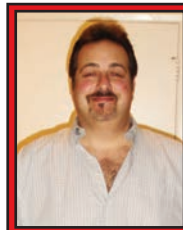




# The Downey Patriot



**100 lbs. and still going**  
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**A foot-tapping history lesson**  
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**Pre-paid plan can save money**  
See Page 2

Friday, February 29, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 45

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

## Man arrested in wife's stabbing death

**DOWNEY** – A man who allegedly stabbed his wife to death with a large kitchen knife after an argument at the couple's home was arrested and booked for murder Monday after crashing his car on the 605 Freeway.

Kris Young Lee, 35, allegedly stabbed his wife multiple times at about 3:25 a.m. Monday, said Sgt. Jeff Calhoun of the Downey Police Department. A short time later, he crashed his car on the northbound 605 Freeway at the Rose Hills exit, where he allegedly confessed the murder to California Highway Patrol officers.



Kris Young Lee

CHP officers notified Downey police, who were already at the murder scene.

Lee was transported to USC Medical Center for a hand injury apparently suffered during the altercation, which took place at 10429 La Reina Ave., police said. He was later booked at Los Angeles County Jail and bail was set at \$1 million.

The couple was reportedly having marital issues, resulting in an argument inside the couple's apartment, Calhoun said.

The victim, identified as 28-year-old Ratchanok Seesura, had been stabbed several times and was found covered in blood and lying on the bedroom floor, Calhoun said. The Los Angeles County Coroner's office worked with the local Thai consulate to notify next of kin in Thailand, Calhoun said.

The couple's 3-year-old boy reportedly left the apartment at the time of attack. He was later found at a neighbor's apartment with a cut on his foot, although police were not sure if it was sustained in the attack.

The boy is now in foster care, Calhoun said.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call Detective Paul Hernandez at (562) 904-2368 or Detective Steve Aubuchon at (562) 904-2361. – Eric Pierce, City Editor

## Resident honored for volunteer work

**DOWNEY** – Downey resident Dennis Pagenkopp was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the city of Bellflower's Bravo Awards ceremony held Feb. 13.

Pagenkopp is a member of the School Attendance Review Board for the Bellflower and Paramount Unified School Districts, and meets with "at-risk" youths every week in hopes of rectifying attendance issues and keeping the students in school.



Pagenkopp was a member of the Los Angeles Police Department for 30 years before working for the District Attorney's office for 13 years. He retired three years ago.

In addition, Pagenkopp served as a board member at the LivingHelp Center in Downey for six years, and organized the non-profit's annual golf tournament. He currently sits on the Traffic Committee for Downey's District 5.

"This is just one example of the dedicated people who live here in Downey," said Councilwoman Anne Bayer, who heads the LivingHelp Center. "With people like this our future is truly unlimited."

## Businesses in Downey hope for improvements

■ Business owners along Firestone Boulevard corridor say beautification efforts are long overdue.

By Brooke Karll, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – With preparations underway for a potential Bob's Big Boy restaurant in Downey, city officials, as well as residents and business owners, are hoping that the restaurant's possible addition will bring along some changes to the face of Downey.

"I think Bob's Big Boy will bring people from all over to our city," said Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehn. "So we are looking to make improvements in other areas of the city in anticipation of widening our customer base."

Improvements to the city's downtown area seem to be of greatest concern, as the once flourishing district shows signs of struggle.

Currently, facade improvements are being made to Kelly's Tavern, which will also neighbor incoming doctor's offices on Firestone Boulevard near La Reina Avenue.

Business owners along that strip are hoping more improvements are coming sooner than later.

"I was told that someone can't just come in and tear down these buildings and start from the ground up – they can only redevelop," said Art Valencia, owner of Art's Camera on Firestone Boulevard. "The only way these buildings can be tore down is if someone comes along and buys the whole property."

Valencia said the city needs to not only make facade improvements, but also improvements to the rear of the buildings as well.

"There have been so many problems since the bus depot was added behind us," said Valencia, who has worked at the camera shop since 1979. "There has been more graffiti, vandalism and car thefts, and a woman was even raped back there. They need to improve everything, not just what people see when driving by."

John Fu, owner of Country Oak Furniture, said he is having to close his shop after just nine months of business because of a steep decline in profits.

"Many businesses in Downey are doing well, but I have a lot of

See FIRESTONE, page 7

## Going for the Championship



Downey High School's girls soccer team will attempt to cap their memorable year with a championship when they face Oaks Christian High School tomorrow in the CIF Divison V finals at Warren High School. The Vikings defeated No. 1-ranked South Torrance in penalty kicks Wednesday to reach the finals. Tomorrow's game starts at 4 p.m. Photo by Diana Vance

## Vultee Aircraft history examined at library

**DOWNEY** – The Aerospace Legacy Foundation will present a free program on the history of Vultee aircraft at the Downey City Library on March 9.

"Vultee: a World War II slide show featuring Downey Vultee Aircraft" will be presented from 2 to 3 p.m. in the library's Cormack Room.

Audience members will see photos and learn about the history of the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, popularly known as Convair, that delivered more than 28,000 aircraft during that time period. The program is part of a week-long series of events about World War II during the library's



"One Week, One Community" reading project featuring Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation."

"We thank the Aerospace Legacy Foundation and their president, Jerry Blackburn, for presenting this unique program" said City Librarian Nancy Messineo. "They honor the rich legacy of Southern California aviation, showing that aerospace companies were the lifeblood of the local economy and brought breakthroughs in technology."

Japanese-Internment

Educator and longtime Downey resident Paul Yokota will present

See ONE BOOK, page 7

## Brossmer announces candidacy for City Council District 3 seat

■ Downey Adult School principal Roger Brossmer will make a run for the City Council this November, when Rick Trejo and Kirk Cartozian are scheduled to be termed out of office.

By Eric Pierce, City Editor

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School principal and Planning Commission member Roger Brossmer has become the first person to toss their hat into what could become a crowded and competitive field for two open City Council seats this November.

Brossmer formally announced this week his intention to run for Downey's District 3 seat, set to be vacated later this year by Rick Trejo, who will be termed out of office after two terms on the Council.

"Rick did his eight years and did a fine job," said Brossmer, a former Downey High School teacher. "There's a lot of exciting things that are going to be happening in the city and I want to be a part of it."

With Trejo and Councilman Kirk Cartozian both set to be termed out of office this November – and Mayor David Gafin up for reelection – Brossmer said now was an ideal time to run for office.

"I've had my eye on it for a while now," said Brossmer, 42. "I debated the idea a lot, and it feels like the right time. My family was a little worried about the time commitments involved, as they should have been, but they totally support me in this."

Brossmer said he gained approval from Downey Unified School District superintendent Wendy Doty before making his decision. He said he also spoke with fellow Planning Commissioner Jeff McCaughan, who Brossmer said has no plans to run for Council.

"Once I got approval from those three [his family, Doty and McCaughan], I was ready to go," said Brossmer. "Everything is moving rapidly now and the picture is forming. I should be pulling papers sometime next week."

If elected, Brossmer envisions himself as a unifying figure who could help reinstate cohesiveness to a community still stinging from a bitter Measure G campaign.

The way Brossmer sees it, only a small group of Downey citizens take an active interest in City Council issues, "and that group seems polarized. It's almost an issue of who came up with the idea rather than what the



Roger Brossmer

issue is really about. I want to get everybody back on the same page.

"My goal is to get rid of some of the riff raff going on right now and get some consensus."

Brossmer counted former council members as sources of inspiration. "I really looked up to [Meredith] Perkins when he was on Council," said Brossmer. "He and [Robert] Winningham were great, great city guys, and [Keith] McCarthy as well."

Brossmer has deep roots in Downey. He was born in Downey, and his grandparents purchased their first Downey home in 1947. While his formative years were spent in Washington state, he earned a bachelor's degree in Aquatic Biology and a master's degree in Education from UC Santa Barbara.

According to his biography, Brossmer moved back to Downey following college, and immediately began a teaching career at Downey High School, where he taught biology and anatomy for eight years. Brossmer also chaired the school's Technology Committee and Science Department until 2003.

After completing his administrative credential, Brossmer was hired as a vice principal at Downey Adult School. Two years later, in 2005, he was promoted to principal following the retirement of Kathy Gorman.

As principal, Brossmer oversees a \$7 million annual budget which serves over 14,000 students.

Brossmer is currently in his eighth year on Downey's Planning Commission after his appointment by Trejo in 2000.

Brossmer said he attended NASA's Educator Space Camp Academy in Huntsville, Ala. and has "long championed a vision for honoring the rich aerospace legacy in Downey." He has also served as director for the Aerospace Legacy Foundation and is the youth director for Downey Rotary.

The past five years Brossmer has also been involved with the American Cancer Society and their annual "Relay for Life" fundraiser, which last year reportedly raised over \$100,000 for cancer-related research and care.

Just last year Brossmer was appointed as an at-large member to Cerritos College's Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. The committee, established in 2004, is responsible for overseeing the college's appropriate use of bond funds.

Brossmer is married to his wife Esther, a fifth grade teacher at Carpenter Elementary. Together they have two boys, Blake, 6, and Cole, 4.

Brossmer's campaign can be reached at (562) 927-9230 or by e-mailing brossmerforcitycouncil@yahoo.com.



## Island residents make request for security lighting at park

**DOWNEY** – City officials say they will look into adding security lighting at Treasure Island Park after receiving the results of a recent survey submitted by “Island” residents.

Out of 299 surveys sent to residents of the “Island,” the somewhat isolated community in northwest Downey, 171 surveys were returned, according to city of Downey Public Information Officer Juddy Cenicerros.

The survey results revealed security lighting at Treasure Island Park as the top concern among residents, Cenicerros said.

“According to residents around this area, security lighting is the one improvement necessary due to strangers hanging out at the park late at night and causing problems for the surrounding neighbors,” Cenicerros said in a statement. “Other areas that residents also feel need improvement are the walking trail, turf renovation, and playground equipment.”

Thad Phillips, director of Community Services, first reported the survey results to the City Council on Jan. 29, and again Feb. 19 at Unity in the Community’s fourth anniversary meeting at Our Lord’s Grace of Downey Church.

Phillips said that security lighting will be submitted as a capital improvement project for the city’s 2008-09 fiscal year budget.

“I am pleased that there is some progress being made and we are glad the city allowed us to give our input,” said Margarita Rogers, president of Unity in the Community.

## Neighborhood watch gets large turnout

**DOWNEY** – Gauldin Elementary hosted approximately 40 residents last week in the city’s first neighborhood watch meeting since reintroducing the program earlier this year.

Residents living near the school’s surrounding streets, including Dunrobin, Cornuta, Eastbrook and Washburn Avenues attended the meeting, which was also attended by police department city representatives, according to Downey Public Information Officer Juddy Cenicerros.

Cpl. Perry Miller and Sgt. Dwayne Cooper of the Downey Police Department spoke to residents about how to report suspicious behavior to police, as well as providing safety tips.

Mayor David Gafin, a longtime proponent of the program, was also in attendance.

A block captain training meeting will be held next month for residents interested in learning how to bring their community together for the purpose of keeping their neighborhood safe. Residents interested in becoming block captains should call Cenicerros at (562) 904-7285.

For more information regarding neighborhood watch in Downey, call (562) 904-1895.

## Author Freddie Weber visiting church

**DOWNEY** – Speaker, author and songwriter Freddie Weber will visit the Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment this Sunday for a special workshop titled “Now!”



The workshop will begin at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door.

Weber is the author of several books, including “The Power of Nothing,” “Losing Your Mind to Save the World,” and “Yikes! Nothing to Hold Onto! So Why am I Happy?”

Her one-woman musical presentations, “The Power of Now” and “Now” have been performed across the country.

For more information, or to buy tickets, call (562) 928-6469. The Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment is at 10000 Paramount Blvd.

## Celebrities descending on Warren High

**DOWNEY** – Warren High School will be hosting a celebrity basketball game fundraiser Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 pre-sale, available at the ASB Bankers Office at Warren, or from any ASB student. Tickets at the door will be \$10.

Celebrities scheduled to compete against Warren faculty include Josh Henderson (“Desperate Housewives”), James Hyde (“Passions”), DJ D-Wrek (“Wild N’ Out”), Matt Czuchry (“Gilmore Girls”), and Roger Cross (“Mad Money”).

Others expected in attendance are Denzel Whitaker (“The Great Debaters”), Efran Ramirez (“Napoleon Dynamite”), and Matthew Underwood (“Zoey 101”).

R&S Cheer Connection, OnStage Dance Center and 102.7 KHIS-FM are sponsoring the event.

# Residents urged to enroll in city’s Emergency Transportation Program

■ Residents can pay an annual fee of \$42 for unlimited emergency transportation services in the city of Downey. The savings, officials say, can be substantial.

CONTRIBUTED BY MARK SAUTER, FIRE CHIEF, DOWNEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**DOWNEY** – In 2007, over 4,000 Downey residents were transported to local hospital emergency rooms, a service made possible by Downey Fire Department personnel who utilize resources for patient transportation that in turn shortens response times and improves the continuity of patient care. Overall, the Downey Fire Department delivers emergency medical service over 5,000 times every year.

Once again, the city of Downey is offering residents an opportunity to take advantage of the city’s Emergency Transportation Subscription Program, which has been servicing Downey citizens since 1986. For an annual fee of \$42, household members will be provided with unlimited emergency transportation services in the city of Downey without any additional cost. The program is optional, but the following emergency medical transportation costs for residents choosing not to participate in the program should be noted (fees set by the County of Los Angeles and the city of Downey):

- Advanced Life Support transport – Fees start at \$1,029 and increase depending on services.
- Basic Life Support transport – Fees start at \$762 and also increase depending on services.

The Emergency Transportation Subscription Program is a supplemental insurance program that eliminates additional “out of pocket” expenses. If a resident subscribes and have medical insurance, the city will request a copy of their insurance card and bill that insurance carrier for the full cost of the service. The unpaid insurance balance will not be paid by that resident. Billing the resident’s insurance company helps maintain the minimal annual fee charged to subscribers. As a subscriber, all members of the household will be entitled to use the program as long as their full name is listed on the enrollment form. In some cases, they may be required to provide proof of residency that was valid on the date of service, such as a California ID card, California Driver’s License, or other identification.

Coverage runs from March 1, 2008 through Feb. 28, 2009.



Downey Fire Department personnel transported over 4,000 people to local emergency rooms last year. The city is offering residents a \$42 pre-pay option for emergency transportation services. Photo courtesy Downey Fire Department

The following are frequently asked questions regarding the Downey’s Emergency Transportation Program:

- Q:** Is there a charge for paramedic service?  
**A:** No. Fire Department firefighters and paramedics respond and medically evaluate members of the community free of charge when responding to a 911 call.
- Q:** Is there a charge for Emergency Transportation Service?  
**A:** Yes. However, if you are a subscriber and you have medical insurance, we will bill your insurance first. Your subscription will cover any unpaid balance. Non-subscribers will be responsible for all charges.
- Q:** What does the annual \$42 subscription fee cover?  
**A:** The subscription covers 911 emergency transportation services provided by the city of Downey Fire Department.
- Q:** If I am a subscriber but my pick-up location was not in Downey, would I still be covered?  
**A:** No. The program is only applicable when the pick-up location is within Downey city limits.
- Q:** If my household is subscribed, will I still receive an invoice?  
**A:** Yes. Our system uses one statement for all transports, regardless of subscription status. The first invoice will request a copy of your medical insurance information so we can bill your insurance directly. If you do not have insurance coverage and are transported, when you receive a city of Downey invoice, contact our billing office at (562) 904-7254. A letter stating that you have no insurance to cover this debt will be sent for your signature and return. Your subscription will then cover the unpaid balance.
- Q:** I gave my insurance information to the hospital and to the paramedic who transported me. Why are you requesting this information again?  
**A:** Any insurance information given at the scene or at the hospital is for the hospital use only. Due to very strict privacy laws they cannot share that information with the city.
- Q:** Can I give my insurance information over the phone?  
**A:** No. Again, due to strict privacy laws, we cannot accept insurance information by telephone. It must either be sent by mail or personally delivered to City Hall.
- Q:** I live in an apartment building/condominium complex. Does that \$42 cover the entire complex?  
**A:** No. Each unit or apartment must be enrolled individually.
- Q:** If I have visitors in my home who require emergency transportation, are they covered by my annual subscription?  
**A:** No. Only the permanent residents listed on the enrollment form are covered.
- Q:** I used the Fire Department Emergency Transportation Service, but I did not subscribe. Can I subscribe now to cover that call?  
**A:** No. Enrollment is not retroactive; you are responsible for those costs. You may, however, enroll for the remainder of the year at any time.

For more information, or to sign up for the Emergency Transportation Program, call (562) 904-7345 or (562) 904-7254.

Provided by the Downey Fire Department

# Save the date: Street Faire coming May 3

**DOWNEY** – The 15th annual Downey Street Faire will take place May 3, Downey Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sue Nordin and Street Faire Chairman Rick Rodriguez announced this week.

The faire will feature more than 200 crafters, organizations and businesses lined on Brookshire Avenue, just north of Firestone Boulevard.

This year’s faire layout will be different from years past, said Nordin. The food court and entertainment area will be on the east side of Brookshire, while the Kid’s Zone will be located in Downey High School’s north parking lot. The car show will be Downey High School’s south parking lot along Firestone.

Live entertainment will be provided all day on the lawn near Downey High School’s “R” building.

Faire sponsors to date include CareMore (platinum); Downey Regional Medical Center and Sky Management (diamond); Downey Savings & Loan, Stonewood Center and Wescom Credit Union (silver); and Call Yellow and Variety Ticket Service (bronze). “Friends of the Faire” include Don Dixon & Associates Insurance and More Than Accounting, Inc.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For information, call (562) 923-2191.

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## Attorney's office honored with prestigious award

**DOWNEY** – Tredway, Lumsdaine & Doyle (TLD), LLP, with offices in Long Beach, Irvine and Downey, have been honored with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Blue Ribbon Award.

This is the third year in a row TLD has won the award. "Winners of the Small Business Blue Ribbon Award have served their employees, customers, and communities with a consistent dedication that exemplifies America's spirit of enterprise," said Giovannie Coratolo, executive director of the U.S. Chamber Small Business Council. "Small businesses are the backbone of America's economy, representing more than 99 percent of all employers, creating three-fourths of all new jobs, and accounting for more than one-half of the nation's gross domestic product."

The Small Business Blue Ribbon Award was designed to honor businesses that showed excellence in a variety of selection criteria, including financial performance and business history, staff training and motivation, community involvement, customer service, and business planning.

Winners of the award from around the country will be honored at Access 2008, the Chamber's Small Business Summit. The award is part of the Chamber's Small Business of the Year selection process. One Blue Ribbon Small Business will be selected from each of the seven regions as a finalist for the U.S. Chamber Small Business of the Year Award. The finalists will be announced on March 15.

Founded in 1961, TLD has grown from one attorney and one employee to 14 attorneys and 30 employees in offices in Downey, Irvine and Long Beach.

## Local student accepted to law forum

**DOWNEY** – Anthony Pacheco, a junior at Downey High School, has been chosen to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law this summer in Washington D.C.



Pacheco will spend six days at the forum, where he will have the opportunity to meet professionals from some of the nation's top law firms, observe the legal process in action, and interact with faculty from renowned law schools. Participants, consisting of high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from across the nation, will also test the fundamentals of law through simulations and engage in debate over several legal issues facing our country today. At the end of the week, students will conduct a model Supreme Court hearing based on an actual case, applying court procedures as they analyze and argue the constitutionality of the issue at hand.

For more information on the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law, visit [www.nylf.org](http://www.nylf.org).

## River Song a finalist for Merit Scholarship

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School Principal Tom Houts recently announced student River Song as a finalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Certificate of Merit from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by Houts to Song.

The selection of 8,200 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 finalists is now in progress.



Kevin Baker has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base. He is on track to earn an associates degree in Applied Science from the Community College of the Air Force.

## Kevin Baker succeeding in Air Force

**DOWNEY** – Air Force Airman Kevin W. Baker graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. on Feb. 1.

During Baker's six weeks of boot camp, he learned the academics and physical fitness required of the Air Force, as well as teamwork and discipline. He participated in Warrior Week, a week of field training experience in which he learned basic survival and combat skills, including how to handle and operate an M-16 rifle.

Baker is currently at technical school on Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Tex. He will earn an associates degree in Applied Science upon completion of his technical training from the Community College of the Air Force.

Baker is a 2006 graduate of Calvary Chapel Christian High School in Downey, where he played centerfield on the varsity baseball team and made first team in the Gold Coast Athletic Conference in the Delphic League in his senior year.

Baker is the son of Mark and Stephanie Baker of Downey, and the grandson of Warren and Virginia Baker of Downey, and Madeline Romines of San Pedro.

## McCarty completes basic training

**SAN ANTONIO** – Air Force Airman Kendall W. McCarty has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.

During the six weeks of training, McCarty studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

McCarty also earned credits toward an associates degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

McCarty is the nephew of Leesa Mahaffey of Downey.

## City Council OK's Smithsonian loan deal

■ Downey will receive mostly space-related artifacts on loan from the Smithsonian Institution for the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center. Lobbying efforts scheduled for Monday.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY**—The City Council Tuesday approved and authorized a loan agreement with the Smithsonian Institution, initiating the process whereby the city will receive artifacts from the venerable institution's National Air and Space Museum for its Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center.

The Council has previously appropriated \$42,350 from its NASA grant for the relocation of an Apollo space capsule, whose formal name is the Apollo 19A Boilerplate Command Module, from its erstwhile city of Palmdale site to temporary storage at the Downey Studios.

A team of Downey officials composed of Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, Deputy City Manager for Special Projects Desi Alvarez, and newly-appointed Columbia Learning Center Executive Director John Betthausen is departing this Monday for Washington, D.C., to lobby Smithsonian and NASA representatives for additional funds and artifacts to further enhance the Learning Center's planned collection of exhibits designed to do justice to Downey's rich and famed aviation and aerospace history.

An important part of their visit to the nation's capital will be their

meetings with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, as well as with the city's formal Washington lobbyist Jim Dykstra—all vital allies in their development of the Learning Center.

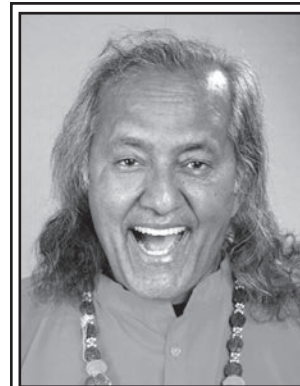
In the meantime, the Council lauded the attendance of 4th and 5th grade Student Council members from Rio Hondo Elementary School, which provided a rare glimpse into how young minds function. (They were good, ebullient, articulate, and fearless).

Also, the announced plan to turn the stripped-down Johnnie's Broiler into a Bob's Big Boy drew universal approval from the floor; several citizens, both native and out-of-towners, said they look forward to its opening. One enthusiastic supporter of the move even offered her services as one of its inaugural waitresses.

In other action, the Council:

•Appropriated \$24,000 from the General Fund for emergency roof replacement for Furman Park Bldg No. 1, which is about twenty years old and deemed to have reached the end of its service life; it is currently

See COUNCIL, page 9



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## OH HOPPY DAY! MARCH 1-22



The Easter Bunny is in Macy's Court and he can't wait until you hop on over for a visit!

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## Arlene Mae Durr Zuber passes away at age 94

**DOWNEY** – Downey resident Arlene Mae Durr Zuber passed away at Southland Assisted Living in Norwalk on Feb. 18. She was 94.

Zuber was born June 12, 1913 in Williamsburg, Iowa. A homemaker, she lived in Downey for 56 years and attended Messiah Lutheran Church.

Services were held Feb. 25 at Miller Mies-Mortuary with Rev. Michael Hayes officiating.

Zuber is survived by her son, Wayne Zuber, and his wife, Jeanette (Rulon) Zuber of Upland; daughter, Barbara (Zuber) Drotter and her husband, Jim Drotter of La Quinta; grandsons, Jon Zuber and his wife, Laura Lee Zuber, and Warren Zuber and his wife, Susan Zuber; granddaughter, Ginger (Drotter) Murner and her husband, Mike Murner; great-grandchildren, Sarah Zuber, Nicholas Zuber, Shaun Murner and Kelly Murner; sister, Helen (Durr) King and her husband, William King; brother, Harold Durr and his wife, Coleen Durr; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Reno Zuber, and daughter, Marilyn Zuber.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorials to Messiah Lutheran Church, 10711 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90241; or Hospice, 10000 Lakewood Blvd., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.



## Ivan Stenerson was an active Boy Scout leader

**DOWNEY** – Ivan Stenerson, Downey resident since 1949, passed away on Feb. 21. He was 88.

Stenerson was born on Sept. 5, 1919 in Highland Township, Wisc. He joined Boy Scout Troop 82 in Viroqua, Wisc., where he was the third person to ever receive Eagle Scout. He later went on to play the cornet for the Boy Scouts of America's National Jamboree in Washington, D.C.

From 1942 to 1945, Stenerson served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation metal smith and swimming instructor, obtaining the rank of Metal Smith First Class.

Stenerson married his wife, Maxine, in 1947. They moved to Lynwood in 1949, followed by a move to Downey the same year. He joined Christ Lutheran Church in Downey in 1961, serving on the church council three times.

He was very involved with the Scouts, serving on the Frontier Cooking Staff, where he cooked for campers and conferences at Circle-X and Firestone Scout Camps. He also served as patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, scout master, committee chairman and instructor. He has participated on the Frontier District Eagle Board of Review, the National Boy Scout Jamboree, the National Scouting Museum staff, and the Registration for Frontier District Merit Badge.

Stenerson had received numerous awards, including Commissioner Key in 1964, Master Key in 1968, Frontier District Award of Merit in 1965, Wood badge Beads in 1971, Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow in 1976, Lutheran Lamb Religious in 1984, and a 50-year pin and certificate from the National Scout Office.

He also joined the Sierra Club in 1968, hiking to the tops of more than 300 mountain peaks in 11 years. In 1969, he served the Downey District as an advancement chairman and district commissioner in 1970. He was on the camping committee from 1968 to 1973.

He is preceded in death by son, Paul, who passed away in 2002.

Stenerson is survived by his wife, Maxine; daughter, Gail Griffith; and grandson, Bryan Griffith.

Memorial services will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Downey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Christ Lutheran Church, Boy or Girl Scouts of America, or to the charity of choice.



## Euna Hetherington, 92, was devoted churchgoer

**DOWNEY** – Euna Hetherington, 92, born Dec. 10, 1915 in Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada, passed away Feb. 20 in Downey.

A longtime Downey resident, she was an active member of Downey Memorial Christian Church and a previous member of Hope Reform of Los Angeles and Huntington Park Christian Church. She was also a frequent volunteer at church bazaars.

Hetherington took up bowling at 70, and also enjoyed bingo, crafts, and knitting.

A celebration of life service will be held March 1 at 11 a.m. at Downey Memorial Christian Church, 8441 Florence Ave. Private graveside services will take place at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Downey Memorial Christian Church.

Services were under the direction of Risher Mortuary and Cremation Services.



## Rodney Kent Still remembered at service

**DOWNEY** – Funeral services were held Feb. 27 for Rodney Kent Still, a 57-year-old Downey resident who died Feb. 20 in West Covina.

Still was born in Lynwood but resided in Downey.

Visitation was held Feb. 26 at Miller-Mies Mortuary while services were at Trinity Lutheran Church in Norwalk. Burial was at Downey Cemetery with Pastor Bill Brunold officiating.

Still is survived by his mother, June Ferguson; brother, Larry Still; nephew, Nicholas Still; and many friends.

## Miguel Gutierrez survived by four sons

**DOWNEY** – Miguel Gutierrez, a longtime resident of Downey, died Feb. 6 in Bullhead City, Ariz.

Born May 8, 1930, he lived in Downey for more than 40 years. He is survived by four sons, Michael, Daniel, Steven and Victor.

## Radio Club meeting on Thursday

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Downey.

The community is invited to attend. For more information, call (562) 861-6069.

## Relay for Life meeting at Adult School

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Chapter of the American Cancer Society will have its first Relay for Life team captain meeting on Monday at 5 p.m. at Downey Adult School.

Relay for Life is an overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs for the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at the school and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track during the 24-hour period.

The Downey Chapter will host its annual Relay for Life on June 7 - 8.

## St. Joseph Table celebration March 16

**DOWNEY** – The Italian Catholic Federation branch 362 of St. Raymond Parish will sponsor their 25th annual St. Joseph Table on March 16 in Msgr. Bog Gipson Hall at 12348 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

The viewing of the table will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; a liturgical celebration at 11 a.m.; blessing of the table at noon; and pasta dinner from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

For more information on the celebration, call Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937 or Marguerite Ferraro at (562) 869-7024.

## The Poet's Corner

### Springtime

The trees turn green  
and the bushes do blend  
And the flowers do arrive  
causing them to thrive  
It's the season for spring's rain  
and the flowers so reign  
Always remember this season  
for all it's real meaning  
So let us always remember  
this special time of year

– Don Davis,  
Downey

### My Rock

Everyday at two o'clock  
I sit upon this very rock  
I count the ants as they crawl by  
They never stop to tell me "Hi"  
One day I looked behind that rock  
and found some key to some lock  
So I started on my lengthy quest  
To find some treasure in some chest  
It took me eighty something days  
Before I got me through this maze  
I found the lock that matched the key  
The box was buired by this tree  
I opened it with anxious hands  
For I have wandered many lands  
Soon I will hold what long I seek  
I lift the lid and take the peek  
What I saw was quite a shock  
Another key a different lock  
All this time I never thought  
The treasures buired by my rock.

– Jenerous,  
Downey

### Thought and action

'Swounds! Why the muddle?  
Why the tears, the moaning,  
the gnashing of teeth?

If you but think, think deeply,  
the doubts will flee...  
upon the dark labyrinths  
of your mind...  
and cleanse your heart.

So live, full-knowing  
that time, and space,  
are yours -- for the asking.

– Henry Veneracion,  
Downey

## PAC meeting to feature mayor

**DOWNEY** – Mayor David Gafin will discuss redevelopment, blight, and other issues affecting the Firestone Project Area at this Tuesday's meeting of the Downey Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC) at 6:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library.

The community is invited to attend. More information is available in the PAC agenda located inside the library.

## Labor consultant offering help

**DOWNEY** – EDD and labor market consultant Ericka Saenz will be a guest presenter at Downey Adult School this Tuesday 4 from 10:45 a.m. to noon.

Saenz will be demonstrating how to effectively navigate the labor market information Web site for the state of California. Visitors to the presentation will also learn how to explore different career options, survey specific occupation profiles, and search for active job openings.

For more information, call (562) 940-6236.

## School open house schedule released

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Unified School District has announced the dates and times for upcoming open houses at local schools. The schedule is below:

Carpenter Elementary	March 6	6:30 p.m.
Sussman Middle School	March 13	6:30 p.m.
Rio Hondo Elementary	March 19	6 p.m.
East Middle School	March 20	6:30 p.m.
Griffiths Middle School	March 20	6:30 p.m.
Warren High School	April 2	5:30 p.m.
Downey High School	April 3	6 p.m.
Gallatin Elementary	April 10	6 p.m.
Rio San Gabriel Elementary	May 20	6:30 p.m.
Alameda Elementary	May 22	6:30 p.m.
Gauldin Elementary	May 22	5:30 p.m.
Lewis Elementary	May 22	6 p.m.
Old River Elementary	May 22	6:30 p.m.
Unsworth Elementary	May 22	6 p.m.
Ward Elementary	May 22	6:30 p.m.
Williams Elementary	May 22	5:30 p.m.

## Composer in concert Thursday at DMOA

**DOWNEY** – Composer and multi-woodwind player Vinny Golia, with friends, will perform a small, intimate concert this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Downey Museum of Art, located at Furman Park.

Golia is a composer who "fuses the rich heritage of jazz, contemporary classical and world music into his own unique compositions." Golia has won numerous awards as a composer, including grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Lila Wallace Commissioning Program, the California Arts Council, Meet the Composer, Clausen Foundation of the Arts, Funds for U.S. Artists, and the American Composers Forum.

In 1990 Golia was the winner of the *Jazz Times*' TDWR award for bass saxophone, and in 1998 he ranked first in the Cadence Magazine Writers & Readers Poll. He has also continually placed in the Downbeat Critic's Poll for baritone saxophone.

Golia was appointed in 1998 Regent's Lecturer at the University of San Diego. He currently teaches at California Institute of the Arts.

Admission to the concert is \$10; \$5 for seniors and \$1 for DUSD students and teachers.

For more information e-mail Harry Scorzo at hscorzo@vionfonik.com.

## The Story of The Bible

**March 13th -15th 7pm to 8pm**  
North Downey Church of Christ  
8836 Lindell Avenue, Downey Ca. 90240  
Near the Corner of Lakewood Blvd & Telegraph Road

### St. Mark's Episcopal School

10354 Downey Ave, Downey, Ca. 90241

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- Secured Campus with Small Class Sizes
- Total Enrollment 150
- Extra Curricular: Homework Club, Bell/Chimes Choir, Recorder Choir, Band, Club Fit and Service Club to Enhance Leadership Skills
- Additional Programs: Keyboard Lessons, Dance Class and Manners/Etiquette Classes Offered at Cost
- Before and After School Child Care Available

For Additional Information or a Tour of the School  
Please Call **(562) 869-7213**  
E-mail: [info@stmarkschooldowney.com](mailto:info@stmarkschooldowney.com)

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## Letters to the Editor:

### Staying vigilant

Dear Editor:  
In response to the editorial of Feb. 22 ("Moving Forward," 2/22/08), I would like to make the following comments:

There were more than a handful of people that spoke at the February 12 council meeting and they were expressing themselves in the American way which is their right. The only "threat" I heard was the talk of a possible recall. For the last few weeks the people have been speaking out at the meetings and criticizing Councilmen Cartozian and Guerra over the Measure G expense of \$85,000.

Another point I question is the mention of my lawsuit now. This was printed on the front page of the Herald-American in April 2007 and was a very frightening and traumatic experience. Despite this, I have always, and still do, respect the police.

Regarding my demand to see copies of e-mails and faxes from Councilmen Cartozian and Guerra you stated that the request was dropped. City Manager Gerald Caton told me that he sent e-mails to city council members only and not to the press. I talked to Mayor Gafin, Councilman Trejo and Councilwoman Bayer and they all stated that they did not release the confidential memo to the press. That only leaves Mayor Pro Tem Guerra and Councilman Cartozian to have leaked this to *The Downey Patriot*. To clarify, after the city was unable to comply with the copies within the required 10-day period they asked for a 10-day extension. To save the expense and aggravation to the city of Downey I decided to drop the request.

Regarding the statement that the public comments portions were slanderous and bordered on libel – a number of the speakers felt the comments were very much warranted and well founded. I personally have attended City Council meetings for over 30 years and I do not intend to stop. As long as our citizens attend meetings, and continue to be watchful and vigilant, we will never head down the path of some of our neighboring cities.  
— **Lennie L. Whittington,**  
**Downey**

### Rational suggestion

Dear Editor:  
For months I've watched the proponents of "Save the Carpenters House" call for city council to make the Carpenter home a protected landmark.

Let's look at this suggestion rationally, rather than emotionally. There is no denying the fact that the Carpenters are a source of tremendous pride for the city of Downey. Their music has made a significant contribution to the American pop genre. Until they moved away from the city several years ago, Richard and Mary Carpenter were tremendous supporters of our schools and the community.

This in no way justifies taking away the property rights of the current owner. Richard Carpenter could have preserved the home if he had chosen to do so – he certainly had the financial resources to have held onto the property if he had wanted to. Or he could have donated the property to the city to be made into a landmark. But he didn't. The current owners (whom I do not know) purchased the home in good faith that it was to be their own property to do with as they wished.

The city would be wise to leave the current owners in peace to develop their property as they wish, in according to city building code. What next...preserving the one time home of James Hetfield? I hope not – my brother and his family live in that house...  
— **Jane Shults,**  
**Downey**

Dear Editor:  
I wish to commend Messrs Acardo and Propp, Ms. Wilson (*The Downey Patriot*, 2/22/08) and all historical preservationists who are concerned about protecting the few historical landmarks we have left in Downey.

I applaud their good intentions on this matter but as it has often been stated, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. What we need is more than good intentions.

I respectfully suggest to all historical preservationists to pool their resources and purchase the buildings they want to preserve. Once done they could donate them to the city for preservation or they could continue the process themselves. This will accomplish several things, no financial burden will be imposed on the current owners of those buildings, the new owners will prove that they put their money where their heart is and the rest of us will enjoy the fruits of that labor.  
— **Jorge Montero,**  
**Downey**

### High price for beef


Dear Editor:  
It the heart-rending video secretly taped at a slaughterhouse in Chino, a forklift driver pushes a weak, moaning cow – even backing over her leg. Imagine a cherished pet dog or cat in her place.

This is not an isolated problem solved by the shutdown of one meat packer – nor by the arrest of a hired hand following orders. It's no surprise that slaughterhouses see perpetual turnover of their minimum-wage employees.

Raising cows, pigs and chickens humanely requires the space they once enjoyed on family farms and ranches. Obviously, that translates into higher prices at the supermarket. I propose a slogan regarding all meats: Pay double, eat half, break even. When it comes to our health, less meat is more, anyway.  
— **Susan Christian Goulding,**  
**Seal Beach**

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to *The Downey Patriot*, 8301 E. Florence Ave. Suite 100, Downey CA 90240 or by e-mail to [downeypatriot@yahoo.com](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com). Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.

## The Downey Patriot

	<b>Jennifer DeKay-Givens..... Publisher/Adv. Director</b> <b>John Adams..... Editor Emeritus</b> <b>Eric Pierce..... City Editor</b> <b>Henry Veneracion..... Staff Writer</b> <b>Brooke Karli..... Staff Writer</b> <b>Dorothy Michael..... Display Advertising</b> <b>Mary Forney..... Display Advertising</b> <b>Linda Larson..... Classified Advertising</b> <b>Jonathan Fox..... Production</b> <b>Gibran Latif..... Webmaster</b>
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 Phone (562) 904-3668 \* Fax (562) 904-3124  
 Hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
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### Bob's to the rescue

Dear Editor:  
It is so exciting to hear that Bob's Big Boy is interested in buying and restoring the historic Harvey's Broiler ("Negotiations Underway to Replace Johnnie's with Bob's Big Boy," 2/15/08). Harvey's is a huge part of Southern California's 1950's and 60's culture and is a very important part of Downey's history.

When the Broiler was partially demolished more than a year ago, it truly broke our hearts. Many of us have been tirelessly working to see a day when the Broiler would be rebuilt to its original grandeur. Bob's we hope could be that answer. Bob's Big Boy would not only be rebuilding a historic diner, but it could serve as a catalyst to improve the entire area.

Let's bring Bob's to Downey; it's time to protect and rebuild the history of our city.  
— **George Redfox,**  
**Downey Historical Society**

Dear Editor:  
The purpose of my letter is to raise awareness and encourage support for a possible Bob's Big Boy restaurant in the city of Downey. There is a positive buzz around town that Bob's is interested in restoring Harvey's/Johnnie's Broiler and turning it into a new Bob's Big Boy.

I can remember as a child enjoying a Bob's Big Boy Combination with my parents and grandparents at the old Bob's on Florence (now Carrows restaurant). The fun atmosphere and great food was always such a draw. Just last week, my family traveled to Burbank to visit the original Bob's and ended up sitting next to none other than Drew Carey.

How wonderful would it be to have a little of Harvey's back with a twist? It could be just the thing that Downey needs to close the book on an old friend named Harvey and begin a new friendship with a boy named Bob!  
— **Carrie Redfox,**  
**Downey**

Dear Editor:  
I was never much for the "preserve Johnnie's Broiler" crowd, but the news of a Bob's Big Boy moving into the spot appears for the moment to be the solution which will appeal to most of those interested. It will be able to restore a decaying site to visual agreeability; will put a commercially viable business in place; will give consolation to devotees of Johnnie's; and will attract the attention of Big Boy fans, including those who remember fondly (but I hope more realistically) the former Bob's on Florence Avenue.

Not bad, if it works out, considering the mess that is there now.  
— **David T. Bouffard,**  
**Downey**



### Ugliness all over

Dear Editor:  
My initial reaction to the letters to the editor over the past couple of weeks was unabashed anger at those who have splattered their letters with horrible things about our city council, especially Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra. I decided, as I usually do when I am angry, to wait to speak out so that I am not merely reactive to the ugliness displayed but can respond in calm manner. (A lead perhaps some of these unhappy citizens should follow.)

The Downey Guerra with Guerra's mug. (Ugly!) More bang for their buck and the Three Stooges. (Ugly!) Tseklenis for Council or how about Pridham for Council or Larkin for Council or Prokop for Council or Roberts for Council or Whittington for Council or Casillas for Council or Hannon for Council. The last City Council meeting. (Ugly! Ugly! Ugly!) You are so right, Eric Pierce ("Moving Forward," 2/22/08). It is time to move on. It is time to stop being ugly. It's time to step up or shut up.  
— **Diana Hansen,**  
**Downey**

## The simple truth about birth defects

BY CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD AND DANI MONTAGUE

Gazing upon a newborn baby is one of life's simplest joys. But assuring the birth of a healthy baby is anything but simple. We cannot take for granted that all babies will be born healthy.

Nationwide, one in three newborns is born with a birth defect. And tragically, here in Los Angeles County, birth defects account for about one in four infant deaths. The death of even one baby is one too many. To save more families from this heart rending grief, we must all take responsibility to act – on the federal stage, within our communities and on a personal level in our daily lives.

Let's start with federal action. We are working to secure approval of *The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007* (HR 3825) in the U.S. Congress. This bill would establish critical national newborn screening guidelines. Newborn screening is a simple blood test that detects many genetic or metabolic disorders before any symptoms begin, allowing crucial time for early treatment to prevent long-term damage, and even death. It also includes screening for hearing.

Even in California where all but one of the twenty-nine disorders recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the March of Dimes are screened, parents and health care professionals need more information about the process and, if necessary, appropriate follow-up care for infants. So a key provision in the bill specifically funds educational outreach.

Federal funding for educational outreach is crucial to increasing awareness about newborn screening and encouraging all women of child-bearing age to take folic acid. Up to 70 percent of neural tube defects –



birth defects of the brain and spinal cord – may be prevented if women consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to and during the early weeks of conception. However, the majority of women in this country are still not aware of the benefits of folic acid, and only about forty percent of women ages 18 to 45 take a daily vitamin with the recommended level of folic acid. We need to get this important message out in our communities.

If you're a woman of childbearing age, seriously consider taking a daily vitamin with the recommended level of folic acid. In the grocery store aisles, you can also look for breads and other grain products that carry a new "Folic Acid for a Healthy Pregnancy" seal. Released by the March of Dimes and the Grain Foods Foundation, the seal helps women quickly and easily identify grain products that contain at least 10 percent of the recommended daily amount of the B vitamin folic acid.

Other simple, yet important, steps that women can take to prevent or mitigate the harm caused by birth defects include consulting a healthcare provider about controlling chronic health issues, achieving a healthy weight, and adopting good exercise and eating habits. Of course, quitting smoking is also highly recommended. Find out even more about these recommendations by visiting [marchofdimes.com](http://marchofdimes.com).

It will take action by all of us – on the federal, state and community levels – to see a lowering of the incidence of birth defects in our country. Through federal actions to expand screening and educational outreach and by encouraging healthy habits among women of childbearing age, we can achieve this obtainable goal and provide a brighter future for America's babies.

*Congresswoman Lucile Roybal-Allard represents the 34th Congressional District of Los Angeles, which includes Downey. Dani Montague is the California State Director for the March of Dimes.*

## A close eye on Proposition 1A funding

BY DON KNABE, SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

There have been many headlines the last few weeks about the budget crunch the state of California finds itself in for the next fiscal year. As you may know Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently released his proposed 2208-09 budget and it projects that the state's budget will likely have a \$14.5 billion shortfall in the coming fiscal year.

This budget crunch won't just be difficult for the state to deal with because it will also trickle down to the local level and impact budgets for cities and counties. With that in mind, this month I wanted to share with you some of the details on where the state budget shortfalls are likely going to hit the Los Angeles County budget.

At this point, the estimated financial impact of the county is facing is a loss of \$219.8 million in state funds. Where will those cuts specifically hit the county? We are anticipating a \$113 million reduction in CalWorks reforms and additional \$11.4 million reduction in health programs. There would be a \$6.6 million reduction in alcohol and other drug diversion programs and also tens of millions of dollars in other cuts for mental health programs, and juvenile probation funding, adult protective services, family health programs, and library funding.

There is one positive aspect of the proposed state budget – the governor did not exercise the state's option to borrow local government's property tax revenues that they are allowed to do under Proposition 1A. It was not too long ago when the California legislature looked to our local revenues to help solve state budget shortfalls. Then in November 2004, the landscape changed as far as the legislature's authority to take major local revenues when voters approved Proposition 1A with 84 percent approval.

With Proposition 1A, our property and sales tax revenues could no longer be raided by the state legislature, as had happened far too often in the past. To give you some idea of how much money I am talking about, in the last year before Proposition 1A passed, \$103.2 million from local



Los Angeles County property tax revenue was taken by the state. That same year, another \$10 million was taken from our special districts, like Flood Control. All told, in the 10 years just before Proposition 1A passed, just over \$1 billion in local revenue was taken by Sacramento. That was \$1 billion that meant fewer deputies, fewer library hours, fewer after school programs.

The problem is there is a little known loophole in Proposition 1A. Beginning in this upcoming fiscal year, the legislature may temporarily suspend the property tax revenue protection provisions of Proposition 1A under certain conditions. The legislature may "borrow" up to 8 percent of local tax revenue if the governor issues a proclamation of "severe fiscal hardship;" or the legislature enacts an urgency statute suspending Proposition 1A property tax protection with two-thirds of each house.

About 20 percent of Los Angeles County's \$21.77 billion budget or \$4.5 billion comes from property taxes – that means that if the governor or legislature suspects Proposition 1A, it could mean a loss to us of approximately \$350 million in a worst case scenario. So what programs would be impacted if we were to lose these hundreds of millions of dollars? By law, we can't cut dollars to federal or state-mandated programs like healthcare to the poor, welfare, jail costs, etc., so it unfortunately would result in cuts to the small, non-mandated portion of our county budget that we actually have discretionary control over.

What we have discretionary control over are things like capital projects to improve our parks and community centers, funds for library hours and library improvements, and investments in our museums – these are the things that would be impacted by Proposition 1A being suspended and revenues being taken from us.

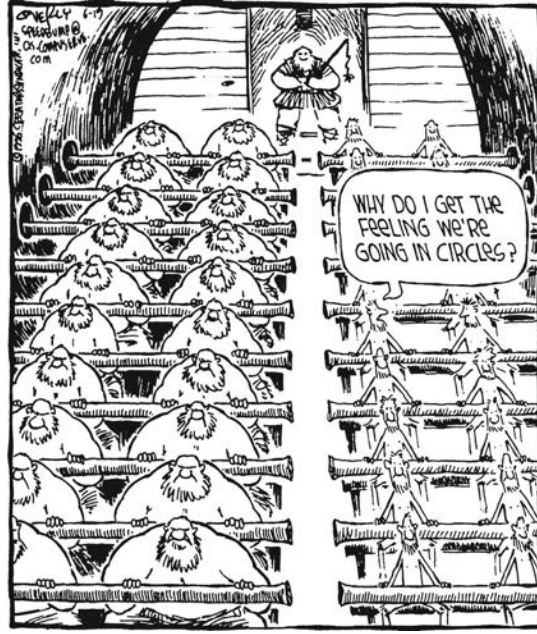
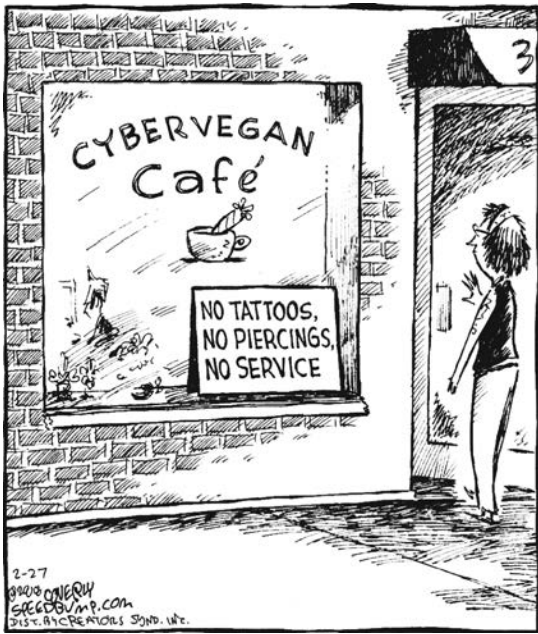
While the threat to take our local Proposition 1A dollars has not happened yet, you can be assured that I will be keeping a close eye on Sacramento to make sure that as this proposed state budget progresses, the threat of a Proposition 1A revenue loss remains only a possibility and not a devastating reality.



## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## On This Day...

**Feb. 29, 1504:** Christopher Columbus correctly predicts a lunar eclipse, frightening Jamaican natives into feeding him and his crew.

**1940:** "Gone with the Wind" wins eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

**1956:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower announces his intention to run for a second term in office.

**1960:** Hugh Hefner opens his first Playboy Club in Chicago. The nightclub and bar features cocktail waitresses clad in bunny outfits.

**1972:** Hank Aaron becomes the first baseball player to sign a \$200,000 contract.

## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For March

Sun. March 2: **Freddie Weber** featured at the Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment, 1 p.m.  
 Tues. March 4: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee meeting**, Downey Library, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wed. March 5: **Celebrity basketball game fundraiser**, Warren High School, 7 p.m.  
 Thurs. March 6: **Vinny Golia** performs at the Downey Museum of Art, 7:30 p.m.  
 Fri. March 7: **State of the City luncheon**, Sambi of Tokyo, 11:45 a.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.

#### Sundays

3rd Sun. Odd # Months 1:30 p.m.: Aerospace Legacy Foundation, at First Baptist Church Room 120.

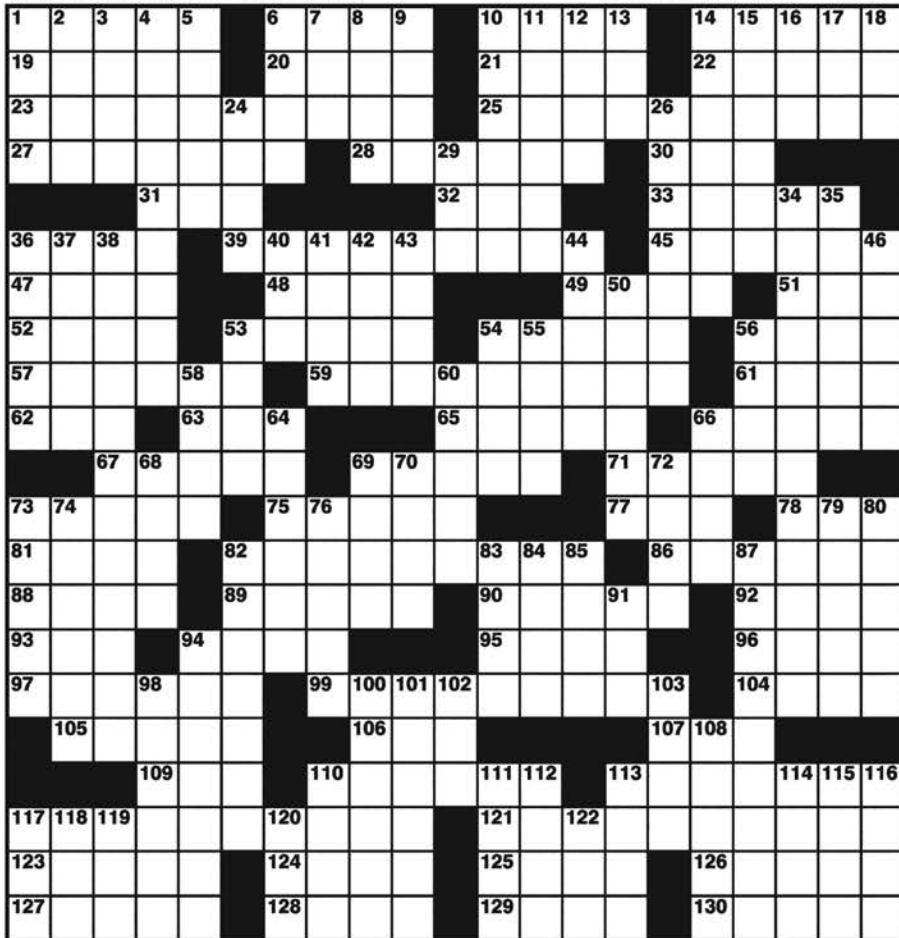
## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

**BREAK A LEG: Then put it back together**

by Fred Piscop

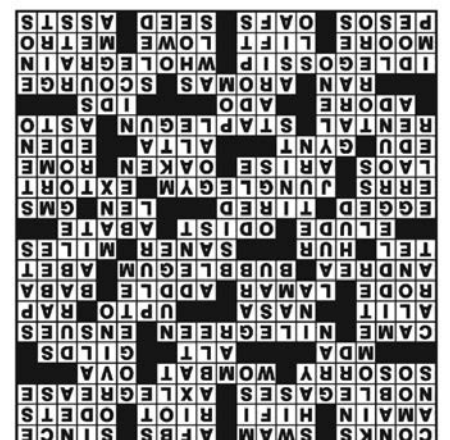
CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 2/24/08



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bops on the bean
  - 6 Dog-paddled, perhaps
  - 10 B-52s' homes: Abbr.
  - 14 Starting from
  - 19 With full force
  - 20 Platter player
  - 21 Wild time
  - 22 Golden Boy playwright
  - 23 Argon and xenon
  - 25 Auto-shop lubricant
  - 27 "Beg your pardon!"
  - 28 Burrowing beast
  - 30 Eggs: Lat.
  - 31 Labor Day telethon grp.
  - 32 In-flight fig.
  - 33 Decorates richly
  - 36 Showed up
  - 39 Sea shade
  - 45 Follows
  - 47 Came to earth
  - 48 Letters on G-suits
  - 49 No more than
  - 51 Eminem's music
  - 52 Went by cab
  - 53 Truman's birthplace
  - 54 Discombobulate
  - 56 Rum cake
  - 57 Tenor Bocelli
  - 59 Supermarket checkout display
  - 61 Help in wrongdoing
  - 62 Business-card abbr.
  - 63 Ben-
  - 65 Less outlandish
  - 66 Jazz trumpeter Davis
  - 67 Give the slip to
  - 69 Pindar or Keats
  - 71 Fall off
  - 73 Incited, with "on"
  - 75 Out of gas
  - 77 Actor Carliou
  - 78 Sports-team execs.
  - 81 Goes astray
  - 82 Playground setup
  - 86 Get by coercion
  - 88 Thailand neighbor
  - 89 Crop up
  - 90 Of durable wood
  - 92 Where da Vinci Airport is
  - 93 www.smu.\_\_\_\_
  - 94 Ibsen hero
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  - 96 Blissful spot
  - 97 Summer place, at times
  - 99 Fastening tool
  - 104 Regarding
  - 105 Be wild about
  - 106 Commotion
  - 107 Driver's lic., et al.
  - 109 Managed
  - 110 Appetite whetters
  - 113 Cause of ruin
  - 117 Chitchat
  - 121 Like some breads
  - 123 Actress Mandy
  - 124 Brit's elevator
  - 125 Rob of the Brat Pack
  - 126 DC subway
  - 127 Cozumel cash
  - 128 Gawky ones
  - 129 Feeder filler
  - 130 Off. helpers
- DOWN**
- 1 Some recyclables
  - 2 Melville novel
  - 3 Catches red-handed
  - 4 10K part
  - 5 Edgar Bergen dummy
  - 6 One-horse carriage
  - 7 Green Bay's loc.
  - 8 Not many
  - 9 Sushi-bar soup
  - 10 Fit for farming
  - 11 Focus intently
  - 12 Run for it
  - 13 Sault \_\_ Marie
  - 14 Actress Mira
  - 15 Lofty standards
  - 16 Tchrs.' union
  - 17 Small change: Abbr.
  - 18 Language suffix
  - 24 \_\_ Canaria island
  - 26 Encouraging words
  - 29 Scratch up
  - 34 Cars and appliances, to economists
  - 35 Navy builder
  - 36 Gemologist's weight
  - 37 Uniquely
  - 38 Moderate's position
  - 40 \_\_ quandary
  - 41 Souvlaki meat
  - 42 Jacob's twin
  - 43 Duds
  - 44 Poke in the ribs
  - 46 Mr. Peanut's legwear
  - 50 Like "mice" or "men"
  - 53 Heap kudos on
  - 54 Sighed word
  - 55 Minor damage
  - 56 Can of worms, at times
  - 58 Israeli leader
  - 59 Olmert
  - 60 45's back
  - 64 Tax form
  - 66 Tailless cat
  - 68 \_\_ is more"
  - 69 Assns.
  - 70 Strikeout mark
  - 72 Existed
  - 73 Angler with pots
  - 74 Highly rated
  - 76 Monogram pts.
  - 79 Big Apple baseball mascot
  - 80 Dictation taker
  - 82 TV talk host
  - 83 World Cup score
  - 84 Jodie Foster alma mater
  - 85 B-school subj.
  - 87 Values highly
  - 91 \_\_ de Cologne
  - 94 Carport kin
  - 98 Bullfighter
  - 100 Import fee
  - 101 Passes, as a bill
  - 102 Lap dog, for short
  - 103 "Well done!"
  - 108 Church doctrine
  - 110 Kashmir locale
  - 111 Saddlers' tools
  - 112 Mule or clog
  - 113 Idditarod vehicle
  - 94 Carport kin
  - 114 "Darn it!"
  - 115 Encircled
  - 116 Eve's grandson
  - 117 Little prankster
  - 118 Female squirrel
  - 119 Spanish article
  - 120 Highway warning
  - 122 Be beholden to

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.

The term NOBLE GAS (23 Across) is derived from a mistranslation of a German word for "immaculate," a reference to inert gases' low level of reactivity. Operatic tenor and "classical crossover" singer ANDREA BOCELLI (57 Across) has sold more than 55 million albums worldwide. His name notwithstanding, GRAN Canaria (24 Down) is only the third-largest of the Canary Islands.





# ONE BOOK

Continued from page 1

"The Japanese-American Internment Experience" at the Downey City Library on March 10 from 7 to 8 p.m., also in the Cormack Room.

Yokota will discuss his experiences as a native Californian born in Yuba City, who attended nine schools in Southern California and then moved to Downey. In the spring of 1942, the United States government forced 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast to leave their homes and enter internment camps in isolated areas. Two-thirds were Nisei, American citizens by birth.

At the age of 21, Yokota was relocated with his family to a camp at Santa Anita and later to Arkansas. Following the internment, Yokota lived in Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio and later returned to Downey where he discovered that his home had been burned.

After completing degrees at Los Angeles City College and the University of Southern California, Yokota served for 37 years as a teacher and administrator for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In retirement, he has been active with Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Meals on Wheels, Downey Adult School, AARP, Downey Committee on Aging, Downey City Library and First Presbyterian Church of Downey.

Yokota will explain the historical context of the relocation and its impact on his family.

"We are so proud to have Paul as our speaker for this project," said Messineo. "His experiences will move you; he truly exemplifies the values of 'The Greatest Generation.'"

### 'California at War'

"California at War," a one-hour film from the PBS series "California Connected," will be shown at the Downey City Library on March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

The story of how World War II changed California and how California changed the war is the subject of the documentary.

"World War II was a turning point for California," said the film's executive producer Bret Marcus. "Some have called it a second 'gold rush' in the sense that the war fast forwarded California into the future.

"California began its transformation from a sleepy West Coast enclave to the mega state it is today," Marcus continued. "And California changed the war. There are historians in this program who argue that victory in the Second World War would not have been possible without the production, technology and troops provided by California."

In "California at War," historians, veterans and eyewitnesses present their stories through the use of film and still photography.

The film showing is one of several events planned as part of the library's "One Book, One Community" reading event.

Free tickets for all events will be distributed 30 minutes before their



Historians say Vultee assembly lines, like the one in Downey pictured above, were critical to U.S. success during World War II. The Downey City Library will chronicle Vultee's history March 9, part of its ongoing "One Book, One Community" reading project.

respective start time. Seating is limited to all events. Audience members can also participate in raffles at all events to win an autographed copy of "The Greatest Generation," signed by Brokaw.

The library is located at 11121 Brookshire Ave. For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.

The Downey Patriot is an official sponsor of "One Book, One Community."

# FIRESTONE

Continued from page 1

competition," said Fu, who has been in the furniture business for almost 20 years. "Our furniture is not what Downey wants - we sell oak and pine pieces, and residents want more contemporary styles."

Although many business owners would blame the economy for sluggish business, Fu said that even though the economy is bad, "people still need to eat, drink, sleep, sit down and drive."

Genevieve Rosales, an employee at The Clothes Closet, said the economy has affected everyone, even her most devout customers.

"I've worked here since 1993 and I've never seen it so slow," said Rosales, a Downey resident since the 1950's. "Our regular customers that always come in aren't coming in as often, if at all."

Of the more than 30 businesses located on Firestone Boulevard between Downey Avenue and Paramount Boulevard, there are six vacant buildings. Country Oak's building will not stay vacant for long, as it is expected another furniture store, Sanchez Furniture, will occupy the property immediately after Country Oak's departure next week, Fu said.

On a recent visit to the area, two of the stores were closed even though signs indicated they were to be open. Many business owners have said that it costs more money to stay open all day without any business, than it does to be open only a few hours each day.

According to Deputy City Manager Gilbert Livas a restaurant will be added along that strip of businesses as well. The name of the restaurant, its location and expected open date remain unknown.

## USO-style show at Community Center

**DOWNEY** - The Friends of the Downey City Library and the Aerospace Legacy Foundation will sponsor a USO-style dance at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center on March 7 from 7 to 9:45 p.m.

The event is part of the library's "One Book, One Community" reading program featuring Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation."

Miss Downey and her Court will be the event's hostesses and donuts, coffee and cookies will be served. Music of the 1940's will be featured.

The community center is located at 7810 Quill Dr. The community is invited to attend.

## State of the City luncheon March 7

**DOWNEY** - The Downey Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a State of the City luncheon at Sambi of Tokyo March 7 at 11:45 a.m.

The featured speaker will be Mayor David Gafin, "who will provide informative and vital updates on Downey."

Cost to attend is \$25. For reservations, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191. The event's sponsors are Big Blue House Real Estate and Metrocities Mortgage.

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## 'Tintypes' an entertaining portrait of the early 20th Century

BY BROOKE KARLI,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Singing along to tunes such as “Meet Me in St. Louis,” “America the Beautiful,” and “Hello, Ma Baby,” the audience attending opening night of “Tintypes” couldn’t seem to get enough of the patriotic score.

The musical, which opened last Friday at the Downey Theatre, takes place in New York City in the years 1890 – 1917, a time when America was involved in World War I and the country’s population doubled due to immigration.

John Pierpont Morgan (more commonly known as J.P. Morgan), an accountant who virtually had control of all basic American industries and large amounts of stock, opened the musical with the definition of tintype, a photograph produced by applying a solution to a thin, black-enameled metal plate immediately before exposure.

Throughout the production, the audience is exposed to tintypes of President Theodore Roosevelt and family, Orville and Wilbur Wright, actress and entertainer Eva Tanguay, and more.

Morgan, played by John F. Briganti, narrates the happenings of the turn of the century, describing the time as a combination of the good and not so good.

The good includes the inventions of the automobile and electricity, the growth of the railroads, and the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. The bad, however, includes WWI, America’s declaration of war on Spain, and the struggles faced by the hundreds of thousands of immigrants passing through Ellis Island.

Although the set consisted of only platforms, stairs and solid col-



The “Tintypes” cast gets the crowd moving with plenty of patriotic tunes, including “Meet Me in St. Louis” and “Hello, Ma Baby.” The musical is now playing at the Downey Theatre. Photo courtesy Marsha Moode

ored backgrounds, it was the characters, as well as the score and choreography, which brought “Tintypes” to life.

Performances by Bill Lewis, who played Charlie, a Russian Jew immigrant; Charlotte Carpenter, who played Anna Held, a flirtatious performer; and Ann Peck McBride, who played Eva Tanguay, a woman who was rumored to have bathed in champagne, Morgan said, welcomed the audience into their individual lives.

Other notable performances include those by Ronald Holliday Hills, who played Bert Williams, a popular black entertainer; Ed Krieger, who played President

Theodore Roosevelt; and Susan Dohan, who played Emma Goldman, a radical known for writing and voicing her ideas on anarchy, women’s rights, and other political issues.

The choreography, mastered by Casey Garritano, was simple at times, but intricate at others. At one point, cast members kicked up their legs as though they were the Rockettes, only later to be followed by the demonstration of popular dances such as the “grizzly bear,” “turkey trot” and “bunny hug.”

And nothing was more pleasing to the eye than the number performed by Courtney Burfeind and Gavin Hall, who represented Vernon

and Irene Castle, a well-known ballroom dance team of the time.

The score, which includes numbers by John-Philip Sousa, Victor Herbert, George M. Cohan and Scott Joplin, was directed by musical director and conductor Eddy Clemens.

Once again, Marsha Moode took the reigns as executive producer and director, turning the musical, originally written by Mary Kyte with Mel Marvin and Gary Pearle, into an entertaining history lesson.

“Tintypes” will be showing until March 9, with performances on Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.

For tickets, call (562) 923-1714.

## John Gabriel performing magic in La Habra

■ Month-long engagement at La Habra Depot Theatre starts tomorrow at 8 p.m.

**LA HABRA** – Magician and illusionist John Gabriel will perform at the La Habra Depot Theatre from March 1 – 30.

Prior to each performance, a locked, transparent box containing a cassette tape with Gabriel’s voice will be hanging in the middle of the stage in full view of the audience for the entire show. After audience members shuffle cards, the box will be unlocked and the cassette tape will be played with Gabriel predicting the end results of the shuffled cards.

“It is very, very difficult to attempt a challenge like this,” Gabriel said. Gabriel’s 90-minute show features producing a 150-year-old rare artifact of magic from thin air; a table which was once owned by Houdini will float among members of the audience; a random audience member will be cut in half; and a rope escape with an ending twist.

Gabriel was named by NBC as “Magic’s Hottest New Star.” He began performing as a magician at the age of seven and appeared on NBC’s “World’s Greatest Magic V” at the age of 20.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

The La Habra Depot Theatre is located at 311 S. Euclid St. in La Habra.

For information, or to purchase tickets, call (562) 905-9625, or visit [www.lhdepottheatre.org](http://www.lhdepottheatre.org).

## Casino Night takes over Gala Fundraiser

**DOWNEY** – In place of their annual Academy Awards Gala Fundraiser, Soroptimist International of Downey will instead host a Monte Carlo Casino Night on April 18 at 6 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

For information, call Karina Madariaga at (562) 940-6236.

## ‘Pasta and Presto’ at Warren tomorrow

**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.

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**VANTAGE POINT** PG-13 (11:50, 12:35, 2:15, 3:00, 4:40, 5:25), 7:10, 7:55, 9:30, 10:15

**JUMPER** PG-13 (12:10, 2:40, 5:05), 7:25, 9:50

**THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES** PG (11:40, 2:10, 4:35), 7:15, 9:45

**STEP UP 2 THE STREETS** PG-13 (12:05, 2:50, 5:20), 7:50, 10:20

**FOOL'S GOLD** PG-13 (11:00, 1:45, 4:25), 7:20, 10:05

**NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN** R (11:30, 2:05, 4:45), 7:30, 10:10

**DEFINITELY, MAYBE** PG-13 (11:05, 1:55, 4:50), 7:45, 10:40 (35MM)

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SEMI-PRO R (10:10 12:35 3:00) 5:25 7:50 10:15

VANTAGE POINT PG13 (10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20

WITLESS PROTECTION PG13 (11:30 2:05 4:40) 7:15 9:50

JUMPER PG13 (10:00 12:25 2:50) 5:15 7:40 10:05

STEP UP 2 THE STREETS PG13 (11:00 1:35 4:10) 6:45 9:20

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES PG (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30

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

THE EYE PG13 (12:05 2:40) 5:15 7:50 10:25

MEET THE SPARTANS PG13 (10:45 1:05 3:25) 5:45 8:05 10:25

RAMBO R (11:00 4:00) 9:00

FIRST SUNDAY PG13 (1:30) 6:30

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- “*Away from Her*” by Alice Munro. This story explores the bonds of love between Grant, a retired professor, and his wife Fiona, who slowly begins to lose her memory.
- “*The Bourne Ultimatum*” by Robert Ludlum. The latest book in Ludlum’s popular suspense series brings the return of David Webb, aka Jason Bourne, the assassin who never was.
- “*Charlie Wilson’s War: the Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in History*” by George Crile. A maverick Congressman from Texas conspired with a rogue CIA operative to launch the last battle of the Cold War.
- “*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: a Memoir of Life in Death*” by Jean-Dominique Bauby. In 1995, the editor of *Elle Magazine* suffered a massive stroke, leaving him permanently paralyzed and able to communicate only by blinking his left eye.
- “*Gone, Baby, Gone*” by Dennis Lehane. Detectives Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro take on a case after a four-year-old is abducted from her bed on a summer evening.
- “*Into the Wild*” by Jon Krakauer. What propelled 24-year-old Chris McCandless to leave civilization behind and head into the Alaskan wilderness?
- “*No Country for Old Men*” by Cormac McCarthy. In this contemporary saga, an antelope hunter near the Texas-Mexico border finds several dead men, a load of heroin and \$2 million in cash.
- “*Oil*” by Upton Sinclair. Greed and the oil boom of the 1920’s collide as a man and his son plunge into the drilling business in this classic novel that was the basis for “There Will be Blood,” starring Daniel Day-Lewis.
- “*Sweeney Todd: the True Story of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*” by Peter Haining. Was Todd the worst mass murderer in English history? The author explores the London underworld of 150 years ago to explain the man behind the myth.

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# Author takes aim at childhood obesity

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Downey author and mother of three Sylvia Steverson has a book signing scheduled for noon Saturday, March 8 at Downey Stonewood Center's Borders Express for her "Children's Healthy Menu and Recipe Guide." The book she's offering is a slim, easy-to-scan 100-odd page paperback giving "simple, nutritious, and time-saving" recipe tips to, according to her intro, "all those parents who are trying to give their children healthy balanced meals without spending hours in the kitchen or spending a fortune on prepared meals from the grocery stores and restaurants."



This is her first published book, and admits it's something "I have always wanted to write." Sylvia, who has two daughters, Sarah, 4-1/2, and Simone, 3, and a two-month-old son, London, is a native of Hungary and married to Judge London Steverson, who sits as the federal administrative law judge in the Office of Hearings & Appeals for the Social Security Administration's 9th (Calif.) Region and Downey Sister Cities Association icon.

She, too, is a lawyer, a Juris Doctor of Laws alum of Southwestern University in Los Angeles where she, among other things, wrote for the Law Review. Given her upbringing in traditional, historic Veszprem (albeit under socialist conditions), a county capital some 150 kms. southwest of Budapest, and favored by circumstances to let her intellectual (read 'literary') reserves to bubble up from the fertile ground of her cultural heritage, she has focused on raising her children as best as she can, as well as pursuing her literary and pedagogic interests. A novel she started writing nine years ago she has regretfully put aside, rendered irrelevant, she sadly notes, by the chaos caused by September 11. There are a couple of "works in progress."

But for now, "I have only two interests—nutrition & health, and education," she says. Thus the book of recipes. She emphasizes that although it is aimed mainly at kids, it opens avenues for innovation and experimentation ("Be free to mix and match") for the benefit of adults as well.

As perceptive as she is, Sylvia is aware of the proliferation of literature on nutrition and the synergism among nutrients (the four basic food groups—"Count the calories"), exercise, rest, and a sane mental attitude—elements contributory to healthy growth among kids, longevity among adults. She says her soon-to-be-83-year-old grandmother, back in Hungary, has "never been sick in her life."

Growing up in Veszprem, known as the City of the Queen (Queen Gisella, year 1,000) and for its now tourist-friendly Queen's Castle, Sylvia recalls the richness of her surroundings—she reveled in the availability of fruit trees (peach, apple, apricot, plum, cherry, pear, walnut, almond, etc.), and vegetables (okra, tomatoes, etc.) right in their backyard. "My father also tended to his grapevines. They still make wine today," she says, eagerly pointing out that even the daily bread they ate for breakfast was freshly-baked. The eggs, the milk, the cooking ingredients—all could be obtained fresh. Preservatives have always been anathema.

Children should exercise in the open, fresh air ("This will whet their appetites"), she says, rather than just let them sit in front of their TV set or their computer, couped up in their rooms. "Without fresh air, and good food," she says, "their minds won't develop properly. It goes without saying that we parents have to stimulate their minds, instill in them the love of learning, instead of the mere accumulation of knowledge."

She's aghast at today's pandemic obesity. "Thirty percent of people in California are obese. They have the same problem in Canada. It is a huge problem everywhere, even among kids," she says, adding: "It's sad when parents have to bury their children, and not the other way around." All this because of careless and mindless eating habits and practices, she says. "We're in the habit of putting too much food on the plate. There's simply too much food. If you're not hungry, don't eat!"

"This book is my contribution, to help parents, whether a stay-at-home mom or dad, or a working parent, to feed their children "foods that are nutritious for them, and at the same time, teach them good and healthy eating habits." She says her breakfast/lunch/dinner recipes, organized in a daily - weekly menu format, are rich in variety and flexibility. She hopes it will teach parents to "trust themselves in their decisions on how to feed their children."

That said, she says the golden rule is, still, moderation

To reach Steverson, e-mail her at [sylvia.steverson@ca.rr.com](mailto:sylvia.steverson@ca.rr.com).

# Persico puts his money where his mouth is

Local realtor is pledging to donate \$10 for every one pound he loses, but the health benefits he's reaping by dropping more than 100 pounds are priceless.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

The largest thing about Mario Persico is his heart and determination. At his peak, Persico packed more than 400 pounds on his 5-foot-11-inch frame, a staggering weight that was causing untold health problems for the 44-year-old Downey resident.

But after a year of dieting and exercise, a complete turnabout from his previous lifestyle of fast food gluttony, Persico has dropped more than 100 pounds.

And he's only getting started.

A real estate agent with Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, Persico said he is "putting his money where his mouth is." He is donating \$10 for every pound he loses to the Downey Council PTA HELPS Center.

Now 102 pounds lighter, that's more than \$1,000 he has already pledged to donate.

"My weight is something I have struggled with my entire freakin' life," said Persico, whose family owned and operated Persico's Pizza in Downey for more than 40 years before finally selling it two years ago. "I was in the food industry. I would cook the food and make the food. I was surrounded by food all the time. It's not like I was a treadmill tester."

"A fat Italian guy and a pizza place kind of made sense."

But being a "fat Italian guy" wreaked havoc for Persico, both medically and otherwise. Simple tasks such as clothes shopping were becoming increasingly problematic, and he was forced to cut back on traveling because of the difficulty of fitting into an airplane seat.

Finally, last year, Persico decided it was time for a change.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Persico said of dropping weight. "I had kind of a debate in my own mind about how I was going to do it."

He investigated surgical weight loss options, went as far as consulting with doctors, but worried about surgery's long-term ramifications. Eventually, with the support of his family, Persico decided on a more sensible and less invasive solution: he settled on Weight Watchers.

"The first time I stepped on that scale, I was shocked at the number," said Persico, who joined Weight Watchers on March 24 of last year. "I always knew I was big, but it would take me seeing a photograph to realize how big I really was. I would look at myself and see how large I was in relative size to the person sitting next to me."

Persico's journey towards a healthier lifestyle didn't start off easy. Driving home from his very first Weight Watchers meeting, Persico was involved in a car wreck on Stewart & Gray Road.

The very next day, Persico celebrated his birthday (cake, anyone?).

On his birthday, his Aunt Pina (of Pina's Pizza fame) died.

Persico could have quit, and no one would have blamed him.

"But I was so determined to keep going," said Persico. "I go to Weight Watchers meetings every Saturday morning and I haven't missed a single meeting all year. I think that's really the key, going to the meetings. You really have to be dedicated to the program and not do it part-time."

Weight Watchers works by assigning foods different point values based on its nutrition. Members are allocated a maximum amount of daily points, calculated by their age, height and weight.

Persico follows the plan strictly, but is careful not to deprive himself.

His family has been supportive, a key to his success. They all joined Weight Watchers with him, and have changed the way they eat as well.

Another tip? Persico said he shops for groceries differently, orders food at restaurants differently, and eats differently.

He has also taken up regular exercise and walking. Combined with his healthier eating habits, Persico may have unknowingly added years to his life.

"As I was getting older, I found I was taking more and more medications, and they were all weight-related," said Persico. "Now they're virtually all gone."

Persico is not on a diet; he's just no longer allowing food to control his life.

"If you're having a party, I'm not going to deprive myself," said Persico. "I'm going to eat, but not like before. I still have cheeseburgers,

March 2007



February 2008



Mario Persico weighed more than 400 pounds when he began the Weight Watchers program last year. Close to a year later, he has lost more than 100 pounds and still going.

just not every day with the fries, chili and all that crap."

Persico's hard work is already paying dividends. In addition to the 102 pounds he has lost, he has also dropped six pants sizes. And he used to wear size XXXXXXL; today, some 3XL shirts fit big on him.

Blessed with a pleasant sense of humor, Persico tells people the reason for his weight loss is that the slumping real estate market is taking food off the table. But the truth is, he is working hard towards his ultimate goal of 200 pounds.

"This might sound strange, but one of my goals is to shop at Nordstrom," said Persico. "You know how they have those mannequins with the pants and the shirts, and the sweater tied around the neck? Sometimes the shirt is ridiculously expensive or the sweater is pink but that's not the point. I want to be able to grab those clothes off the bottom shelf and try them on in the fitting room."

"I don't even want to buy the clothes; I just want to be able to know that I can wear them."

It hasn't been easy for Persico – the holidays were particularly difficult. During one bad week, he got off track and shot up 10 pounds in one week. But instead of lamenting over his mistake, he dusted himself off and forged ahead.

"Whatever you do, there are days when you're not going to be perfect," said Persico. "The key is to keep going. There are weeks when I think I did really well and the scale doesn't reflect that. But I can feel my pants getting looser so I know I'm making progress. It's all part of the fun."

Still, Persico is not getting ahead of himself. Despite his success thus far, he realizes the road in front of him is a difficult one.

In fact, it took a little bit of nudging for him to consent to this interview.

"I'm not getting too excited," said Persico. "I was over 400 pounds. I'm not half the man I used to be; I'm three-quarters the man I used to be. If a regular person woke up tomorrow in my body, he would say 'Oh my god, I need to take care of this.' It's not a race. I know the second 100 pounds will not come off as quickly. And that's OK because I'm not in a rush. When I finally do get there, I want to stay there. I don't want to put the weight back on."

Persico continued: "This is about a new way of living. About being normal. It's like a whole new world, and if I can do it, I know anybody can do it."

"I ask God for help every day."

## CITY COUNCIL

Continued from page 3

utilized for several youth contract classes, including Tot Time and Wee Three, as well as for activities run through the city's Community Services reservation system;

- Adopted a resolution approving the submittal of funding applications for the "Telegraph Rd. Traffic Throughput and Safety Enhancement," "Florence Ave. Traffic Safety Enhancements," and the "Woodruff Ave. at Washburn Rd. Intersection Traffic Safety Enhancement" projects under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); the HSIP program funds projects which improve the safety of the roadway;

- Introduced an ordinance establishing franchise fees, public access support fees and customer service penalties for state franchise holders providing video service within the city of Downey; among the franchise holders impacted are Time Warner and Verizon; expected initial fee revenue stream from these and other state video franchise holders is June;

- Adopted an ordinance renewing the lease agreement between the city of Downey and the Downey Chamber of Commerce for the use of its site located at 11131 Brookshire Ave. (adjacent to the Downey City Library) for another ten years; the city will continue to receive a nominal compensation from the Chamber of one dollar for each year or \$10 for the life of the proposed lease; and

- Presented for public discussion the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Grant (HOME) programs for FY2008-09, anticipating the \$1,484,754 in CDBG funds and \$712,852 in HOME funds that would accrue after compliance approval is obtained; the funds will be allocated to a variety of uses benefiting mainly Downey's low and moderate-income residents.

The next regular public City Council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave., Downey.



# Understanding Sleep Disorders

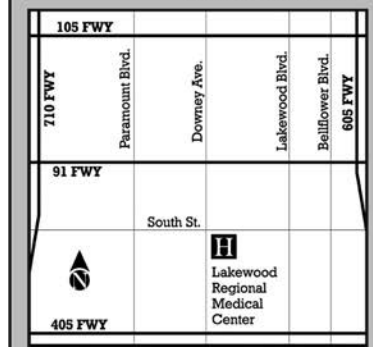
**Speaker**  
**Arthur Gelb, MD**  
**Tuesday**  
**March 4**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Lakewood Regional Medical Center**  
**Conference Room**  
**3700 E. South St.**  
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**R.S.V.P.**  
**1-800-813-4345**  
**A light dinner will be served.**

**Please join Dr. Gelb, Pulmonologist, for this presentation to explore how the architecture of sleep changes as you grow older, how various medical problems, including sleep apnea, affect our sleep, and how to get the sleep you need. Treatment of sleep apnea is covered under Medicare. A light dinner will be served.**

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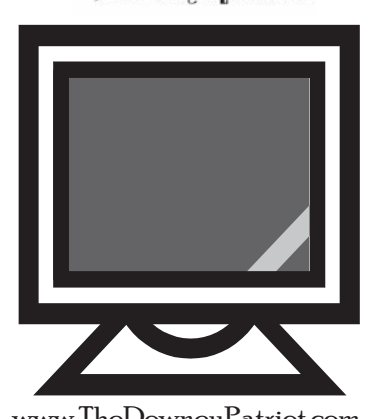
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## De La Torre introduces health insurance bill

**SACRAMENTO** – In response to a continuing pattern and practice by the insurance industry of unfairly canceling health policies, Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) recently introduced AB 1945 to require health insurance companies to get prior approval from state regulators before canceling or rescinding policies.

“The insurance industry has made billions by unfairly canceling health policies when people need coverage most, with little to no oversight prior to canceling the policies,” said De La Torre. “Consumers, who have already made payments to HMOs, are being dumped by the insurance company when the time comes for them to receive coverage. At some point, someone must stand up and say ‘Enough!’ This bill will protect the rights of insured Californians against the unfair practices of insurance companies.”

The *Los Angeles Times* recently revealed that Blue Cross has been asking doctors to share confidential patient information with the insurance company, so that Blue Cross could cancel policies. After outcry from the California Medical Association, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senator Hillary Clinton, Blue Cross reversed course and agreed to stop sending the letters.

“This bill puts an end to the days where insurance companies served as judge and jury over their policyholders, and ensures public oversight over the cancellation practices of insurance companies,” said Richard Frankenstein, M.D., president of the California Medical Association, which is sponsoring the bill. “Insured Californians will no longer have to live in fear that their coverage will be stripped from them by a greedy insurance company at a moment’s notice, just when they need it most.”

## Dental assistant program coming soon

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School has announced it will be offering a new dental assistant career training program starting in the spring semester.

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, dental assistants rank within the top 10 jobs that are in demand today. And the demand is expected to grow.

The program will prepare students with courses such as dental terminology and anatomy, dental charting, dental billing procedures, and more. Approved by the Dental Assisting National Board, students will also receive continuing dental education units.

Orientation dates are March 20 and April 17. For more information or to register, call (562) 940-6200 or visit [www.das.edu](http://www.das.edu).

## Home Buyer’s Fair in Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES** – The California Association of Realtors and the *Los Angeles Times* will present the Southern California Home Buyer’s Fair April 12-13 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

In addition to exhibit booths, the fair will include educational “how-to” seminars presented in English and Spanish on credit, loans, foreclosures, and everything a person needs to know to buy a home.

The fair is free and will be presented daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.homebuyersfair.com](http://www.homebuyersfair.com).

## Congress passes rebates and economic stimulus measure

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard applauded the bipartisan passage of the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act, which was signed into law by the President on Feb. 13. The measure is expected to result in rebate checks for working families as soon as mid-May and help create 500,000 jobs by the end of the year.

“More than 130 million families, including seniors and veterans with disabilities, will directly benefit from this economic stimulus measure,” Roybal-Allard said. “Through one-time rebates, the measure will help families pay for necessities such as groceries, utilities and gasoline. In California alone, 14.7 million households will receive an average rebate check of \$844, for a total \$12.4 billion economic boost in the state.

“I’m pleased Congress united to pass this measure so quickly to jumpstart our lagging economy and help struggling families. However, I consider this measure to be just a start. I hope Congress and the Administration will come together again in the near future to build upon this effort to provide additional assistance for families. We need to consider additional ways to further stimulate the economy, including extending unemployment benefits, increasing the Food Stamp benefit and providing additional state and local assistance, such as through expanded infrastructure investments, to offset and prevent cuts to important social services.”

The Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act (HR 5140) includes:

- **Tax Cuts for more than 130 million families.** This broad-based stimulus package will provide tax relief of up to \$600 for single filers and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. Tax relief begins to phase out above incomes of \$75,000 for a single person and \$150,000 for a married couple. In order to receive the rebates, taxpayers

must have valid Social Security numbers.

- **Unprecedented tax relief for working families.** The measure provides \$32 billion in tax relief for 35 million families who work but make too little to pay income taxes. More than 19 million of these families include children. Single filers who earned at least \$3,000 in 2007 will get at least \$300 and couples that earned at least \$3,000 last year will get at least \$600, plus a child tax credit of \$300 per child.

- **Recovery rebates for seniors and 250,000 disabled veterans.** The measure provides tax rebates to anyone who receives at least \$3,000 in Social Security income, self-employment income or veterans’ disability payments (including payments to survivors of disabled veterans).

- **Affordable refinancing opportunities and liquidity in the housing market to help families avoid foreclosure.** For 2008, the bill increases the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limits to \$729,750 from \$362,790 to expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure. In addition, to enhance credit availability in the mortgage market, the measure also provides a one-year increase in loans from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for single family homes to \$729,750 from \$417,000.

- **Assistance for small businesses and incentives for business investments.** Small businesses can immediately write off their taxes the cost of new investment expenditures made in 2008 up to \$250,000. It applies to companies with over all investments of less than \$800,000 in 2008.

- **Bonus depreciation for businesses.** It provides immediate tax relief for all businesses to invest in new plants and equipment by speeding up depreciation provisions, so that firms can write off an additional 50 percent for investments purchased in 2008.

## Eclipse Coffee hosting Chamber mixer

**DOWNEY** – In celebration of their grand opening, the Eclipse Coffee, Gelato & Juice Bar will be hosting the Downey Chamber of Commerce’s next mixer on Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The mixer is free and will include refreshments, door prizes and networking opportunities.

Eclipse Coffee, Gelato & Juice Bar is located at 8255 Firestone Blvd. on the first floor. For further information, call (562) 923-2191.

## DAS offers financial planning seminar

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School will be hosting a Financial Planning Seminar, consisting of eight individual classes, beginning in April.

- Budgeting and Savings 101 (April 29 & May 1)
  - Retirement Planning (May 6 & 8)
  - Investment Planning in Stock, Bonds and Mutual Funds (May 13 & 15)
  - Increase Your Net Worth (May 27 & 29)
  - Life Insurance and Annuities (June 3 & 5)
  - Education Planning and Financing (June 10 & 12)
  - How to Become a Stock Broker or Life Insurance Agent (June 24 & 26)
  - Create a Personal Financial Plan (July 1 & 3)
- All classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes are \$45 each, or \$270 for all eight classes. For more information, call (562) 940-6200, or visit [www.das.edu](http://www.das.edu).

## Financial planning course begins Tuesday

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

The course objective is to offer a general understanding of some important financial concepts, discuss issues and encourage people to pursue their own opportunities.

The class will highlight and discuss many of the common financial questions that many people, at some point, must answer. Topics to be discussed include, elements of a family financial plan; financial properties and some bumps to avoid; real estate for home and investments; insurance and how you know what you need; taxation on various types of income; retirement income – social security, IRAs, and more; market returns and what you can count on; asset allocation, diversification and re-balancing; estate planning issues; and New York stock market investment options.

Cost of the class is \$20 to cover materials. Childcare can be arranged if requested.

Downey First Christian Church is located at 10909 New St. in Downey. For information, call (562) 862-2438.

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Celebrating 10 years of community service, Cadette Girl Scout Troop #989 recently completed the requirements for the Silver Award, the highest honor available to Cadette Girl Scouts. For their Silver Award Project, troop members painted biblically-themed murals in the Sunday School rooms at Downey Memorial Christian Church. Pictured, from left: Leaders Catherine Bauer and Matthew Curtis, Alyssa Mendoza, Katsya Brito, Yvette Vasquez, Laura Bauer, Ashley Bunganan, Melissa Encinas, Corina Gaytan, Katarina Schweitz, Raven Curtis and Pastor Richard Karrasch. Not pictured: Parent Advisor John Mendoza. The girls will be honored for their achievement as a Los Angeles Girl Scout Council ceremony on May 13.

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