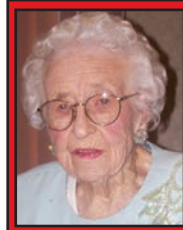
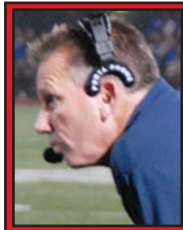




The Downey Patriot



109 reasons to celebrate
See Page 8



Welch resigns as coach - again
See Page 11



Patriotic reason to cut coupons
See Page 8

Friday, February 15, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 43

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

Pony Express story unfolds at Theatre

BY KEVIN O'CONNOR, DOWNEY THEATRE

DOWNEY – Wanted! Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages: \$25 per week. Apply: Pony Express Stables in St. Joseph, Mo.

This Sunday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m., the Downey Theatre will present the seventh film of its 2007-08 "Armchair Adventure" Travelogue Series, "Echo of Hoofbeats – the Story of the Pony Express," filmed and narrated by Hal McClure.

The Pony Express galloped into history because the eastern United States, especially Washington, D.C., wanted better communications with San Francisco and the gold fields of California. In 1860 mail was carried westward via stagecoach or by ship. It took weeks.

Up stepped three daring entrepreneurs who promised they could deliver the mail from the westward kickoff point at St. Joseph, Mo., across the plains, past Indian raiders and bandits, through the snow-laden mountains to San Francisco – nearly 2,000 miles through eight states – in 10 days or less. And they did.

See PONY EXPRESS, page 8



Photo courtesy Downey Theatre

Farmers market coming to Downey

■ City Council approves plans for a much-anticipated farmers market in Downtown Downey. Officials hope it will serve as the "heart of the city."

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The project many residents have long been clamoring for is finally coming to fruition.

Quietly and with very little fanfare, the City Council this week gave the green light to a farmers market in Downey, a move city officials hope will jumpstart revitalization efforts in the otherwise quiet downtown district.

The market will be located on 2nd Street, between New and Downey Avenues, pending business owner permission. Tentative operating hours are Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., rain or shine.

According to Deputy City Manager Desi Alvarez, plans call for the market to open as early as April. It will be certified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

City Councilman Rick Trejo called a farmers market in Downey "great news," adding that he regularly travels to the markets in Long Beach and Whittier to do his shopping.

Downey's farmers market is expected to include fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, eggs, honeys, oils, cheeses and other items sold directly by California farmers.

Hot food and beverage vendors will also be allowed at the market, as well as a small number of arts and crafts merchants, health, beauty and "spirituality" dealers, and vendors selling youth-orientated items.

With only 30 vendor spots available, Alvarez said Downey merchants would be given first preference.

Location

The Downtown Subcommittee, which includes Trejo and Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, recommended the 2nd Street location for a farmers market over four other spots explored within the city, including Downey Landing, the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, the Downey Transit Depot, and Downey Adult School.

Downey Landing, according to the subcommittee, would have provided ample vendor and parking space, but would have been difficult to cordon off to prevent wayward drivers.

The community center provided a good amount of space for parking
See FARMERS MARKET, page 3



For years the Long Beach farmers market, above, has attracted grocery shoppers with their fresh selection of fruits and vegetables. Downey will get its own farmers market as soon as this April. Photo courtesy Ruth L., www.flickr.com/photos/ruthbruin2002/



Alvin Caton worked as a crossing guard near Alameda School for 17 years before being fired last month. Photo by Brooke Karli

Alvin Caton refuses to turn his back on his kids

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

For 17 years, Alvin Caton has aided parents and children crossing the street on the northeast corner of Alameda Street and Patton Avenue, a corner heavily populated with Alameda Elementary School students before and after school.

On this particular day, however, Caton is seen on the school's campus not to help children safely cross the street, but to instead meet with me and discuss his recent termination.

According to Caton, 83, he was told in early January by immediate supervisor Margie Anchondo of All-City Management Services, that policy required him to face traffic and turn his back to the kids as he escorted them across the street.

All-City Management Services has contracted with the city of Downey for more than 15 years, providing crossing guards to schools throughout the Downey Unified School District.

"It's not right for me to turn my back on those kids," said Caton, a Downey resident for 37 years. "I'm the first one out there and the last one back – the last thing I'm going to do is turn my back on those kids and put them in any harm."

Refusing to turn his back on the kids, Caton said he was approached by Tommy Sands, an assistant operations manager at All-City Management Services, who demonstrated how he should be crossing kids.

Caton still refused to turn his back on the children, not only because he thought it was dangerous, he said, but also because he felt there was no reason to.

"I have been doing this for 17 years and not once has there been a traffic accident or injury while I've crossed," said Caton, a retired steel worker. "I've been re-certified numerous times and not once has this 'policy' been made known to me. I've never turned my back on the kids before and now, all of a sudden, they want to enforce a policy that doesn't make any sense."

Caton said the only problem he's ever had to deal with were parents not willing to cross in the crosswalk.

See CROSSING, page 9

Negotiations underway to replace Johnie's with Bob's Big Boy

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Three-way negotiations are currently underway to have a Bob's Big Boy restaurant take over a portion of the Johnie's Broiler property in Downey, Deputy City Manager Gilbert Livas confirmed this week.

The remaining lot portion would be used by Downey Nissan to store their new car inventory.

Livas said Bob's Big Boy would be willing to restore Johnie's Broiler, illegally bulldozed January of last year by then-tenant Ardas Yanik, to its original Google architecture of the 1950's.

The restaurant is also reportedly willing to save and restore whatever historical elements were not destroyed in the demolition, including the famous "fat boy" sign facing Firestone Boulevard and the open-air carhops that, in its heyday, would serve thousands of classic cars on any given weekend. Livas said he is in "daily communication" with representatives from Bob's Big Boy and Johnie's Broiler property owner Christos Smyrniotis in an attempt to secure a lease agreement.

"With my prior experience with my previous tenant, I want to take every precaution necessary," Smyrniotis said of a possible lease agreement. "But we're willing to proceed with whatever they need. Bob's has a reputation for good food and good service. If this takes place we'll have a win-win situation all the way."

Smyrniotis said he was optimistic a deal could be reached.

"My objective is not how long [the lease will be], it's how soon we can secure one," said Smyrniotis. "Everybody's excited about this. At least we're moving in the right direction to where we can get something that will be prof-



City officials said they are hopeful of bringing a Bob's Big Boy restaurant to the Johnie's Broiler property. Preliminary artist renderings, like the one above, and floor plans have already been completed.

More Photos Online

View artist renderings of the proposed Bob's Big Boy online at www.thedowneypatriot.com. Click on "Eric Pierce's Blog."

itable."

Meanwhile, the City Council voted this week to hire Sherman Oaks-based Chattel Architecture Planning & Preservation, Inc. for historic preservation consulting services as the city prepares to clean-up the Johnie's property, which has remained in its dilapidated condition since it was nearly demolished on Jan. 7 of last year.

The consultation services will cost up to \$25,000, to be reimbursed to the city by Smyrniotis.

Livas said he expected clean-up and stabilization work to begin within 30 to 60 days.

"I think the council as a whole is supportive of this action," said

Councilman Kirk Cartozian about the possibility of Bob's Big Boy coming to town. "But this is not a guarantee; it's something we hope will happen."

Johnie's Broiler served its last hamburger on Dec. 31, 2001. Members of the Los Angeles Conservancy, a committee dedicated to preserving historically significant property in Southern California, have said that the Ruby's Restaurant franchise was at one point interested in opening a restaurant at the property, a claim Smyrniotis has since denied.

In 2002, the State Historical Resources Commission deemed the property eligible for placement on the California Register of Historical Resources, but the property was never officially listed because it lacked the consent of Smyrniotis.

Chamber renews \$1 per year lease at civic center

DOWNEY – The city of Downey and the Downey Chamber of Commerce have extended their lease agreement an additional 10 years, renewing the original deal which was set to expire this September.

The only modification was an increase in the current insurance limits from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

The Chamber began leasing their building, located inside the Downey Civic Center at 11131 Brookshire Ave., in 1961. The original 25-year lease called for the Chamber to pay the city a token sum of \$1 per year.

That lease was renewed for another 25 years in 1983.

– Eric Pierce, City Editor



Soroptimist International of Downey has awarded their Women's Opportunity Awards, five \$750 scholarships to local women working towards furthering their education. From left: President Sue Potter, Margarita Rogers, Eugenie Barbeau, Renee Galaviz, Angel Raya, Luz Saldana, Petra Ramirez, Jean Brazelton and Lorine Parks.

Soroptimists reward working women with scholarships

DOWNEY – Soroptimist International of Downey has awarded five \$750 scholarships to local women who are “working hard to reach their potential and fulfill their dreams.” Stonewood Center donated two of the scholarships.

The Women's Opportunity Award is a scholarship given to women who are head of their household and who have a desire to return to school. All of this year's winners have children to support and hold responsible jobs, but need financial assistance to reach their educational goals.

This year's winners include Angel Raya, a mother of a 2-year-old and currently studying to become a nursing assistant; Renee Galaviz, studying to obtain a Licensed Vocational Nurse diploma; Luz Saldana, an employee at Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) and working her way towards an RN degree; Petra Ramirez, also a DRMC employee who works two jobs while studying cardiology technician skills on the weekend; and Eugenie Barbeau, a mother of five and Cerritos College student who plans to obtain a university degree in Psychology.

For information about membership in Downey Soroptimist, call Dorothy Pemberton at (562) 927-9908.

Dog license fees reduced for seniors, handicapped

DOWNEY – At the request of Mayor David Gafin, the city of Downey is reducing dog license fees for senior citizens and the handicapped.

Under the new plan, unanimously approved by the City Council this week, seniors and handicapped persons would pay only \$5 in license fees for a neutered dog. License fees for an unaltered dog would be \$16.60.

The prices constitute a 50 percent discount from normal license fees.

To qualify for the reduced fees, seniors must be at least 62 years old on January 1 of the year the license is required and their income must be within the poverty threshold as established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (\$10,400 for a household of one, \$14,000 for a household of two, \$17,600 for a household of three, etc.).

Handicapped persons need to provide confirmation of their handicapped status as determined by a licensed physician.

The city is estimated to lose approximately \$4,000 per year (2.4 percent of their total \$166,000 dog license revenue) as a result of the discounts. — *Eric Pierce, City Editor*

Thieves steal arson investigator's truck

DOWNEY – The city of Downey was forced into an unscheduled \$15,000 purchase of radio and electronic equipment this week after a utility vehicle belonging to the Downey Fire Department was stolen late last year.

According to Fire Chief Mark Sauter, an arson investigator's 2006 Chevy Colorado pick-up truck was stolen Dec. 8. It was found 10 days later stripped of nearly all of its electronic equipment.

The arson investigator's assigned equipment, along with other items inside the truck, was stolen as well, Sauter said.

The vehicle sustained minor mechanical damage, Sauter said.

Sign up to be treated like a princess

DOWNEY – Pre-registration will be taken tomorrow at the Downey City Library for the Downey Rose Float Association's first annual “Princess for a Day” event, scheduled for March 1.

Limited to 125 people, participants ages 5 to 12 will be treated like princesses, with hair and make-up work, craft-making, dancing, and lunch with the current Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey Courts. Participants, who are encouraged to wear either pink or purple, will also receive a photo and goody bag.

The cost of the event is \$25 and all proceeds will go towards the construction of Downey's 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade entry.

“Princess for a Day” will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, 8219 Florence Ave., in Downey. Pre-registration tomorrow will be taken from 1 to 3 p.m.

George Washington visits the library

DOWNEY – Children ages 3 to 12, as well as their parents, are invited to “Celebrate President's Day with Mr. Washington” Thursday from 7 to 7:45 p.m. at the Downey City Library.

George Washington, the first president of the United States, will share about his life during the colonial period and how he led out nation to independence.

Free show passes will be distributed 30 minutes prior to the presentation, which will be held in the Cormack Room.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

DUSD honors employees at board meeting

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The Board of Directors of the Downey Unified School District Tuesday heard three presentations honoring three certificated employees in the area of instruction, one certificated employee in the area of culture, and three classified employees in the area of culture with the Superintendent's Vision Award.

Craig Bertsch, West Middle School principal, characterized the work of Resource Specialist Program (RSP) teachers Deanna McConnell, Regina Munoz and Valerie Herz as “perfectly representing the Superintendent's Vision Award.” The three Special Education department teachers oversee a total of 78 students with a variety of disabilities, including autism, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, and specific learning issues related to reading or math.

McConnell, the 8th grade RSP teacher, has been with the district for 17 years, and coached sports, been a cheer advisor, and served as department chair for Special Education for many years. Munoz, the 7th grade RSP teacher, has been working with students with disabilities for over 15 years, serves as a Builder's Club advisor, an after school intervention specialist, and is a fundraising stalwart. Herz, 6th grade RSP teacher, has been with DUSD for 14 years, and noted for her after-school work with students with disabilities.

They are true examples of teachers who “teach from the heart,” Bertsch said.

In presenting Isela Mendez, Gauldin's ELD teacher, with the Vision Award, Gauldin Elementary principal Yolanda Cornair highlighted Mendez' kinship with students, fellow teachers, and parents of diverse cultures. “Ms. Mendez,” Cornair said, “is the model for the ideal ELD teacher. She works hard, remains focused, accepts the challenges she faces in building the best program for our EL learners. She does all this with grace and a smile.” She has been with DUSD since 1997.

Director of Pupil Services Robert Jagielski calls Vision honorees Billie McCullah, Norma Apostol, and Diana Ramirez “The Pupil Services 3.” Sr. Secretary McCullah keeps track of disciplinary cases, as well as budget, the Community Policing program, safe and drug-free schools lead teachers, etc. Bilingual Sr. Clerical Asst. Apostol is the record keeper for SARB matters, coordinates the division's Citation Program's paperwork, helps with the annual District-wide Disaster Preparedness drill, liaises with the District Attorney and Downey courts on student cases, etc. Bilingual Sr. Clerical Asst. Ramirez is simply the front line for the entire second floor, Jagielski said: She screens “any one who comes upstairs, not knowing who they are upset with, etc.” In addition, she is the resident guru, handling guardianship, homeless and foster children cases, work permits, subpoenas, and the like.

See DUSD, page 10



Regina Munoz, Deanna McConnell and Valerie Herz were presented with the Superintendent's Vision Award this week.



Billie McCullah, Diana Ramirez and Norma Apostol were also honored by DUSD this week.



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Based on the election results of Measure G, It is reassuring to know that Downey Voters Are Watchful and Protective of Our City.

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- The brave and generous business that provided phone banks
- The enthusiastic workers who put up signs and made phone class
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Warren's Vocal Ensemble in concert

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Vocal Ensemble will be performing pop, jazz, swing and '40's music at Christ Lutheran Church this Sunday from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be part of the church's Coffee House program. Directed by Robert Petersen, the Vocal Ensemble is a select group of advanced singers that represent Warren High School at public functions and concerts.

To participate in the Vocal Ensemble, students must meet GPA requirements, have previous high school level choir experience and compete in an audition where they are assessed on their vocal technique, sight-reading skills and attitude. They are also expected to reflect an image of positive leadership, responsibility and character at school and in the community.

The Vocal Ensemble will travel to Reno, Nev. this April to participate in the Reno Jazz Festival.

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 7707 Florence Ave. The community is invited to the free concert.

FARMERS MARKET

Continued from page 1

and vendors, and it also included access to public restrooms. But its location in a residential neighborhood probably wouldn't help in promoting local businesses.

The Downey Transit Depot near Firestone Boulevard and Downey Avenue is near a major thoroughfare, but public parking would have been a problem, the subcommittee said.

Finally, Downey Adult School was deemed too far from the downtown district, and parking would have been hampered by weekend students and Saturday morning soccer games.

Management

Alvarez said the farmers market would be operated by a still unnamed non-profit organization, although the city would retain discretion over the choice of vendors brought into the market. The farmers market is expected to generate just enough revenue to cover operating expenses.

The non-profit group will also use some of the revenue to fund their own initiatives, although members of the Council said they would like to see portions of the money contributed to local organizations.

The Council also waived individual business license requirements for vendors holding valid CDFA permits. Individual vendors will be required to obtain and display certified producer permits, scale certifications, and health department licenses when applicable.

Marketing

The Council this week approved spending \$30,000 to promote the farmers market, including advertising blitzes in local newspapers.

The campaign, unanimously approved by the City Council, includes \$4,646.30 for advertising with *The Downey Patriot*; \$8,740 for advertising with the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*; and \$2,480.65 for advertising in the *Whittier Daily News*.

The city will also take out advertisements in the Downey Civic Light Opera and Downey Symphony playbills (\$240), the PennySaver (\$1,288.55), and will print posters and streetlight banners.

Residents should also see advertisements in their water bills and at City Hall and the library.



Warren High School's Vocal Ensemble will be in concert this Sunday at Christ Lutheran Church. Pictured above, back row: Chris Hoodye, Erl Malboeuf, Stephen Orantes and Robert Petersen. Front row: Yesenia Calderon, Velvet Enamorado, Nawania Hudson, Amanda Tritz, Chelsea Johnson and Lauren Casas.

No substantive changes to city's investment policy

■ Document lists city assets while providing guidelines towards the management of local funds.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—The 2008 Investment Policy prepared by the City Manager's Office and which the City Council adopted Tuesday is substantially the same as last year's, according to its author, John Michicoff, Director of Finance.

The document, which is in compliance with the Government Code, provides guidelines for the "prudent" management of the city's—and related entities'—public funds. The ultimate goal, stated Michicoff, is to enhance the financial strength of the city while protecting its pooled cash.

Briefly, for investment purposes, the city's financial assets fall

into three categories:

- 1) Cash and liquid assets (instruments with maturities of 90 days or less);
- 2) Short-term investments (instruments with maturities of 2 years or less);
- 3) Long-term investments (instruments with maturities of more than 2 years but less than 5 years).

Without delving into too much technical detail, interest income has always been a major source of revenue for the city, Michicoff pointed out, cautioning that this positive outcome always carries an associated risk (loss of potential interest income, etc.). Staff, in this regard, he said, stays on top of

things as it attempts to maximize the city's return through a combination of diversification in investments. This is done by staying sensitive to current market conditions and economic trends.

Sound "safety vs. risk" investment decisions, he said, revolve around safety, liquidity, and yield (interest income/rate of return) factors. The city's investment portfolio is monitored by the City Manager, the Treasurer, and himself, in accordance with one's particular area of responsibility.

In other action, the Council:

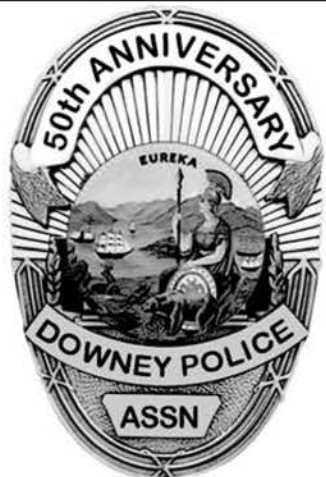
•Accepted and appropriated "Early Learning with Families (ELF) at Your Library" grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 from the California State Library Grant. The goal of the first year ELF mini grant is to promote early literacy

and Downey City Library services to children up to 3 years old and their families;

•Approved an amendment to the contract with Global Learning, Inc. to provide evaluation services for the ASPIRE after-school program, which expanded in April 2007 from an original six program sites to twelve. There is no impact to the General Fund. The program gets its funding from the California Department of Education;

•Approved an amendment to the agreement with the city of Signal Hill for special mobile relay services. The city of Downey has leased excess radio space from the city of Signal Hill since 1989. The current lease, that was approved in 1997, requires Downey to pay

See COUNCIL, page 13



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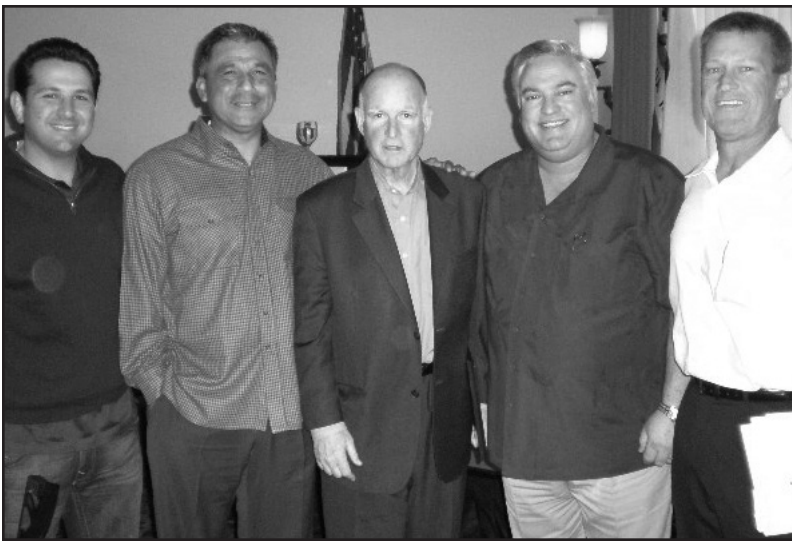
The Downey Police Officers' Association would like to thank all citizens who donated to our annual mail program.

Please know that your contribution is helping to make a difference in our community.

On behalf of our entire group, we hope you have a safe and prosperous year. Please find comfort knowing we are there to help you when needed.

Sincerely,
Cpl. Mike Pope
DPOA President
(562) 861-0771 ext. 353





Some of Downey's civic leaders met with California Attorney General Jerry Brown last weekend to discuss public safety and issues dealing with crime. Pictured are, left to right, Councilman Kirk Cartozian, Police Chief Roy Campos, Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, and Fire Chief Mark Sauter.



Led by Drum Major Eric Paz, and directed by David Niemeyer, the Warren High School Band and Color Guard marched down Main Street, Disneyland on Jan. 14. This is an annual event for the squad, who also placed 6th at this year's Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association Championships for marching bands. Bands are only allowed to march at Disneyland after their audition tape is viewed and accepted.

Warren Band dishes out spaghetti

DOWNEY - The Warren High School Band and Color Guard will be hosting their annual Pasta and Presto event on March 1.

Following a spaghetti dinner donated by many local businesses and prepared by the band boosters, the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz I, and Jazz II, as well as the Winter Guard, will provide the event's entertainment.

Tickets are \$7. Those interested in sponsoring can receive up to three free tickets depending on the amount sponsored.

For more information, or to purchase tickets or be a sponsor, call (562) 774-5647.



Lee Powell fires up the grill at a monthly Kiwanis-sponsored barbeque for the staff and patients of Rancho Los Amigos' Pediatrics Division. Powell barbeques for the division every month, bringing in pizza on days that are rained out.

The Poet's Corner

Lucy

We have a lady here that is 109
And she is in her prime

She remembers about yesterday
Like when she went out to play

She had some sisters and brothers
And she is like no other

She is of sound mind
And she is also very kind

She likes the color purple
As we all sat in a circle.

- The Downey Retirement Home Poetry Club

Nirvana

Moon the Glorious has rose
As the leaves of Hope will grow
And in the thorns it became clear
Nirvana in its beauty nears.

As I am lying here in bliss
Enraptured in an astral kiss
The Universe and Time divides
Nirvana's present in your eyes.

In Peace and Love there is rebirth
To Sun and Stars and Moon and Earth
To Life and Mind, Future and Past
Nirvana is achieved at last.

- Jenerous,
Downey

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.

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Letters to the Editor:

Orangeline Maglev a group effort

Dear Editor:
Most Downey citizens may not be all that familiar with the Orangeline High Speed Maglev Development Authority, a 14-member city Joint Powers Authority formed in 2003 with the goal of alleviating L.A. and Orange Counties' traffic nightmare in a clean, quiet and fast manner. The Orangeline High Speed Maglev will do this and also will serve as an economic and transit-oriented development boon for our member cities. We appreciate the Downey Patriot for its thorough report on our project last year. Hopefully you'll be able to experience the Orangeline sometime after its projected completion date in 2020.

Although it continues to gather more and more supporters, the Orangeline is no sure thing. We have a number of hurdles and challenges to getting there before that ever happens. Most notable is the need to work and build consensus with the larger agencies, such as SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments), Caltrans, MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority), OCTA (Orange County Transportation Authority), the County of Los Angeles, and the city of Los Angeles.

Quite honestly, we rely on trusted, long-term relationships with leaders within these agencies and with elected officials in prospective new member cities. Without these relationships, which often take many years to develop, it takes us even longer to navigate the cumbersome, snail-paced bureaucratic channels to get a massive transportation project done.

For the past five years, your councilmember and former mayor, Kirk Cartozian, has served on our board as an able representative of your interests. He has provided both our authority and your city the benefit of these hard earned, trusted relationships needed to be successful and gain support to get things completed. Although Councilman Cartozian's primary responsibility has been to represent you city of Downey, his leadership and enthusiasm has propelled him to be the chairman of our organization through one of the most difficult times of transition. Despite the challenges, we've made significant progress under Councilman Cartozian's leadership.

We write this letter to thank you, the citizens of Downey, for Councilman Cartozian's service and dedication to our board. We wanted to let you know that we recognize and respect the will of your citizens on your recent vote to not extend term limits within your city. Because of the limitation of terms, he will no longer be able to continue leading our board and authority beyond his current term. His value and service will surely be missed.

—Laura Lee (Mayor, city of Cerritos); Scott Larsen (Mayor, city of Bellflower); Maria Davila (Mayor, city of South Gate); Elba Guererro (Mayor, city of Huntington Park); Frank Gurule (Mayor, city of Cudahy); Marsha McLean (Councilwoman, city of Santa Clarita); Bill Dewitt (Councilman, city of South Gate); Tony Lima (Councilman, city of Artesia); Michael McCormick (Councilman, city of Vernon); Ana Rizo (Councilwoman, city of Maywood); Diana Martinez (Councilwoman, city of Paramount); Steve Hofbauer (Councilman, city of Palmdale); Dean Grose (Councilman, city of Los Alamitos); and Troy Edgar (Councilman, city of Los Alamitos).

Hoping to create a safer neighborhood

Dear Editor:
Imagine how you might feel if your home was burglarized. Last spring, my home was burglarized on a late Friday afternoon. My husband and I frantically returned home after the Downey Police Department notified us that we had been the victims of a burglary. We found our home ransacked. We grieved over our personal and monetary losses. Our sense of security and tranquility was forever shattered.

I refused to accept our dilemma. I met with neighbors about the burglary and learned that crime is rampant throughout our neighborhood. My neighbors shared the following concerns about their neighborhood: speeding due to a lack of bumps or stop signs, loitering, home burglaries, car thefts, hit-and-run accidents, and vandalism on private properties. Current data from the Downey Police Department illustrate that these crimes persist throughout Downey.

A local neighbor with long ties to our neighborhood directed me to Mark Galvan, a liaison from the Downey Neighborhood Preservation. He encouraged me to organize a block meeting between my neighbors and the Downey Police Department. Our gathering on Nov. 8 was a major success. Many neighbors attended the meeting and shared their concerns. Four officers joined our meeting, listened to our grievances, and discussed steps that the police department is implementing to secure our neighborhood.

I intend to collaborate with participants from our first block meeting to organize a second block meeting in March. Our primary objective is to see if our neighborhood is safer than it was before the first block meeting. I expect my neighbors to express a sense of security during the second block meeting. I also plan to engage other community groups and local elected officials to make Downey a safe and family-friendly community. We can all make a difference if we organize our neighborhoods. Lastly, thanks to Mark Galvan, the neighbors who attended, and the four Downey Police officers who joined our meeting.

—R. Salas,
Downey

Thank you from Toastmasters


Dear Editor:
Thank you to all involved with publishing the press releases for Toastmasters Club #587 open house.

The Downey Patriot is a great resource for community news as well as information about service clubs and organizations.

Continue to keep up the good work.

—Fionnuala Anderson,
Downey

The Downey Patriot

	Jennifer DeKay-Givens..... Publisher/Adv. Director John Adams..... Editor Emeritus Eric Pierce..... City Editor Henry Veneracion..... Staff Writer Brooke Karli..... Staff Writer Dorothy Michael..... Display Advertising Mary Forney..... Display Advertising Linda Larson..... Classified Advertising Jonathan Fox..... Production Gibran Latif..... Webmaster
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Letters to the Editor:

The Downey Guerra

Dear Editor:
Every time my wife and I read your newspaper we wager how many times Councilman Mario Guerra's mug will be prominently featured in your newspaper pages. On your Feb. 8 issue I lost 10 bucks wrongly guessing the councilman's smiling face would only appear once but it was twice.

Seems like anything he does is newsworthy to your paper. A neighbor told me that he thinks the councilman steers a lot of advertising to your paper and in return you saturate your newspaper pages with his image but I don't abide to this conspiracy theory since you guys are pretty impartial in your reporting and I like Eric Pierce's writing style.

When you're ready to feature something other than the councilman's face in your newspaper perhaps Eric Pierce can do a story on two high-volume un-permitted residential businesses that have devastated our block. I know of one neighbor who's sent you a few pictures regarding our issue with no response from your paper. My neighbor said that since the story does not involve the councilman odds are you won't be interested but I told him to let me try and see what happens.

On a serious note I am putting my house for sale because of these businesses. The City Council, the Downey Police Department, Code Enforcement, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and now Assemblyman Hector de la Torre's office and the EPA will be following up on the issue on our street; perhaps your paper should say something about it. Believe me when I say that I am sure your readers will be interested; the scope of this issue is huge. Let me know guys!

—Miguel Casillas,
Downey

More bang for their buck

Dear Editor:
Are the citizens of Downey smarter than the three stooges on our City Council? You bet we are!

Since the stooges blew \$85,000 of our money, I think they should repay the city of Downey. It would only cost each stooge \$28,333.34.

—Doris Hannon,
Downey

Tseklenis for Council

Dear Editor:
It has been a long time since I have read an article with so much common sense as the one displayed by Harold Tseklenis ("There is Much to be Tackled," 2/8/08).

Harold's engineering background is very noticeable because of the validity of his assertions and the clarity of his writing. All Downey citizens certainly benefit from Harold's training, experience and dedication to the betterment of our city.

Harold makes so many fine points that I wish he would run for the City Council. Pundits may say he is too old but I sustain that Harold, like good wine, gets better with age. If further proof is needed that experience is valuable just look at Warren Buffett's record that seems to get better with age.

I hope that many people agree with me and draft Harold to run in the next election for the City Council. I would campaign for him and he surely would get my vote.

—Jorge Montero,
Downey

Severely pecked

Dear Editor:
Every morning while dropping off my child at Sussman Middle School, I am appalled at the inconsiderate manner in which the students cross the street and play chicken with the cars while walking to school. Why did the chicken cross the road? Well simply to get to the other side. Yet day after day I witness middle school children playing chicken and jaywalking right in front of cars, usually darting out giving the driver only a split second to react.

Just like when in the crosswalk this generation of youth then proceeds to nonchalantly take their time to complete the street crossing at their leisure. If that wasn't bad enough, like most Galliformes these street carrossers spread out in a staggered line in order to tie up the passing vehicles ever more. This foul locomotion continues once again when the students are released from the coup at the end of the school day.

I do agree that the parents can preemptively help solve some of these problems by teaching their hatchling common courtesy and respect, preferably through their own examples. But what is the school's educational system doing to protect our children? Other than back to school night I have yet to see a crossing guard or school representative in front of the campus. This is irresponsible and dangerous to the safety of everyone in the community.

One school I can flap my wings to though is Carpenter Elementary. Every day before and after school they do all they can to ensure that the citizens who attend or pass by the school are safer. They do that by having teachers out on the campus. This gives them time to interact with the community and promote a positive environment. This interaction occurs by the facilitation of traffic to and from the school of both car and foot. By doing so this cuts down on the number of incidences around the school easing the congestion for all.

This additional time spent with our youth encourages them to engage in the proper activities and allows our teachers more time to bond with the students further enriching the social atmosphere for the whole flock. This in turn creates a win-win situation.

The differences in the two are like night and day. Which prompts me to ask if this is only a school policy or a district policy not being followed. Regardless, it is time something is done to contain this epidemic before its full effects come home to roost.

—Aaron Fuhrman,
Downey

Thankful for our local publications

Dear Editor:
I would like to thank the Downey Chamber of Commerce and Sue Nordin for their professionalism and grace shown in their recent article in Downey Business on our humble restaurant, Mambo Grill.

For those who aren't members of the Chamber, I encourage you to join, as there are endless rewards and benefits to business owners. I can only hope I can return the favor by giving back to the very community that made us who we are in the first place.

We at Mambo Grill would also like to thank The Downey Patriot for their coverage and support throughout the six years we have been in business. We are grateful for their staff and appreciate all their hard work.

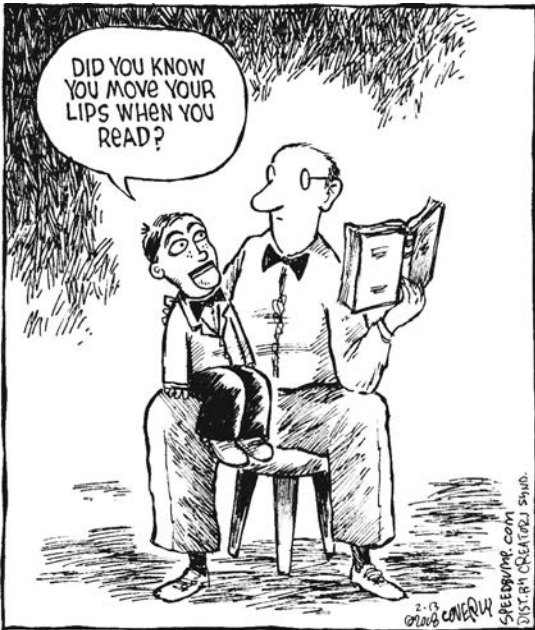
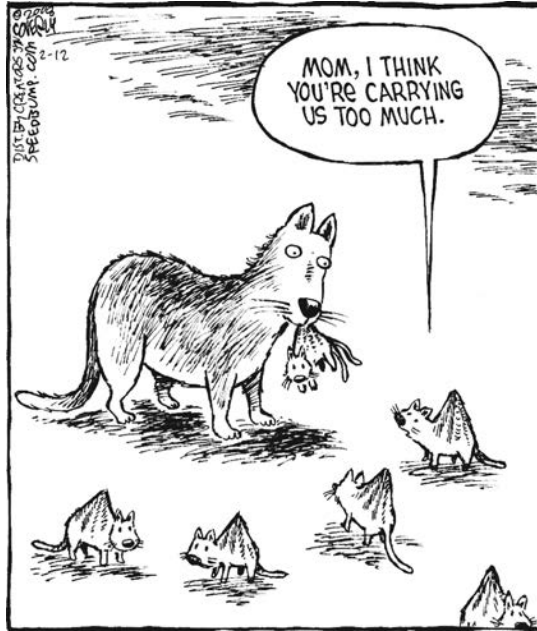
Please know that we are here to serve our community in any way possible. God Bless you all!

—David Llamas,
Owner, Mambo Grill

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For February

Sun. Feb. 17: Warren High School Vocal Ensemble performs, Christ Lutheran Church, 6 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 19: "The Power of Paycheck Planning," DRMC, 4 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 21: President George Washington visits the Downey City Library, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

6:30 p.m.: Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg., for information call 426-6786.
6:30 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
1st Mon., 4 p.m.: 2nd Century Foundation, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: American Legion Post 270, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

7 a.m.: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
1 p.m.: Women's Bocce Club, for information call 869-8782.
1st Weds., 10 a.m.: Woman's Club of Downey, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: Downey Coordinating Council, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Emblem Club #309, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: Downey Sister Cities Ass'n, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - Downey Christian Women's Club, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - AARP, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
3rd Weds., - Downey Dog Obedience Club Apollo Park.
3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - American Business Women's Association, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
4th Weds., 12:00 noon: Retired Federal Employees, at Furman Park West Bldg., call 943-5513.
Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

Thursdays

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

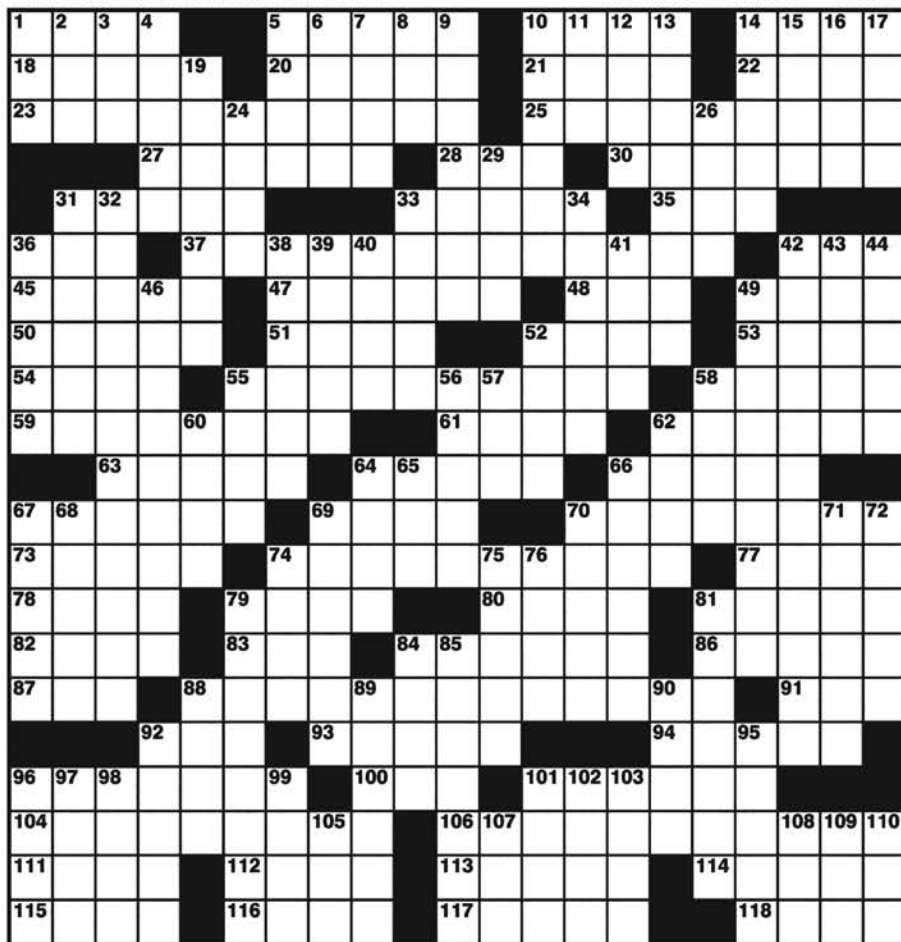
Feb. 15, 1564: Famed astronomer Galileo Galilei is born in Pisa, Italy.
1764: The city of St. Louis is established.
1898: Tensions with Spain escalate after an explosion onboard the U.S. battleship Maine kills 260 crew members.
1903: The first teddy bear is reportedly introduced in the United States by Morris Michtom.
1933: President Franklin D. Roosevelt escapes an assassination attempt that instead takes the life of Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak.
2002: Nevada's Yucca Mountain is approved by President George W. Bush as the site for long-term disposal of nuclear waste.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
AT THE BEAST FEAST: What the guests ordered
by Randolph Ross

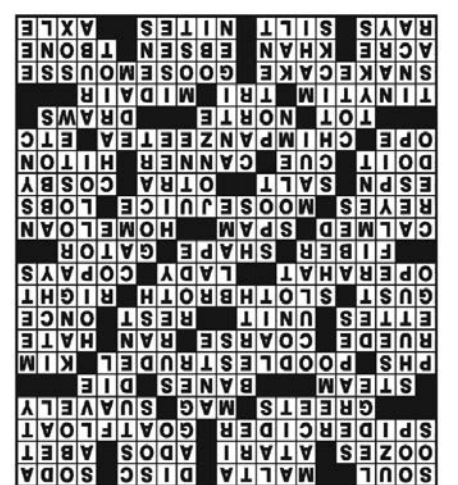
- ACROSS
1 James Brown's music
5 Mediterranean island
10 Frisbee, e.g.
14 Pop
18 Flows like sap
20 Video game name
21 Dustups
22 Help a hood
23 Bug's beverage
25 Barnyard beast's dessert drink
27 Says hi to
28 GQ or SI
30 As James Bond would
31 Prepare, as dumplings
33 Bugaboos
35 Numbered cube
36 Litmus test nos.
37 Canine's dessert
42 Kipling title character
45 la Paix (Paris street)
47 Like some sandpaper
48 Operated
49 Can't stand
50 Suffix for many
51 "girl group" names
52 Motel room
53 Take five
54 Long ago
55 Breeze's big brother
54 Beast's first course
58 Accurate
59 Tall topper
61 Title for a countess
62 Health-plan outgo
63 Moral fortitude
64 Circle or square
66 Croc kin
67 Eased
69 Unwanted e-mail
70 Bank offering
73 Point CA
74 Beast's beverage
77 Tennis shots
78 Monday Night Football network
79 Ice melter
80 Another, in Argentina
81 Kennedy Center honoree of '98
82 Encouraging words
83 Signal
84 Sardine-factory worker
86 Discover, as an idea
87 Reveal, in verse
88 Primate's beverage
91 Series-ending abbr.
92 Rug rat
93 Opposite of sur
94 Ties
96 Dickensian moppet
100 Pod prefix
101 Where acrobats may meet
104 Reptile's dessert
106 Bird's dessert
111 Lot of land
112 Mongol title
113 Beverly Hillbillies star
114 Steakhouse order
115 Stinging swimmers
116 Bank deposit of a sort
117 Marquee times
118 Car bar
DOWN
1 Sea plea
2 "Alley _!"
3 Commando weapon
4 Mantel, for example
5 Ceremonial club
6 Bickering
7 Bristol boys
8 Three, in Capri
9 Body behind the front
10 Macbeth prop
11 Words of commitment
12 In order (to)
13 So-so collegian
14 Soother
15 Peter and the Wolf instrument
16 "I'll take your offer!"
17 Frequent Grisham protagonist: Abbr.
19 Señora's shawls
24 San __, Italy
26 Go under
29 Poker payment
31 Restraining order?
32 Insect's dessert
33 Parking space
34 Legal guarantee
36 Ragu rival
38 Visual
39 Start of a proscription
40 Café addition
41 Extinguish
42 Beast's main course
43 Not satisfied
44 Intersects
46 Disadvantage
49 The masses
52 Took the bus
55 Molt
56 Point a finger at
57 Grammy category
58 Learning method
60 Fivers
62 Got here
64 Predicament
65 Experiences
66 Kid's transportation
67 Words to live by
68 Moral man
69 Somber
70 One on the payroll
71 Friars Club officials
72 Justin Timberlake's former group
74 Molokai neighbor
75 Adaptation director
76 __ Reader (eclectic magazine)
79 Borscht Belt bits
81 Horse-drawn vehicle
84 Mystery writer John Dickson
85 Immunologist's concern
88 Bird house
89 Packing a punch
90 Dutch cheese
92 Rug rats
95 Cruise stop
96 Romanov title
97 __ Gold (Cussler novel)
98 __ a soul (no one) informally
99 Hawaiian seafood,
101 Lion's share
102 Conversation filler
103 Family rooms
105 Carrier to Seoul
107 Kimono closer
108 Windy City baseballers
109 30 Rock inspiration
110 Wide shoe

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 2/10/08



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

PH (36 Across) is derived from the French "pouvoir hydrogène," or "power of hydrogen." Point Reyes, California (73 Across), north of San Francisco, is a recreational area known for its hiking trails. The UZI (3 Down) submachine gun is named for its Israeli designer, Uziel "Uzi" Gal.



Credit union sponsoring free financial workshops starting next week

■ 'The Power of Paycheck Planning' will be presented this Tuesday by finance experts.

DOWNEY – Downey Federal Credit Union will be sponsoring five free "financial fitness workshops" throughout the year to help members and prospective members "stay in shape in 2008."

The workshop topics will range from "The Power of Paycheck Planning" to "Understanding Your Credit Report and Score" to "Identity Theft."

Workshops will be held at Downey Regional Medical Center and at the Downey Unified School District's Manuel Gallegos Administration Building on Brookshire Avenue.

The first workshop, "The Power of Paycheck Planning," will be this Tuesday at Downey Regional Medical Center. All of the workshops are from 4 to 6 p.m. and will be given by speakers from Springboard, a non-profit consumer credit management organization.

"Providing financial education to our members and to the community is an essential part of Downey Federal Credit Union's initiative of 'People Helping People,'" said Downey Federal Credit Union CEO Barbara Lamberth. "We encourage members and potential members to learn how to better manage their finances."

Residents interested in attending the workshops should call Kari Johnson at (562) 862-8141, ext. 246, for reservations. For the schedule and locations of the workshops, visit www.downeyfcu.org.

Communication discussed at Nordic Fox

DOWNEY – Brett Baughman of Niurka, Inc., will be discussing "My Communication is the Response I Get – Effective Communication Bridges Worlds," at the Feb. 26 Rise 'N Shine networking group at Nordic Fox restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

Cost is an order from the menu.

For information, or to RSVP, call (562) 923-2191.

Folk music jam at Community Center

DOWNEY – Musicians, singers and music lovers in general are invited to a "Downey Folk Music Jam" on Feb. 26 at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

At a folk music jam, participants sit in a circle formation with their acoustic instruments. A facilitator ensures that the "lead" participant has their opportunity to lead the tune, pass, or request the group play a tune with someone else leading the music.

The facilitator also ensures a continuum of activity throughout the jam, and that the leader position rotates smoothly around the circle.

Guests and other non-musician visitors may sit outside the circle and listen to the music or sing along if appropriate. The round-robin format continues throughout the session and musicians may join or leave at will.

The community is invited to the free jam. For more information, call Bea or Jim at (562) 861-7049.

Cardiovascular Wellness Fair, Feb. 23

DOWNEY – Downey Regional Medical Center will host its annual Cardiovascular Wellness Fair on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in the hospital's conference rooms.

The fair, which is open to the public, will feature a variety of complimentary screenings and activities, including carotid screenings, blood pressure checks, respiratory screenings, consultations with DRMC pharmacists, nutrition consultations, massages, and information from diabetes educator Elsa Saucedo, R.N., as well as giveaways and door prizes.

The fair will also feature a heart healthy snack, served around 9 a.m., and a presentation by interventional cardiologist Jack Dobkin, M.D.

For more information, call (562) 904-5413.



Attorney Steve Lopez was joined by Miss Downey and her Court in celebrating the grand opening of his Downey office in December. Photo courtesy Sue Nordin, Downey Chamber of Commerce

Sister Kathleen at meeting and luncheon

DOWNEY – The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) will be hosting their general meeting and luncheon this Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center on Downey Avenue. Sister Kathleen of the Sisters of Notre Dame will be the featured speaker.

Sister Kathleen is a former teacher at OLPH School and is now training Novitiates who are entering the religious order.

The community is invited to attend the meeting.

Waste roundup in Pico Rivera

PICO RIVERA – Local residents are encouraged to drop off their household and electronic waste at a roundup event March 15 at the Southern California Gas Company in Pico Rivera.

The free event allows Los Angeles County residents to safely dispose of hazardous waste, including antifreeze, car batteries, used motor oil, paint, pesticides, TVs and monitors, computers, VCRs, stereos, cell phones, and more.

The Pico Rivera Southern California Gas Company is located at 8101 Rosemead Blvd. Waste will be collected between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Study Session at Temple tomorrow

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will be having a Saturday Service and Study Session tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The session will be led by Rabbi Len Muroff. The community is invited to attend.

For information, call (562) 861-9276.

Counsel's Corner: An introduction and hello

BY STEVE LOPEZ, THE LAW OFFICES OF STEVE LOPEZ

I would like to thank the staff at *The Downey Patriot* for this opportunity to write a column. I see this as a great opportunity for the wonderful readers of the *Patriot* to stay informed with our ever-changing legal system. I see my role as your legal voice; I wish to make available to you the current events as well as the latest developments in the law as it pertains to you and those you care about.

I recently expanded my law practice and opened up a second location here in Downey. Choosing Downey as the city to open this second location was an easy decision. I was born and raised here in Southern California. In fact, I was born in Los Angeles and grew up and went to school here in Downey.

My first job was at the old and now historical landmark "the Golden Arches," located at Lakewood Boulevard and Florence Avenue. At this first job, I was in charge of general maintenance. My second job was at Scientific Coating located near the intersection of Firestone Boulevard and Stewart and Gray Road. There I worked as a technician from 1983 to 1990.

It was only when I got married I moved out of Downey. Let me tell you, it was by "force" and not by choice. At the persistent request of my wife, who wished to move and live next to her only sister in Southern California, did I agree to move out of Downey.

I knew however that I would be back to a city that gave me so many wonderful childhood memories and now a place where I can practice my craft and be a part of the rich and diversified history of Downey.

On Dec. 20, 2007, my office had a grand opening party which was attended by Mayor David Gafin, Mayor Pro Tem Mario A. Guerra, the Downey Court, the Downey Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses, families, and friends. Thank you to all the people who came out and supported me during our grand opening. I felt that the grand opening was a great eye-opener for me as I stood aside and witnessed the many wonderful people of Downey who make this an extraordinary place for the residents and business owners alike.

With that note, I will bid you goodbye for now and I look forward to informing you of the current legal events.

Beginning this week, attorney Steve Lopez will be writing periodic columns regarding this country's evolving legal system, with a pointed emphasis on how it relates to Downey.

Steve Lopez
ATTORNEY at LAW

THE LAW OFFICES OF STEVE LOPEZ
EL ABOGADO HABLA ESPAÑOL

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Lucy Randolph: living a long, honest life

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

Take a moment and think about the historical moments, life-changing inventions, and unforgettable people of the 20th Century – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The Great Depression. The attack on Pearl Harbor. The American Civil Rights Movement. The Holocaust. Adolf Hitler. Mother Teresa. Amelia Earhart. John F. Kennedy.

And the inventions of the airplane, radio, television, and computer. Now, imagine living to see each of those events and people.

Lucy Randolph recently celebrated her 109th birthday and has seen more than most history books can depict.

Born on Dec. 24, 1898 in a town not too far from Dallas, Tex., Randolph was the oldest of 12 children and like many children of that day, grew up on a farm, learning to till land.

At the tender age of three, her family moved to Oklahoma, then known as Indian Territory. A few years following, the family moved to New Mexico, building a home and barn while in the process of claiming land. The family stayed in New Mexico for no more than a year before deciding to move back to Oklahoma. At this point, Randolph was eight years old.

When back in Oklahoma, her family farmed in the same community as before, just on different land.

"We traveled a lot in the early days," said Randolph, a Downey resident since 1995 who currently resides at Downey Retirement Center. "My family was always searching for the best land."

In 1919, Randolph married husband, Homer, whom traveled alongside her and her family. A year later, the couple had their first child, Thedabara, who was followed by brother, Phillip, in 1921. Although she completed high school, it was also during this time that Randolph wanted to learn more about sewing, but her family could not afford to send her to school.

Around 1928, the family moved to California, via Route 66. A fond memory Randolph has of her time in California was the swinging bridge she had to cross every day in order to get to school. Unfortunately, as the Great Depression began to take its toll, the family was forced to move back to Oklahoma.

"It was really, really bad during the Great Depression," Randolph said. "No work, no food – nothing. Everybody had to learn how to farm and make their own living. But we helped one another...we all needed help in getting along in life."

While in Oklahoma, Randolph and her husband welcomed daughters, Crescenta (1930) and Carleta (1932), and son, Franchoton (1937).

The family returned once again – for the final time – to California in the 1940's, when Homer was employed to build ships for the war.

"We knew something was brewing," said Randolph. "That's why they were training young men. Not long after, the draft began beckoning those young men."

Homer was one of those men, but following the completion of his physical exam, he was notified that his deployment would have to wait, as the draft was starting to taper down. However, their son Phillip voluntarily joined the service.

While Phillip was off at war and Homer was building ships, Randolph tended to the family and worked at a Navy tailor shop, a job she did not retire from until 1982. Homer continued to work at the shipyard until his death in 1962. Thedabara and Phillip have passed away since then as well.

Following retirement, Randolph continued to sew, cook and spend time with friends and family, the three activities she truly enjoys most.



Lucy Randolph: 109 years young. Photo by Brooke Karli

When asked about the different events and people she has seen come and go, she could not help but revel in the things that have changed in our country.

"Growing up, we had to walk 10 to 15 miles just to get our mail," Randolph said. "There wasn't much to talk about either as there weren't many newspapers around. There were hardly any cities when I was growing up and to see how everything has changed is mind boggling."

However, the one thing she would change about the world today, she said, is the people.

"The one thing that has ruined the world is people – they cheat themselves and they cheat others," Randolph said. "People will do whatever they can to get to the top."

"My parents always taught us to be honest people and I have always taught my family the same. Children are raised in homes nowadays where the parents don't teach them anything because they're hardly ever around to begin with. Many kids don't understand the beauty of family because they aren't raised in one."

Family has always been important to Randolph. She currently has 16 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren, and four great-great-great-grandchildren.

"I have family scattered from north to south, and east to west," she said. "It's so nice to see loved ones and I wish I could see them all more often."

When asked the secret to living a long, healthy life – a question asked of her often – she responded, "Living an honest life, working hard, taking care of yourself and your family, and being grounded in faith."



Marilyn and Gordon Madru, flanked by Mayor David Gafin and Citizens for Downey President Mike Prokop, collect manufacturer's coupons to send to troops and their families overseas. Last year alone, they spent \$2,200 of their own money in postage. Photo by Eric Pierce

Those Sunday paper coupons go a long way

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

For 11 years now, 49-year Downey residents Gordon and Marilyn Madru have been clipping coupons and sending them overseas to help troops and their families. Today they are sending as many as 65 12-oz. packages a month of these clipped coupons to bases in Germany, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Greenland, Iceland, Guam, Puerto Rico, Singapore, and South Korea.

Wednesday at the Citizens for Downey breakfast meeting, they received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their salutary and laudable service. They are members of the breakfast club.

The coupons, Marilyn said, serve three purposes: first, each package includes a Christian tract and a Bible verse with a prayer for the recipients; second, they enable the coupon users to stretch their shopping dollar; and third, the store that accepts the coupons actually receives money from the clearing house, the money used to build store improvements and additions (e.g., delicatessen areas, special baked goods sections, or even for the purchase of freezers for frozen foods and ice cream, etc.). Thus the coupons turned in by donors must say "Manufacturer's Coupon" and have an expiration date, as well as a bar code. "We can use three months expired coupons," she said.

There seems to be no stress involved in the activity, as the couple, married 55 years last September, prepares the coupons for shipment in their spare time (while watching TV, etc.). They spent \$2,200 of their own money for stamps last year. Gordon is retired from Mobil Corporation and suffers from Parkinson's Disease. Marilyn still works as a dental nurse. They've been attending First Baptist Church of Downey for 42 years.

The couple, who once appeared on "Truth and Consequences" in August, 1954, has two married sons: Stephen, who has worked with Vons for 21 years, has two daughters, Lyndsay, 16, and Shannon, 13; while Victor, a teacher at Discovery (High) School of Anaheim, has three children: Justin, 22; Micah, 17; and Jared, 14.

They have been active with the Downey Historical Society (20 years), the Aerospace Legacy Foundation (10 years); and such organizations as the Coordinating Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and Living Help Clinic. They frequent the OASIS sessions and have volunteered for Wycliffe. Marilyn has been a member of the Christian Women's Club of Downey for 35 years and is affiliated with the El Dorado Chapter (Downey) of the American Business Women's Association.

There is a preferred way to clip the coupons, they said: "We ship by weight, so it would be helpful if you could cut as close to the dotted line as possible without touching the dotted line. Please use a #10 (business size) envelope for mailing to us."

If you wish to help, address inquiries/mail to Gordon and Marilyn Madru, 8632 Guatemala Ave., Downey, CA 90240, tel. (562) 928-2623.

PONY EXPRESS

Continued from page 1

Ride along with filmmaker McClure as he follows the Pony Express trail through Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California. You'll encounter such historical figures as Buffalo Bill and Wild Bill Hickock who began their frontier careers with the Express.

You'll also camp with modern Pony Express riders who annually gallop the same difficult trail: members of the National Pony Express Association.

"We followed the riders with our cameras and were amazed at their dedication in keeping alive the spirit of the old Pony Express as they carried the special mail across eight states," said McClure, a member of the Travel Adventure Hall of Fame and a former U.S. Air Force pilot, a foreign correspondent and editor.

"Echo of Hoofbeats – the Story of the Pony Express" is the seventh "Armchair Adventure" of a 10-film series. The series features full-color, feature-length travelogues with live, in-person narration by the travel adventure producers.

All films are on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. at the Downey Theatre, 8435 Firestone Blvd. Tickets for individual films may be purchased on the day of performance only beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the theater box office. Adult tickets are \$7 and senior/student tickets are \$6 (cash or check only).

For more information, call the theater box office at (562) 861-8211, Monday through Friday, between noon and 4 p.m.

THE DINNER LUNCH QUIZ

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I WANT FRESH SEAFOOD -

I FEEL LIKE A GREAT STEAK -

I WANT PIZZA!

I WANT PASTA!

I WANT TO SEE MY FRIENDS THERE -

CAN WE GET RESERVATIONS?

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ALOT.

THE ANSWER IS ON PAGE 9

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Downey Historical Society 2008 OUTREACH PROGRAM!

Saving Downey History one family at a time!

Downey Historical Society would like your old home movies & photographs. We are collecting all 8mm, super 8mm & 16mm films, negative & positive still photographs, yearbooks and other memorabilia for our archive. **Don't toss it! SAVE IT!**

You may bring these items to be placed on display Wednesday or Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

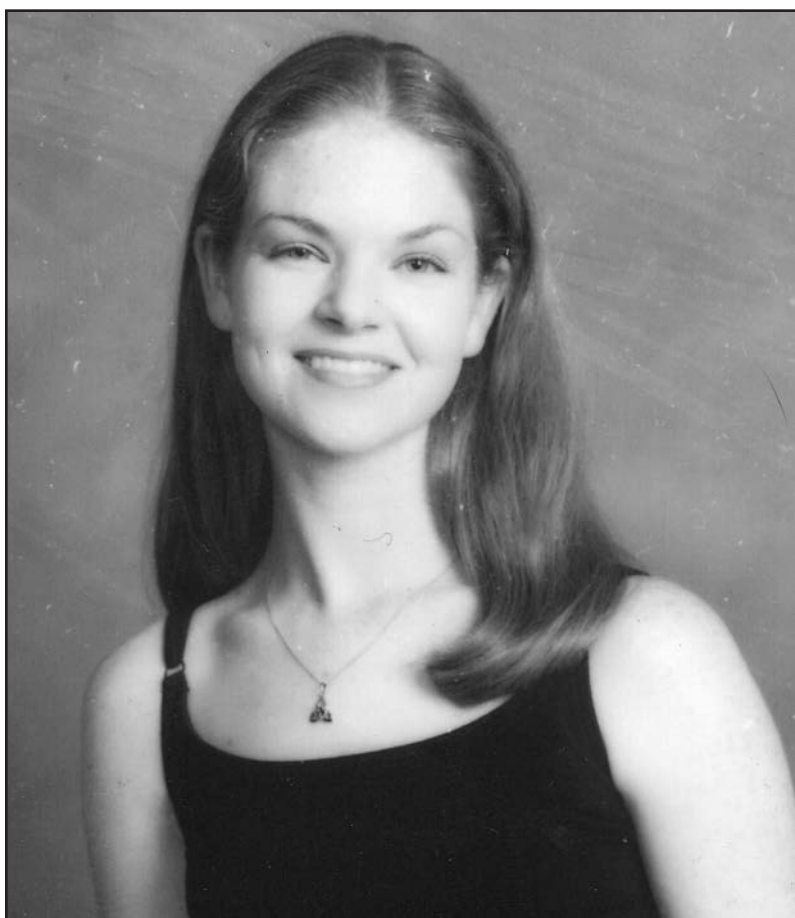
Call ahead 562-862-2777

The peoples history will be lost forever due to negligent thinking about saving history! Films gathered will be featured in future DHS programs. Look in your garage or attic. Films and photos relating to Downey including old 16mm educational films are wanted! Before you toss it, bring it to us!

HISTORY WILL NOT WAIT! SAVE IT NOW!



Robin La Valley returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera for the seventh time at Susanah in "Tintypes," playing Feb. 21 through March 9 at the Downey Theatre. She previously starred as Sister Amnesia in "Nunsense." For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714.



Courtney Burfeind will make her 14th appearance with the Downey Civic Light Opera when she portrays Irene Castle in the Downey Theatre's production of "Tintypes" starting Feb. 21. Burfeind last appeared as Dream Lawrey in "Oklahoma!" For tickets, call (562) 923-1714.

LaToya London performing at outlets

COMMERCE – Citadel Outlets will present a free live performance by LaToya London, currently performing the role of Nettie at the Ahmanson Theater in the Tony Award-winning Broadway production of "The Color Purple," this Monday at 5 p.m.

London will sing live in center court at the outdoor outlet center followed by an autograph signing.

LaToya London, now known to her fans simply as "London," first garnered national acclaim when she was named the early front-runner to win season three of "American Idol" by Simon Cowell and Elton John. On-air she joined the ranks of "The Three Divas" alongside Jennifer Hudson and Fantasia Barrino before she was voted off, ending up in fourth place.

London later garnered a recording deal with Peak Records and went on to release her debut album titled, "Love & Life," earning two Billboard-topping singles.

Festival to celebrate 'Year of the Mouse'

NORWALK – Cerritos College, in conjunction with the Chinese Culture Association of Southern California and the Cerritos Chinese School, will host a Spring Festival Celebration on Feb. 23 from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Center, located at 11110 Alondra Blvd. in Norwalk.

"The Year of the Mouse" will be celebrated through traditional dishes, various performances and workshops that have touches from many Asian cultures. Performances will include a traditional lion dance, a royal oriental fashion show, traditional songs, cultural dances, martial arts and more.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Danita Kurtz at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2133.

CROSSING

Continued from page 1

"Traffic has never been a problem and the kids have never been a problem," Caton said. "The only problem has been some of the parents and when they begin to understand the safety provided in crossing the street in the crosswalk, they start using it and there aren't any more problems."

On Jan. 22, the Downey Police Department was summoned to the school after Caton refused to leave his jobsite. According to Caton, Anchondo asked him to leave after he refused to abide by the policy.

Because crossing guards are contracted through All-City Management Services, Downey Police primarily handles their budget and any incidents that may occur in a crossing guard's intersection. According to Field Operations Lt. Steve Garza, there are 17 different locations throughout Downey that host crossing guards, all of which are at elementary and middle schools.

Caton was suspended for the day. On Jan. 25, he received a phone call notifying him of his termination.

"The whole situation makes me mad," said Caton. "My feelings have been hurt badly. I loved coming to work every day and seeing the kids."

For the 2001-02 school year, Caton received the Crossing Guard of the Year award as well as a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly and Downey Council PTA. Last year, he received a Certificate of Appreciation for his 15 years of service. Alameda Elementary also donated a book in his name to the school's library.

When Anchondo was contacted regarding the situation, she requested that all questions be directed to Sands, who said, "Every company has a policy and our idea of a crossing guard is someone who gets out there and secures the crosswalk. I continually tried to correct him and show him how to cross, but he chose not to follow procedure after numerous verbal warnings, and he needs to follow policy just like anyone else."

Patricia Pohl, operations manager for All-City Management Services, admitted that policies are constantly changing and evolving, but that this particular policy has been in play for more than six years.

"We don't just put anyone out there," said Pohl, who has been with All-City since 1994. "These are special people who do dangerous and important work. We try very hard in accommodating our employees while insuring safety to everyone involved."

According to Pohl, the All-City Employee Handbook states that crossing guards are to be placed "along the edge of the crosswalk, nearest to and facing the center of the intersection."

This particular policy, Pohl said, was established after she attended a training session in Florida back in 2000.

"Florida had adopted a similar policy, and we thought, 'before something happens, we should change our policy too,'" Pohl said. "Our goal is to be successful in providing safety and we didn't want to learn the hard way in establishing safer policies."

When asked whether or not employees receive notification of changes to the policy, Pohl said that policies become truly productive when area supervisors demonstrate changes that are made rather than verbally communicating them.

"Crossing guards should be concentrating to focus on the threats, which are the vehicles, while crossing...they should be positioned with the greatest visibility of the intersection," Pohl said. "We are aware that policy changes can be difficult for some to adapt to and we do what we can to accommodate our employees. But at some point you have to question how long you try to apply new policies to employees who are resilient. You ultimately have to make a decision that's best for everybody – and sometimes that's hard."

"We ask a lot of these folks, but we ask primarily that they understand we have their best interest at heart."

Although Caton isn't a crossing guard anymore, he still visits the school on a regular basis to keep in touch with children and parents.

"I really miss them," said Caton. "I've seen kids start school here and finish school here, and I've watched so many of them grow up and become young adults. I don't consider crossing a job – I consider it helping and protecting family."

Storytime Festival at Stonewood Feb. 23

DOWNEY – The Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Downey will be hosting a Storytime Festival on Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Macy's Court in Stonewood Center.

Children ages 2 to 13 are invited to hear stories being shared and receive a free book or two. There will also be free face painting at the event.

Sebastian Sidi to perform at La Villa

DOWNEY – Sebastian Sidi will be performing at La Villa Peruvian Restaurant on Feb. 22 at 8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15 at the door. La Villa is located at 11837 Downey Ave. For more information, call (562) 923-1219.

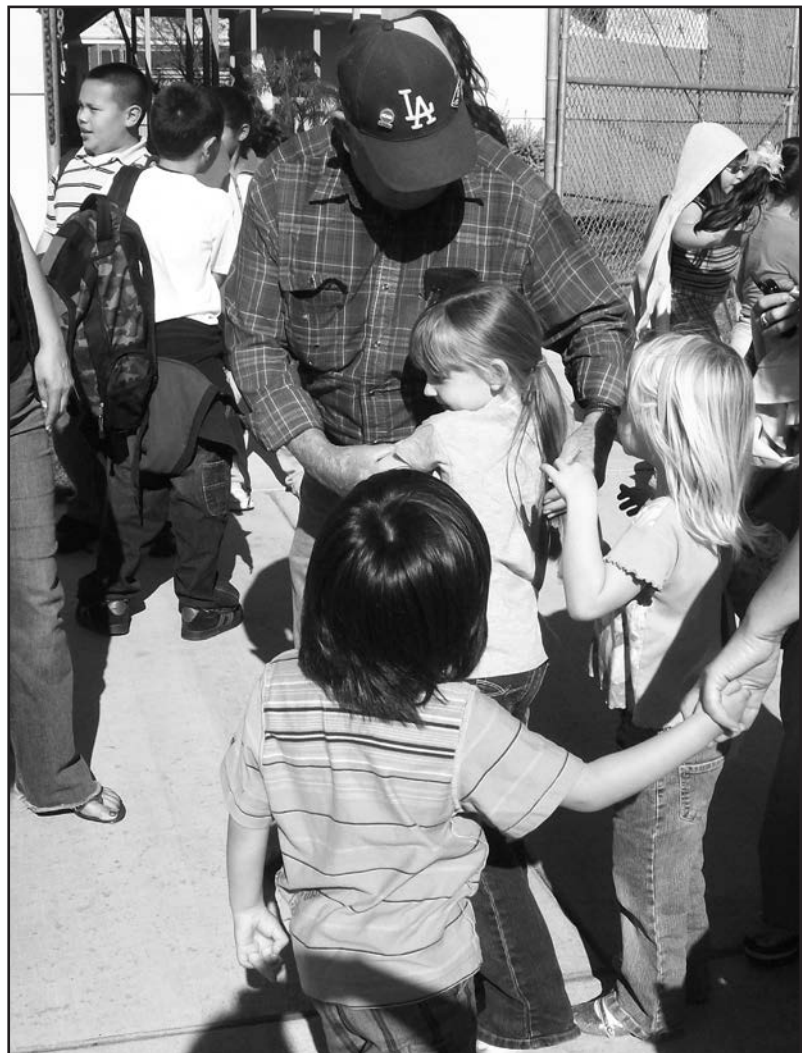
Carpenters honored by former hometown

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – Richard and Karen Carpenter were honored as "hometown heroes" yesterday at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society in New Haven, Conn.

The Carpenters called New Haven home in the 1950's before moving to Downey in 1963.

New Haven honored the Carpenters with a multimedia presentation entitled "Yesterday Once More: New Haven Remembers the Carpenters" at the city's museum. The tribute also featured musical performances by local singer Anne Tofflemire and pianist Andrew Rubenoff.

"There's been a sort of mini-Renaissance of the Carpenters," New Haven Museum Director Bill Hosley told the *New Haven Register*.



Crossing guard Alvin Caton is still a frequent visitor at Alameda Elementary, where he helped guide students across the street for 17 years. Photo by Brooke Karli

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction

- *"Anatomy of Deception"* by Lawrence Goldstone. In 1889 Philadelphia, a young doctor grapples with the scientific process to track a killer.
- *"A Fraction of the Whole"* by Steve Toltz. This is an irreverent, comic novel about Martin and Jasper Dean - a father and son against each other and against the world.
- *"More Than Words: Vol. 4"* by Linda Lael Miller. In this series, best-selling romance authors have penned stories inspired by real life heroines.
- *"Slip of the Knife"* by Denise Mina. As a reporter, Paddy is accustomed to crime scenes - but nothing has prepared her for this visit from police.
- *"Unaccustomed Earth"* by Jhumpa Lahiri. The Pulitzer Prize winner offers eight new stories that take the reader from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand, with insights into family life and the immigrant experience.

Non-Fiction

- *"Escape from Saddam: The Incredible True Story of One Man's Journey to Freedom"* by Lewis Alsamari. In this memoir, the actor reveals how he risked his life to return to Iraq to save his family.
- *"A Life with Carol: My Forty-Year Friendship with the Man Who Became Pope"* by Stanislaw Dziwisz. This new book is an affectionate portrait of Pope John Paul II by his longtime secretary and confidant.
- *"Losing It: And Gaining My Life Back One Pound at a Time"* by Valerie Bertinelli. The actress and Jenny Craig spokeswoman reveals how she lost weight and regained self-esteem and happiness.
- *"Why Mars and Venus Collide: Improving Relationships by Understanding How Men and Women Cope Differently with Stress"* by John Gray. The bestselling author helps couples keep their love strong by helping them cope with everyday stress.
- *"Why Women Should Rule the World"* by Dee Dee Myers. The former White House Press Secretary offers an inspiring look at women and leadership.

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

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THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES PG	(10:15 12:50 3:15) 5:45 8:20 10:40
WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS PG13	(10:30 1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:50
FOOL'S GOLD PG13	(10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:10 10:10
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FIRST SUNDAY PG13	(11:00 1:35 4:10) 6:45 9:20
MEET THE SPARTANS PG13	(10:45 1:05 3:25) 5:45 8:05 10:25
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THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES PG (11:40, 2:10, 4:40), 7:15, 9:45

STEP UP 2 THE STREETS PG-13 (11:15, 12:00, 2:05, 4:35, 5:20), 7:05, 7:50, 9:35, 10:20

FOOL'S GOLD PG-13 (11:00, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30), 7:20, 9:55, 10:45

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS PG-13 (11:10, 1:50, 4:35), 7:25, 10:10

THE EYE PG-13 (12:05, 5:10), 7:40

RAMBO R (2:30), 10:15

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Times for Thursday, February 14, 2008

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DUSD

Continued from page 2

"These three women work as a team," he said, "and they handle it all with care and professionalism. They exemplify the best of Downey Unified in the area of creating a positive environment and culture."

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude cash donations including a total of \$27,165 from Williams PTA to benefit Williams Elementary School (distributed as follows: \$15,000 for the purchase of playground equipment; \$7,000 for teacher supplies; \$3,000 for field trips; \$1,000 for the Holiday Assembly; \$665 for the purchase of Good Citizen decals; and \$500 for the purchase of playground balls and equipment); \$3,300 from Carpenter Elementary PTA for student field trips; and \$10,000 from the Jerome Foundation (and \$17.20 from Albertson's), to be used in support of the TLC Family Resource Center;

- A donation of 28 teacher grants from the Mary R. Stauffer Foundation, valued at \$77,240 to fund clubs, materials and equipment;

- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;

- Ratified the FY2007-08 general agreements with the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. and First Steps, retroactive to July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

- Ratified Special Education payments;

- Ratified the 2007-08 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) subrecipient grant agreement with the City of Downey effective July 24, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

- Approved Part II of the Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, and approved its submission to the State Department of Education;

- Authorized the 2007-08 membership in the Josephson Institute of Ethics;

- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;

- Ratified payments for hourly, overtime, and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services for the month of December, covered by Payroll Orders issued through January, 2008;

- Ratified B warrants for payment of authorized purchase obligations incurred by law or district policy for January, 2008;

- Ratified the agreements between the Downey Adult School Career & Education Center and Cuevas Chiropractic, Jones Healthcare, and LACNA Dialysis Access Center, to furnish practical experience to students enrolled in the Medical Assistant program;

- Approved the irrigation design services agreement between DUSD and Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen, Inc., Irvine, in the amount of \$29,800 for the redevelopment of the irrigation system at East Middle School; to be charged to Maintenance Funds;

- Approved the agreement between DUSD and Joyce Inspections & Testing, Inc., Costa Mesa, for certified inspection consulting services for new construction and/or modernization projects, as needed, in the estimated annual amount of \$300,000—with no guarantee that the amount will be met or exceeded, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, to be charged to General and/or Bond Funds;

- Awarded the bid for the exterior painting of classroom buildings at Columbus High School in the amount of \$34,937 to M&R Painting and Decorating, Rowland Heights, to be charged to Adult School Funds;

- Approved the change orders, increasing the amounts, for the Warren High School new library, classroom building and modernization, all to be charged to Bond Funds, in favor of C & H Construction, Santa Ana (rough carpentry and framing), Continental Marble and Tile Company, Corona (ceramic tile), and JAM Fire Protection, Inc., Monrovia (low voltage systems), as well as for the Downey High School new classroom building (Bldg. "B"), in favor of PW Construction, Glendora;

- Approved the change order with Tyson Foods, Inc., Los Angeles (for commodity processed chicken), to be charged to Food Services Funds;

- Accepted as complete concrete, electrical, and fencing work performed by various vendors;

Money tree raffled off at luncheon

DOWNEY – The Italian Catholic Federation of St. Raymond's Catholic Church will be having a Bingo luncheon on Feb. 17 at 1 p.m.

Donation is \$10 and includes one free Bingo card, door prizes and lunch. A \$25 money tree will also be raffled off.

St. Raymond's is located at 12348 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

For information, or to purchase tickets, call Aline Amatisto at (562) 693-9430, or Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937.



West Middle School's Isela Mendez "is the model for the ideal EDL teacher," said principal Craig Bertsch. She was awarded the Superintendent's Vision Award this week.

- Approved the adjustments of the 2007-08 Adult School restricted and unrestricted budgets, as well as the Cafeteria Fund 2007-08 restricted budget, to reflect increases to the fund balance; likewise to the 2007-08 General Fund restricted and unrestricted budgets;

- Approved the adjustment of the 2007-08 Health Care Self Insurance Fund unrestricted budget to reflect an increase to the fund balance in the amount of \$2,443,011;

- Approved the purchase of equipment, as listed, in accordance with established purchasing policies and regulations;

- Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Approved the abolishment of one vacant Energy Manager position and the revised Classified Management Salary Schedule, effective Feb. 12, 2008,

- Approved the abolishment of two vacant Senior Instructional Assistant positions at Downey High School, effective Feb. 12, 2008 (The special needs students for whom the positions were created are no longer at Downey High);

- Ratified the establishment of new limited-term positions with duties corresponding to similar current job classifications, assigned, in this case, to: Griffiths and East Middle Schools; Alameda, Price, and Gallatin Elementary Schools; and Warren High;

- Approved the changes to the duties of Data Processing Manager reflected in a new duty statement effective Feb. 12, 2008, and also approved the new Classified Management Salary Schedule;

- Reviewed the proposed addition—"Debarment"—to Administrative Regulation (AR) 6360;

- Approved the Single Plans for Student Achievement and Title I Parent Involvement Policies;

- Reviewed the proposed revisions to AR 3162, Title I Parent Involvement;

- Approved the Career Technical Education Grant applications submitted by Downey and Warren high schools;

- Approved the Deferred Maintenance Five-Year Plan, State Allocation Board form SAB 40-20; and

- Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on student cases.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11 at the Gallegos Administrative Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

Realty World Capero ribbon cutting

DOWNEY – Realty World Capero, along with the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 21 from 4 to 10 p.m.

Realty World Capero specializes in buying, selling or refinancing; becoming first time home buyers; investment properties; commercial properties; restructuring loans; short-sales; foreclosures; and REO's.

Realty World Capero is located at 8151 3rd St. in Downey.

Evelyn Kay Morris services tomorrow

DOWNEY – Evelyn Kay Morris passed away Feb. 8 due to cardiac arrest from complications due to a massive embolism. She was 31.

Morris recently had surgery to remove a benign tumor and repair her spinal column. A life-long resident of Downey, she was born March 7, 1976 at Whittier Presbyterian Hospital.

She attended Gaudin Elementary, East Middle School and Downey School. She furthered her education at Cerritos College and transferred to Cal State Long Beach. She graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education.

A member of the Pi Lambda Theta International Honor Society, Morris continued her education at Cal State Long Beach to receive her Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential. While attending college she was employed by the Downey Unified School District as an Instructional Assistant working at Old River Elementary and West Middle Schools, and as a substitute teacher.

She began her teaching career in 2002 at Sussman Middle School as an English teacher and was in her fifth year of teaching.

Morris was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and attended the Downey 4th Ward. She attended and graduated from a four-year seminary program in 1994. She continued her religious studies at the Institute of Religion adjacent to Cerritos College and graduated from a two-year program in 1996.

Funeral services are scheduled for tomorrow, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 12425 Orizaba Ave., in Downey. A viewing will take place on hour prior to the service. Interment after the service will be at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

A viewing is also scheduled for today at Allen, English, Estrada Mortuary in Bell Gardens from 5 to 9 p.m.

Morris is survived by her parents, D. Mark Morris and Pamela Morris; three sisters, Allison Marshall, Kathryn Morris and Sharon Levine; and two brothers, Brian Morris and Wayne Morris.

Wellness Package offered by Life Line

DOWNEY – Life Line Screening will be providing screening packages, which includes stroke and osteoporosis screenings, as well as a heart rhythm screening, Feb. 25 at Christ Lutheran Church.

Screenings will begin at 9 a.m. and are fast, painless and affordable. They help identify potential health problems such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women.

The Wellness Package costs \$149. All five screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Pre-registration is required.

To schedule an appointment, call (888) 754-1464.

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.

Volunteers to be recognized April 19

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will be hosting its 24th Annual Volunteer and Major Donor Recognition Breakfast on April 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The event will take place at the Rio Hondo Event Center located at 10627 Old River School Rd.

Lost When It Comes to Finding the Best School for Your Child?



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Other than yourself as a parent, there is probably no stronger influence on your child than the school he or she attends. We understand this because we see the difference our school makes in our students everyday. That's why the National Catholic Schools Week theme for 2008 is: Catholic Schools **Light the Way**.

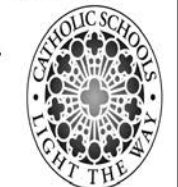
A Catholic school can play a significant role in the positive growth of your child. Catholic schools really do "Light the Way" by providing a faith-based education that supports the whole child in improved learning, and in leading a fulfilled, balanced and meaningful life.

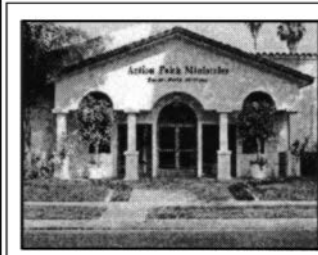
Catholic schools also "Light the Way" by supporting you as a family, and making a positive and lasting impact in our communities. Our balanced, well educated and spiritually nurtured students will "Light the Way" to a brighter future, through their leadership in our communities, government, businesses and families.

And finally, Catholic school teachers "Light the Way" in each and every classroom, through their dedication to strong academics and the healthy spiritual development of each of their students.

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Welch resigns as football coach at Warren High

■ Warren's head football coach Jeff Welch resigns from program for the second time in four years. Chris Benadom takes over.

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

DOWNEY – There has been another changing of the guard over at Warren High School. For the second time in four years, football head coach Jeff Welch is stepping down from his position making way for assistant head coach Chris Benadom to take over.

Welch, 45, will be stepping down again for similar reasons to last time's resignation. He currently has a school with his wife that continues to grow which called for him to focus a little more on his growing business that continues to flourish.

With Welch's resignation, it makes way for Benadom to take over a program that had a successful past season. When asked about any differences about philosophies between the two coaches, both think that much won't change as they were on the same wavelength when they worked together.

"I think Welch ran a good program," Benadom said. "I'll put my spin on things around here but I don't think I need to change much."

As new head coach, Benadom, 35, will continue to run things the same way Welch did when it comes to off-the-field behavior.

"Things will be very similar to Welch," he said. "We're going to do the things you're supposed to. Be here, be on time, do what's right, be good kids in school and be all around good model citizens."

"We're going to try and do more with the 'Character Counts' and the six pillars and go through that stuff with players along with 'Victory With Honor' from CIF."

Like Welch, Benadom said his ultimate goal is to prepare the kids for life and being good citizens. He hopes that football will coordinate all of those things with them. While the focus is on his kids becoming good citizens, Benadom couldn't help but express that he's anxious to get going in his new position.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I went to school here at Warren. I coached here for a long time with Welch and I'm excited about this opportunity to be head coach."

While Benadom had the torch passed on to him, Welch is not completely walking away from the program. Benadom said ideally Welch will continue to be in the program helping along the younger kids and hopefully will become the head freshman coach in the program.

While stepping down as head coach will help the future business of his school and most likely positively influence the potential of the kids in his school, Welch did say he will miss certain things about being on top.

"I'm going to miss being around the guys everyday and being competitive," he said. "The varsity level is just a lot of fun. There's a lot of competition out there and it's always a challenge every week to get the kids to play and be successful."

Welch does have complete faith in Benadom as his replacement, saying he knows Benadom will do a great job.

"He's going to do a great job," Welch said. "He's a great man and he's worked hard here for years and I have nothing but confidence in him."

The change of positions took effect last Monday.

Tennis classes at Independence Park

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Community Services Department will be offering a new slate of tennis classes for youth and adults beginning March 4 at Independence Park.

Adult classes will be held Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Each class is one hour long and will focus on continued skill development from beginning to advanced players. Cost for the eight-week class is \$95.

In addition, an adult tennis league will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m., offering a blend of socialization and competitive league play. Cost for the league is also \$95 for eight weeks.

Youth classes will also be offered for ages 4-7 and 8-14 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays for the cost of \$95 for eight weeks.

Instruction will be led by tennis professional Fabian Grassini.

Independence Park is located at 12334 Bellflower Blvd. in Downey.

For information, or to register, call (562) 904-7238.



Downey AYSO Boys Under 10 All-Stars won first place last weekend at the Area All-Star Tournament. The team played against other local teams and finished undefeated. The team beat Huntington Park 3-1 during the championship game and will now advance to a tournament to be held in San Marcos, Calif. Pictured are Robyn Ortega, David Lemuechi, Peter Torres, Oskar Raymundo, Phillip Caro, Fabian Medina, Kelly Cortez, Steven Escobar, Christopher Sanchez, Kevin Chavez, Xavier Solorio, and coaches Johnny Lemuechi and Felipe Caro. Not pictured is Coach William Moreno.



Jeff Welch, left, has resigned as head coach at Warren High School. Replacing him is Chris Benadom, pictured above. Photo by Art Montoya

Warren baseball adjusting to new skipper

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

Ah, yes. It's that time of year again. The grass is starting to get a little bit greener, the brick dust is being put down on the field and baseball and softball players are starting to get back into their full practice routines.

Baseball and softball season is just around the corner with only about two weeks until the first full squad scrimmages for both Warren and Downey. Baseball and softball are the last two major sports of the school year and they're looking to both be very exciting.

Starting with baseball, unfortunately the only big news with both these teams is that Warren yet again has a new head coach. Last year's coach Ariel Guiron was one-and-done leading the way to a new coach.

Paul Alvarez, a former coach from Gahr High School has now taken the reigns to a program that once had a proud winning tradition. In the past few years, the wheels started to come off resulting in sub-.500 records.

Warren's instability at the coaching positions has left the program in shambles with the players training in the off-season with volunteers and

other coaches who had no real interest in taking over the program.

But now, with a former Gahr coach you can expect a lot more bunting, stealing bases, better pitching and everything else that Gahr is known for. Warren lucked out in getting a coach from such a successful program. Only time will tell though if the move will pay off.

With baseball comes softball and funny enough, neither of the baseball teams are ranked. When you look at the CIF rankings for softball though, guess who you see there? The Warren Bears are ranked as a Top 10 team in the CIF preseason polls.

Warren had a very successful season last year taking their season to the brink of a CIF championship.

The Bears reached the semifinals and lost a very close game by a couple runs. With that success from last year, look for the Bears to make another run at a CIF championship.

The weather is getting warmer and it's always a great time of year. This year won't disappoint.

Downey beats Artesia, perfect Mater Dei is next

DOWNEY – Riding an unexpected offensive surge, Downey High School's boy's basketball team rolled to a 72-62 victory at Artesia Wednesday night to advance to the second round of the CIF playoffs.

The 72 points marks the highest point total the Vikings have tallied in any game this year.

Downey entered the game with a 13-15 overall record (3-7 league). Their season includes notable victories over Calvary Chapel, Warren, Lynwood and Bishop Amat.

Downey will host undefeated Mater Dei tonight, with the winner facing the winner of the Harvard-Westlake/Long Beach Poly game.

Mater Dei is 27-0 this season. They previously beat Downey 83-48 in a preseason game last November.

Little League in search of former players

DOWNEY – The West Downey Little League is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008 and is asking former players to submit photographs and stories for inclusion in a 50th Anniversary celebration.

Photos and stories can be submitted to WDLL, 11985 Old River School Rd., Downey, 90242, or by calling (562) 928-2837, emailing westdowney@yahoo.com, or visiting www.eteamz.com/westdowneylittleleague.



Roy Jimenez, outgoing president of the Kiwanis Club of Downey and loyal baseball fan, recently received a baseball bat signed by every member of the Club from incoming president, John Casillas.

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COUNCIL

Continued from page 3

\$1,329 per month for 66 radios. Signal Hill is now in the process of investing \$225,000 to update its equipment and has accordingly requested a 10 percent increase in Downey's monthly fee. The city of Downey deems this rate adjustment reasonable;

- Approved a professional services agreement for \$25,000 with Chattel Architecture, Planning, and Preservations for historic preservation consulting services related to the cleanup and reuse of the Johnnie's Broiler site located at 7447 Firestone Blvd.;

- Approved Amendment No. 4 to the I-5 Consortium Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement, which was established in 1990 to allow member cities (totaling six in all, including Downey) to work in partnership with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration for the purpose of pursuing innovative capacity enhancement alternatives to avoid significant at-grade widening that would result in negative social and economic impacts on the I-5 corridor communities;

- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the planned Bellflower Blvd. at Imperial Highway intersection improvement project, mainly due to projected future traffic volume growth;

- Approved an unscheduled purchase of \$15,000 for radio and electronic equipment for the Fire Department;

- Accepted the completed improvements along with the maintenance responsibility for the work completed at various locations under Cash Contract No. S.S. 567, and approved the final construction contract amount of \$505,274;

- Awarded a cash contract for \$353,470 to Bannaoun Corporation for miscellaneous concrete construction and repair, including sidewalk and disabled access ramp work;

- Approved the plans and specifications for Phase I-D of the Lakewood Blvd. Improvement Project, and granted authority to advertise for bids. The project involves improvements (right-of-way, site grading, etc.) at the southwest corner of Lakewood Blvd. at Firestone Blvd., site of Citibank's proposed new 6,000-sq. ft. facility. This is in line with the city's more inclusive Lakewood Boulevard Improvement Project;

- Adopted a resolution accepting a fee and waiving three automobile parking spaces in addition to the fee waiving six parking spaces required for Dr. Lee Mark and Associates, a physician-owned surgical center which will offer podiatric and orthopedic surgeries. The facility lies within a Parking Assessment District consonant with the downtown parking structure;

- Adopted a resolution instructing the City Engineer to prepare and file a report on assessments with Lighting and Landscaping Assessment District A.D. for FY2008-09. The California Streets and Highways Code requires that the city prepare an Engineer's Report every year to evaluate

the assessment rates for the various zones within the Lighting and Landscaping District.

A little background, provided by the Public Works Department: there are approximately 6,135 streetlights in the city of Downey which provide illumination for traffic and pedestrian safety. Of the total, about 1,255 streetlights are owned by the city, 57 lights are owned by the state, 33 lights are shared with other cities, and the remaining ones are owned by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE). Additional lights will be energized during 2008 as a result of development and street improvement projects.

The cost of maintaining and servicing the streetlights and 107 traffic signals is paid from a combination of assessments on individual parcels under the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, as well as revenues from general property taxes.

The Council will review the results of the Engineer's Report and subsequently set a public hearing date, to determine the next year's assessment rates;

- Adopted a resolution approving the Department of Public Works' plan of apportioning \$1 million of the city's share of \$1,826,970 obtained through the State of California Proposition 1B bond funds of \$19.925 billion for FY2007-08, for the maintenance of and improvement of various transportation facilities within the city, and the remaining \$826,970 to help pay for the FY2007-08 Residential Street Pavement Rehabilitation Project, will involve the rehabilitation of portions of 57 residential streets at various locations throughout the city;

- Introduced an ordinance renewing the 10-year lease agreement between the city of Downey and the Downey Chamber of Commerce;

- Adopted an ordinance amending Section 4600.2 of the Downey Municipal Code relating to noise, in response to strong complaints from affected residents. The amendment allows enforcement of noise restrictions both within and adjacent to residential areas;

- Heard an update on the former Johnnie's Broiler property located at 7447 Firestone Blvd.;

- Referred the proposed no cost Agreement with CGI Communications (CGI) for the production of on-line community promotional videos to the

City Attorney for legal review. More specifically, it was suggested that the matter of indemnification be addressed, as well as a "quick pullout" clause, in case the city may want to opt out of the proposed tie-up in the future;

- Adopted a resolution authorizing the city-sponsored certified Farmers' Market, and adopting requisite operating rules (including limiting the participation of arts & crafts vendors as well as performing artists to 10 percent of floor space each, to prevent the market from potentially morphing into a swap meet or a carnival), and authorizing specific license waivers;

- Appointed Councilman Rick Trejo and Councilwoman Anne Bayer as members of a temporary Council sub-committee to review the city's solid waste disposal contract with CALMET;

- Decided to put City Council announcements/requests for future agenda items/conference and meeting reports at the beginning of the agenda; and

- Adopted a resolution amending the fees and criteria for discounted dog license fees for senior citizens and handicapped persons (Rf. Resolution No. 3569).

The next regular public City Council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

Solution to weight loss to be revealed at ABWA meeting

DOWNEY – The El Dorado Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will have their next meeting on Wednesday at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Guest speaker Sheri O. Zampelli, M.S., author of "From Sabotage to Success," will share her solution for weight loss that works for life.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

For information, or to make reservations, call Susan Torrance at (562) 695-7361.

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"Amanda Lee did a great job! I am renting now but will be buying another house in 6 months and I will use Amanda as my agent." – Tawni Darr

"Many Thanks to Steve Roberson and Brian Holden for all their hard work in getting our house sold. We also appreciate the countless hours Brian put in on our open houses. We closed the year on a very good note!" – Patti Port

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Teachers urged to claim out-of-pocket expenses

DOWNEY – As the April 15 deadline to file tax returns approaches, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard encourages teachers, teachers' aides, principals and counselors to take advantage of a federal tax deduction for school supplies purchased with their own money.

The \$250 deduction – available to educators regardless of whether they itemize – can be taken by an educator for unreimbursed school-related expenses for items such as books, pencils, scissors, paper, art supplies, computer equipment, and other supplementary materials used in the classroom.

According to the National Education Association, teachers spend an average of \$443 of their own money each year on school supplies.

"It is unfortunate that teachers are often not provided with all the school supplies they need to effectively teach their students in the classroom," Roybal-Allard said. "By making this tax deduction available, Congress is attempting to help the many caring teachers who use their own money to purchase necessities such as notebooks and pencils for their students. These educators are to be commended for their commitment to our children."

To be eligible, teachers must work in a school for at least 900 hours in a school year. In addition, teachers must be prepared to show receipts for the eligible purchases.

Career Expo at Cerritos College

NORWALK – Cerritos College's annual Career Expo and Job Fair will be held March 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event, which attracts more than 300 attendees each year, is free and open to Cerritos College students and the general public. It is recommended that attendees dress in business attire and bring copies of resumes with them.

A resume building workshop will be offered Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. A Spanish-language version of this workshop will be offered on Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. A workshop in successful job fair tips will be offered Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. and Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2367.

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