committed leaders." If this ballot measure passes, Downey will get city councilmembers who are committed only to staying in office.

They say this measure "would limit city council to only 3 terms." Read the ballot measure itself: it says plainly that they can sit for [three terms] after waiting only 24 months. That means career politicians can sit for 3 four-year terms (12 years), and wait 24 months and sit another 12 years. An incumbent can sit for 12, 24 or 36 years!

City councilmembers will be held accountable if they are given 8 years to do their job and do it well. They will not be held more accountable by giving them extra terms to make more unfulfilled campaign promises. The Downey City Council will be more accountable when new faces and voices are brought in to replace career politicians who don't deliver on their promises even with 8 years to do it.

According to these city councilmembers, they want to make elections count, but by their own words, they are saying that no person, past or present, elected in Downey, has served Downey in a positive way. This measure does not reform term limits; this measure eliminates term limits.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE G.

\*Arguments in favor and against Measure G, along with their rebuttals, are published here as they were submitted to the city clerk, with only minor editing.

## County seeks workers for primary election

LOS ANGELES – Dean Logan, the Los Angeles County Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), recently announced that an additional 300 pollworkers are needed to staff polling places for the February 5 presidential primary election.

"Although more than 24,000 pollwoorkers have been recruited, there is still a need for more," Logan said. "The election is less than 15 days away and we're looking for additional help. Recruitment has been difficult due to the unprecedented number of elections during 2007 and 2008."

To aid recruitment efforts, the County Board of Supervisors approved a \$75 year-end bonus for pollworkers who sign up and work the Feb. 5 presidential primary, the June 3 state direct primary and the Nov. 4 presidential general election.

Recruitment has been especially difficult in the communities and areas of Beverly Hills, Canyon Country, Castaic, Encino, Lomita, Los Angeles (90045), Los Angeles (City), Pacific Palisades, Playa Del Rey, Rancho Palos Verde, Santa Monica, Saugus, Sherman Oaks, Valencia, Venice, Winnetka and Woodland Hills.

"Pollworkers literally serve on the frontlines of democracy," said Logan. "They are the most important and necessary component of a successful election day. They must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. on election day to set up the polls, provide assistance to voters, issue ballots and conduct poll closing procedures."

A pollworker's services are compensated at \$80 for working election day and \$25 for attending a one and a half training session.

Training sessions are conducted and offered throughout Los Angeles County in the days prior to the election.

The RR/CC is especially interested in bilingual pollworkers who can speak one or more of the following languages: Cantonese, Japanese, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, or Vietnamese. In addition, pollworkers who speak other languages such as Armenian, Russian and Cambodian are encouraged to help serve their communities. Pollworkers must be registered voters and residents of California.

If interested in becoming a pollworker, call the polls section of the RR/CC at (800) 815-2666, or visit [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

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Downey, 90240

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## Daniel Kingston Cable was active in community

COMMERCE – Daniel Kingston “King” Cable passed away at his home in Lakewood during the early morning hours of Jan. 23. He was 79.

King, a member of the Commerce Industrial Council Chamber of Commerce since 1970 and its Board of Directors since 1978, was involved in a number of civic and charitable organizations throughout Downey, Commerce and Bell Gardens, including the Rio Hondo Rotary Club of Commerce and Bell Gardens, the Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Club, the Los Angeles Rotary Club, and the Boy Scouts of America.

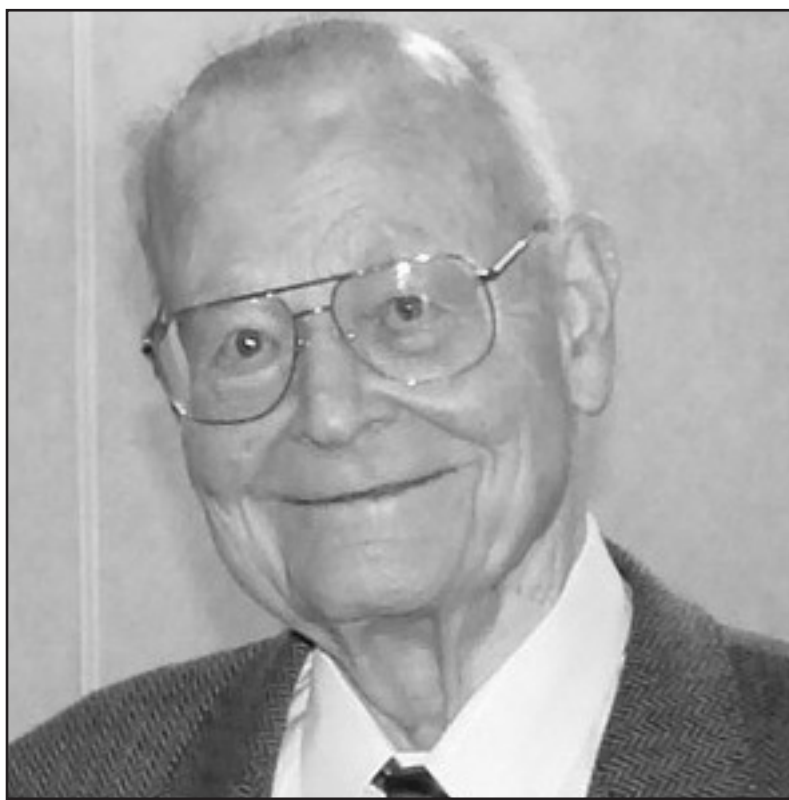
A native and lifelong Californian, King was born in Long Beach on Sept. 10, 1918. Following high school, he enrolled at Compton City College, where he was an offensive and defensive standout on the football team. King later transferred to UCLA, where he served as president of the Delta Tau Delta house and the UCLA inter-fraternity council.

It was at UCLA that King met his future wife, Barbara Curtiss White. King graduated from UCLA in the spring of 1941 with a degree in business administration, and he and Barbara were married a year later. During World War II he was commissioned as an officer in the Army Air Corps, serving as a navigation instructor.

Following the war, he earned masters’ degrees in business administration and economics from USC and worked for the family business, Alert Lumber and Mill Co. King also oversaw lumber mill operations in Northern and Southern California, finding time for a little gold mining and helping to establish the ski area at Snow Summit in the city of Big Bear.

Later, he would start and manage his own thriving steel company, Angeles Metal Systems, in the city of Commerce. He and Barbara settled in Lakewood and raised their three children.

Among other pursuits, King wrote poetry, studied Zen Buddhism, and obtained a brown belt in judo. He also served as a volunteer for the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department disaster communications service program.



Daniel Kingston “King” Cable passed away Jan. 23. He was 79.

“He leaves us with the exemplary legacy of a full life lived thoroughly and well, and of the tremendous love and affection he shared with all who were fortunate enough to know him,” said Commerce Industrial Council Executive Director Eddie Tafoya. “He is greatly missed, and always cherished. We will miss him on our board of directors.”

King leaves behind his wife, Barbara; three children, Kathy, Doug and Courtney; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Rio Hondo Boys and Girls Club Endowment Fund, 7104 Perry Rd., Bell Gardens, 90201.

## Services tomorrow for Ouida B. Wilson

DOWNEY – Ouida B. Wilson, 86, died at her Downey home on Jan. 27.

A 55-year resident of Downey, Wilson was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Downey, the Division 10 Los Angeles County Medical Auxiliary Alliance, the St. Francis Medical Center auxiliary, Assistance League of Downey, and her bridge groups.

She was predeceased in 1992 by her husband, William M. Wilson, M.D., a urologist in Downey and Lynwood.

She is survived by her sons, Roger of Irvine and Paul of Long Beach; grandchildren, Roger, Misha and Jeffrey; brothers, Clyde Newberry of Lubbock, Tex. and Kenneth Newberry of Rochester, Tex.; and four nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Downey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to the Ouida B. and William M. Memorial Fund, First Presbyterian Church of Downey, P.O. Box 5069, Downey, 90241-8069.

## Financial planning course in March

DOWNEY – The community is invited to attend a course on financial planning on Tuesday evenings from March 4 to May 6 at Downey First Christian Church from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include, elements of a family financial plan; financial properties and some bumps to avoid; real estate for home and investments; insurance and how you know what you need; taxation on various types of income; retirement income – social security, IRAs, and more; market returns and what you can count on; asset allocation, diversification and re-balancing; estate planning issues; and New York stock market investment options.

Cost of the class is \$20. For information, call (562) 862-2438.

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## Bernabé's ACE program is all about the kids

BY GWYNN GUSTAFSON, KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

**DOWNEY** – At a recent Kiwanis Club of Downey meeting, Brad Reed, Redeemer Covenant Church pastor and one of the founders of the Bernabé Community Center, shared his dedication to improving our world one child at a time. From the beginning, Reed saw a need amongst the youth of Downey and Norwalk and wanted to provide an alternative to gangs.

"The Bernabé Community Center is devoted to helping all ages become physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually stronger," said Reed.

The Athletics, Counseling, and Education (ACE) program does just that with the help of local and professional volunteers:

- **Athletics:** The sports program currently involves nearly 300 children in baseball, flag football, soccer and more. There is no waiting list and all are welcome. Primarily funded by outside donations, most uniforms are free. Sports are played on fields behind Lakeside Middle School, located at 11000 Kenney St. in Norwalk.

- **Counseling:** Help is offered to families and individuals to conquer anxiety from a recent move or the loss of a loved one, or taunting at school. Counseling is provided for adults who can experience depression and anxiety connected to income or work.

- **Education:** Bernabé encourages dedication to education with tutor support, English as a Second Language (ESL), classes to help children and adults with their reading, writing and speaking skills, and parenting classes.

"We could use a few more volunteers to serve as coaches, referees, program coordinators, photographer, journalist, and field maintenance," said William Simon, director of development at Bernabé Community Center.

Bernabé strives to instill new visions in the children, inspiring them to see beyond today and become contributing members of our society. "Excellence in action" is how Simon describes the program. The program does not end when the school year ends – there is a Summer Youth Academy offered, which focuses on literacy, as well as athletics.

Bernabé Community Center is located at 10801 Fairford Ave. in Downey.

For more information, call (562) 863-1899, or visit [www.bernabec.org](http://www.bernabec.org).

## Downey/Warren game key to playoff picture

■ Wednesday's match-up carries big implications with playoffs looming on the horizon.

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

**DOWNEY** – Warren and Downey will meet for the final time this Wednesday at Downey High School. As the last Downey/Warren game was important to the Vikings, this game all of a sudden has playoff implications written all over it.

Downey just recently won their 10th game overall and made themselves playoff eligible. A win over Warren would be just what the doctor ordered for their playoff resume.

Now while Warren did run away with the last meeting, many things described in the last preview remain precise. Warren was the quicker team while Downey pushed them around a little more.

Downey tried to slow the game down a little bit but were unsuccessful at times. Their offense kept up for the most part but wasn't able to throw that powerful right cross when they needed to.

One thing will be looked at when these two teams meet again. Downey head coach Larry Shelton pointed out that one thing after the last meeting.

"They shot the ball really well," Shelton said after the first game. "We had a game plan and some of their kids we thought wouldn't shoot the ball shot the ball really well."

Can those same kids produce the same results in a hostile environment? They will need to if they want to win this game.

Also, one thing that was overlooked was the officiating in the game. At some key points the referees would bail out the Bears with a timely whistle. Will the Vikings get a little home cooking of their own?

With the possibility of playoffs on the horizon, you can count on this game being a little more different than the previous meeting between these two teams.



Nearly 300 children participate in baseball, flag football and soccer at the Bernabé Community Center each year as part of the Athletics, Counseling and Education program. Photo courtesy Gwynn Gustafson

## Warren's sloppy play costly versus Lynwood

■ Bears turn the ball over 25 times in 78-43 loss at Lynwood. Gahr is up next.

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

**DOWNEY** – Warren's struggles against San Gabriel Valley League teams continued with a 78-43 loss at Lynwood last Friday night.

During a time out with 1:28 remaining in the first quarter, Coach Brent Willis could be heard yelling at his team about effort on the court and wanting to play the game.

The message, while clear to the rest of the gymnasium, didn't hit home with his team as the sloppy play of Warren (11-13, 1-5) sent them spiraling to a second consecutive beating, the first being a 91-21 loss to Dominguez (18-2, 6-0).

The Bears turned the ball over 26 times to Lynwood's (19-4, 5-2) 10, sent the Knights to the free throw line 17 times and lost their ability to at least keep the show-time Knights at bay.

Warren was never closer than 23 points after any quarter and weren't able to put together any type of run through the game. Their leading scorer was Chris Maheras with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

On the flip side, Lynwood had four of their five starters in double figures. Leading the way was guard Michael Black who scored 19 points.

Warren was able to keep Lynwood stand out D'Angelo Scott in check, only allowing him 13 points on the game. Scott did have a few highlights with a breakaway dunk in the final quarter after the game was out of hand.

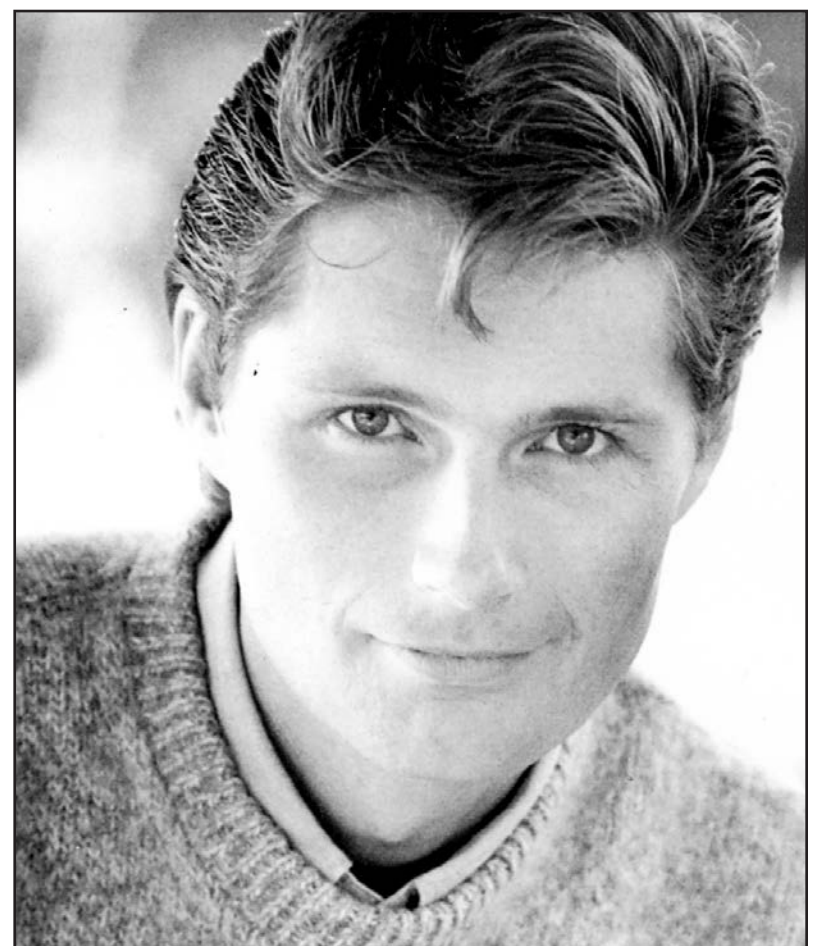
The Bears take on Gahr for the final time this season tonight. Game time is 7 p.m. at Warren.

### Notes

- Warren's basketball woes continue with a 52-47 loss against Paramount High School on Wednesday. The Bears dropped to 1-6 in league and 11-13 overall.

- The Vikings last Friday finally got to the 10-win mark with a win over the Paramount Pirates 59-46. The 10th win makes the Vikings playoff eligible.

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



Bill Lewis is returning to the Downey Civic Light Opera to star as Charlie in "Tintypes," which will play Feb. 21 – March 9. Lewis has previously starred as Oscar in "Sweet Charity," Fagin in "Oliver!", Herr Schultz in "Cabaret" and Cornelius in "Hello, Dolly!" For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714. The box office is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

## Free bone density screenings in Downey

**DOWNEY** – CareMore Health Plan and Alliance Physicians Medical Group will be providing free bone density screenings at three different locations next week.

The first screening will occur Feb. 6 from noon to 2 p.m. at the office of Dr. Richard Aguilar, 8327 Davis St., suite 202, in Downey; the second Feb. 7 from noon to 2 p.m., again with Aguilar, but at another office at 7705 Seville Ave., suite B; and the final on Feb. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. at the office of Dr. Robert Wielenga, 10720 Paramount Blvd., suite 20.

For reservations, call CareMore at (877) 211-6614.

## 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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- "While I support term limits, our current laws go too far and hurt our citizens and need to be reformed..."  
*Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Los Angeles Times 1/15/08*

- "...the Downey death penalty warrants a stay of political execution...Vote yes on Measure G..."  
*Long Beach Press Telegram, 1/27/08*

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## Local realtors explain the real estate market

■ Foreclosure rates notwithstanding, realtors say now is the perfect time to buy a home.

BY BROOKE KARLL, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – It's not news to anyone to say that the real estate market is suffering. In fact, it would be naïve, or even ignorant, of somebody to say that it wasn't. However, the problem doesn't lie in recognizing the current state of the market, but rather in understanding that this too, shall pass.

In an attempt to simplify the matter, it all started about seven years ago, when lenders were offering loans that were fixed for a certain time period and then would later become an adjustable loan. According to Steve Roberson, owner and broker of Century 21 My Real Estate, lenders began to offer loans with 100 percent financing as well as interest-only loans. Lenders were also approving loans without verifying the borrower's income.

It all resulted in loans being given to buyers who, as it turned out, couldn't afford their mortgage in the long run.

The problem worsened when those borrowers' loans went from a fixed-rate, interest-only payment to a full-amortized, adjustable-rate payment. According to Michael Berdelis of Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, many of the loans obtained by borrowers had a fixed interest rate for only a short period of time, ranging from two years to 10. For example, if the loan is a five-year, fixed, interest-only program, the first five years of payments are interest only and fixed at a specific rate. When that period of time is up, interest rates are no longer fixed and adjust to match current rates, causing monthly mortgage payments to increase. Now, homeowners are not only forced to pay a higher interest rate, but also their principle.

That in turn, said Bev Baumann of Red Carpet Heritage Realty, causes a home to go to foreclosure – when the lender of a mortgage seeks to regain property because the buyer has defaulted on payments – or short sale, a real estate sales transaction executed with the understanding that the seller will payoff their lender less than what is owed on the property.

As more foreclosures and short sales occur, property values decrease as banks price homes more aggressively.

"In the 22 years I've been in real estate, this is been the best time to buy a home," said Roberson. "This is the most inventory I've ever seen and interest rates are at their lowest."

Downey inventory in particular is overwhelming. According to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), there are 554 homes on the market in Downey and the average sale price for a home for December 2007 was \$551,886, a significant decrease from December 2006's average of \$657,448. The Downey Association of Realtors' Fourth Quarter 2007

Sales Report also reports that both average listing and sale prices have decreased when compared to the Fourth Quarter 2006 Sales Report.

"The market has shifted from being a seller's market to being a buyer's market," said Berdelis. "Buyers now have more homes to choose from."

The unfortunate factor, said Berdelis, Roberson, and Baumann, is that buyers are too afraid to purchase a home right now.

"This is the best time to buy – financing is available and the government is starting to increase loan limits," said Baumann. "And what people fail to realize is buying a home isn't an investment – it's buying a home, a place to call your own."

Although adjusted interest rates are currently the main cause behind losing a home, many are having to foreclose or short sale due to divorce, illness, or loss of job, Baumann said.

"When you combine life events [divorce, illness, job loss] with a depreciating market, it can be devastating for some homeowners that have no equity to even sell their home," said Berdelis. "And the homeowner isn't the only one to feel the affects. A slowing real estate market can affect the local commerce and affect the County and State due to less revenue from property taxes."

So what is to be expected in the near future? Roberson said that as banks continue to aggressively price foreclosed homes to sell, buyers will slowly begin to purchase them. Berdelis, Roberson and Baumann all agreed that buyers are taking a wait-and-see approach, and although the market is constantly changing, it's not expected to return to a more stable position until late this year, at the earliest.

## Foreclosure workshop next Feb. 9

**DOWNEY** – The State of California's Consumer Services Agency and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency will be presenting a free consumer workshop, hosted by Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and the city of Downey, on Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The workshop will focus on bringing resources to those who may be having trouble with their mortgages and possibly facing foreclosure. Credit counselors, loan servicers and lenders will offer on-site assistance and information on options available to help keep you in your home.

"I am proud to partner with the city of Downey, State agencies and lenders to provide a service that is truly needed to assist people and keep them in their homes," Lowenthal said.


Individuals planning to attend the workshop are encouraged to bring loan documents and other relevant financial information to the event.

For more information, call Luis Marquez at (562) 529-6659.

## Downey class of '78 celebrating reunion


**DOWNEY** – Downey High School's class of 1978 will celebrate their 30-year reunion on Sept. 20. For information, call Mike Schroeder at (909) 597-9300 or e-mail Marlene Masone at mymyl@msn.com.

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**It's Very Simple. Vote Yes on Measure G!**

**Read Measure G.** It's on your sample ballot and is very simple. If you agree with it, vote for it. If you don't agree with it, don't vote for it. If you're a Downey resident, you're a pretty intelligent individual and can make these decisions for yourself. So please don't let the scare tactics fool you. Downey's two-term limit with a "no comeback" clause is the strictest out of all 88 cities in LA County. No one can dispute this.

Measure G surely doesn't hinder any new people from being elected. In fact, Downey voters have voted out nine incumbents in the past. We know that everyone on the city council is beatable. We have this power.

If the voters elect incompetent councilmembers (and some have been), we have the ability to vote them out. Downey voters are pretty smart. Measure G merely gives the citizens the opportunity to re-elect councilmembers like Kirk Cartozian to a third term in office. Shouldn't we have that opportunity?

Measure G is asking that Downey residents still let all elections count. We shouldn't be afraid of democracy. If Dr. Mary Stauffer supports Measure G, shouldn't you?

**Citizens for Sensible Term Limits**  
**Vote Yes on G!**

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