



The Downey Patriot



Not Trader Joe's, but close
See Page 10



Clippers throw an assist to kids
See Page 3



Just in time for St. Patty's Day
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Friday, March 7, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 46

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

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author Edward Humes at library

■ Author of "Over Here: How the GI Bill Transformed the American Dream" will visit Downey City Library this Wednesday as part of "One Book, One Community."

DOWNEY – Edward Humes, author of "Over Here: How the GI Bill Transformed the American Dream," will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library this Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Cormack Room. The free program is part of the library's "One Book, One Community" project that encourages the public to read Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and discuss topics related to the World War II era.

Humes will discuss how the GI Bill revolutionized higher education in the United States, encouraging new scientists, engineers, doctors, teachers and artists to contribute their skills and help shape suburbia. The bill offered a free college education, government-backed home loans, business loans, medical care, job training and job placement.



"My book recounts the surprising history of the GI Bill and its lasting legacy," said Humes. "Consider it a book not of war stories, but of after-the-war stories, and in them you'll meet film and theatre director Arthur Penn ("Bonnie and Clyde," "The Miracle Worker," the Nixon-Kennedy debates); nobelist Leon Lederman (who helped invent modern particle physics); civil rights crusader Monte Posey, George McGovern, Bob Dole and many others."

Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

Humes is an award-winning journalist who received the Pulitzer Prize for a series of investigative articles about the U.S. military. He is also the author of "Monkey Girl" Evolution, Education, Religion and the Battle for America's Soul" and "School of Dreams," a book about his year teaching at Whitney High School in Cerritos.

Free tickets will be distributed 30 minutes before show time. Seating is limited. Audience members may also participate in a raffle to win a free copy of "The Greatest Generation" autographed by Tom Brokaw.

Book Club

Those who have read Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation," or are interested in

See ONE BOOK, page 4



Downey firefighters will shave their heads -- again -- in a fundraising event for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a nonprofit charity that helps raise money for childhood cancer research. This year's event will take place March 16 at Fire Station 1. Photo courtesy Downey Fire Department

Firefighters shaving heads to help kids diagnosed with cancer

■ Community invited to March 16 event at Fire Station 1, where they can eat food, listen to music, and watch dozens of firefighters get their hair chopped off.

DOWNEY – The St. Baldrick's Foundation has issued a lofty challenge to everyone who wants to help raise money for childhood cancer research: be a hero for children with cancer by participating in any of the 300-plus head-shaving fundraisers that will be held nationwide this year, including one in Downey.

Downey firefighters will again host a St. Baldrick's fundraiser on March 16, shaving their heads in an effort to raise money for the non-

profit organization.

The event will be held at Fire Station 1, 12222 Paramount Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food, music and fun for all ages. Since its inception in 2000, St. Baldrick's has raised more than \$20 million for the research of childhood cancer.

Because cancer treatment given to children typically causes their hair to fall out, volunteers are recruited to have their heads shaved in public in return for

pledges of financial support.

Downey firefighters have set a goal of \$20,000. Money raised at the event will be donated to St. Baldrick's, with a portion going to help a local family who has a child with cancer.

For more information on St. Baldrick's, call (888) 899-BALD. Donations can be made at the March 16 fundraiser or online at www.stbaldricks.org; search "Downey firemen."

Optimism not the operative word as Cuban community reflects on Castro

By BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

At first, the announcement of Fidel Castro's resignation sounded promising, even providing the people of Cuba with a glimmer of hope.

However, those that have ever lived under the rule of Fidel Castro – or have experienced the effects of his dictatorship in one way or another – would say that his resignation only means the transfer of power from one dictator to another.

Fidel Castro, 81, announced in a letter two weeks ago that he will no longer serve as president over Cuba, a position that has been passed on to his brother, 76-year-old Raul Castro, Cuba's defense minister.



"I will neither aspire to, nor accept the positions of president of the state council and commander in chief," Castro wrote. "It would be a betrayal to my conscience to accept a responsibility requiring more mobility and dedication than I am physically able to offer."

Castro, who reportedly received treatment for intestinal problems two years ago, announced a provi-

sional resignation on July 31, 2006 due to unstable health conditions. Raul Castro, who was first vice president at the time, took the position of president until Castro's return.

Although he is no longer the president of Cuba, a position he has held since 1976, Fidel Castro has all intentions of participating in political affairs until his passing.

"My wishes have always been to discharge my duties to my last breath," he wrote. "That's all I can offer."

Critics of Fidel and Raul Castro believe that nothing will change, and may in fact, get worse.

See CUBA, page 8

The message is clear: gangs not welcome here in Downey

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

Downey, along with most other cities and communities comprising Southern California, has a gang problem. Not on the scale of Paramount or Pico Rivera, of course, but a problem is a problem.

If Downey did not have even a minor gang problem, organizations such as Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) and the 10-20 Club wouldn't exist.

In a perfect world, GOOD, as wonderful as they are, would be closed and out of business.

We should all long for the day.

But the reality is gangs have infested Southern California, and while Downey has remained relatively free of homegrown gang-bangers, the community is still privy to out-of-town gangsters preying on unsuspecting – and possibly naïve – Downey residents.

As GOOD president Darrell Jackson put it at the group's regularly scheduled meeting this week, "a Compton Crip will think we're weak and come into our city."

It's the irony of all ironies: Downey's reputation as a safe and scrupulous city is actually attract-



Dr. Mary Stauffer, center, presents a \$10,000 check to Dr. Wendy Doty and Darrell Jackson of Gangs Out of Downey. The money will be used to sponsor academic scholarships for "at-risk" students.

ing crime, not deterring it.

Teenage troublemakers are being kicked out of schools in other cities. Their parents, honest to God good people, desperate to keep their kid out of trouble, send their child to a Downey school, hoping a change of scenery will lead them on the path towards righteousness.

It doesn't always work.

"Hang out with dogs and you're going to come home with fleas," said Jackson.

Downey has a gang problem. Downey has a "crew" problem. Downey has a graffiti problem.

See GOOD, page 7

Bob's Big Boy agrees to tentative lease deal

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The prospect of a Bob's Big Boy restaurant taking over Johnie's Broiler is getting closer to reality.

Johnie's Broiler property owner Christos Smyrniotis and representatives of Bob's Big Boy reached an agreement in principle last Friday in which Johnie's would be restored to a functional diner, complete with its 1950's Googie architecture and bustling weekend carhops.

The two sides are now waiting for the historical design firm of Chattel Architecture, Planning and Preservation, hired by the city to survey the property two weeks ago, to present its findings, Smyrniotis said.

"So far so good. We have agreed in principle and now we're waiting for the report to come back," Smyrniotis said. "It appears to me that [Bob's Big Boy] is very excited. It's only a matter of time."

John Perfitt, Economic Development Director for the city of Downey, confirmed the agreement, but was careful to stress that both sides were still combing over the particulars of a "long-term" lease agreement.

"I would use the metaphor that we're a traffic cop," Perfitt said in regards to the city's role in the negotiations. "But we're trying to



City officials say the Johnie's Broiler property will be cleared of its debris in the next 60 days, paving the way for a Bob's Big Boy restaurant to take over the destroyed diner. Photo by Art Montoya

facilitate Bob's moving in because it's what everybody wants."

Perfitt also said the city had received a preliminary list of relics on the property that could potentially be saved. Responding to a request by *The Downey Patriot* to view the list, Perfitt said it needed

to be cleared by the city attorney before it could be released.

Perfitt said he expects the property, which has sat in the same state of devastation since it was illegally demolished in January 2007, to be cleaned up within the next 60 days.



Downey AYSO Boys Under 10 team won first place in the Riverside Locomotion Tournament held Jan. 16 – 18. The team went undefeated and beat Corona Norco in the final. Team members included David Lemucchi, Philip Caro, Joshua Ianotti, Kelly Cortez, Fabian Medina, Peter Torrez, Robyn Ortega, Oskar Raymundo, Chris Sanchez and Kevin Chavez. Coaches were Johnny Lemucchi and Philip Caro.



Pictured above are children at Kirkwood Christian Elementary School enjoying their new playground, which was recently dedicated following a year of fundraising efforts from parents, students and the community. During the dedication, two of the children, Miranda Ramirez and Thomas Powell-Horan, had their prayers of thanksgiving read for the occasion.

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.

The program also includes an externship, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in a real dental office.

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



Susan Dohan has returned to the Downey Civic Light Opera for a second time and can now be seen onstage in the current production of "Tintypes." Dohan performed last season as The Kid in "The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd." She has also appeared off-Broadway and in the national tour of "The Me Nobody Knows." She can also be seen and heard in many commercials. "Tintypes" closes this weekend. For tickets and information, call (562) 923-1714.

OLPH Guild honoring past presidents

DOWNEY – In honor of its past presidents, the OLPH Catholic Women's Guild will host a sit-down luncheon March 15 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Because St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, entertainment will be provided by dancers from the Christine Byrne Aniar Academy of Irish Dancers and Christine Pohlen will play Irish music.

The community is invited to attend and wear green.

Reservation deadline for guests is March 10. The cost is \$30. Make checks payable to Catholic Women's Guild and mail them to Polly Glenn, 7314 Cleargrove Drive, Downey, CA 90240.

Rise 'N Shine featuring Bally's rep

DOWNEY – Karina Madariaga of Downey Adult School, and Dave Gelmeland of Bally's Total Fitness, will be speaking at the next Rise 'N Shine Networking Group this Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Nordic Fox restaurant.

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

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 liturgy 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.

'Festa Primavera' plans already in full swing

■ Annual fundraising event for the Downey Symphony Guild will take place April 20.

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO, DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD
DOWNEY – Plans for the Downey Symphony Guild's "Festa Primavera" gala to be held April 20 are in full swing.

This annual fundraising event will be held in the Woman's Club of Downey clubhouse at 4 p.m. The early hour on that Sunday was chosen to allow youngsters to attend also. A special price for them is \$10 for those age 10 and under. The Guild has not raised the price for this benefit dinner. It remains steady at \$65 per person.

A full Italian dinner will be served. There will be entertainment and a silent and live auction.

The Guild asks that you save this date, April 20, to support them in this yearly endeavor to keep Music in the Schools and to keep the Downey Symphony Orchestra on our stage.

Additional information will follow in later issues of *The Patriot*.

Aguirre completes basic training

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – Army Reserve Pvt. Victor O. Aguirre has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Aguirre underwent nine weeks of training, studying the Army mission, history, tradition and core values. He also received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Victor M. Aguirre of Downey and Nelida Lopez of Lakewood.

Hall of Fame induction April 30

DOWNEY – Kids Day Hall of Fame induction ceremonies will take place April 30 at 7 p.m. at the Downey Theatre. During the ceremony the top nominees, as determined by a neutral panel of community members, will be inducted into the Hall.

All nominees and inductees will receive a "goodie bag" and certificate of achievement. Nomination forms are still available at the city of Downey Community Services Department at City Hall or online at www.downeyca.org. (Click on "Press Releases.")

Nominees must be in grades 1 – 12 "who are achieving academically, athletically or improving themselves and their community."

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Skate camp at Independence Park

DOWNEY – The city of Downey Community Services Department will be offering a skate camp for kids during spring break, March 24-28, at Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd.

The skate camp, a new program for the city, will challenge kids ages 6 to 16 "with exciting and interesting activities conducted by trained and skilled skating personnel."

The camp will include excursions, guest visitors and mini-skate park trips scheduled during the week.

Camp will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$80 which includes supervision, supplies, snacks and bus trips.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

Ward teacher wins field trip grant

DOWNEY – Ward Elementary School second grade teacher Sue Carter has been awarded a \$1,000 field trip grant by Target, which she plans to use by taking her students on a trip to the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach.

"With the nation's schools facing increasing budget shortages each year, field trips are often one of the first elements eliminated from the curriculum," Target said in a statement. "The Target Field Trip Grants Program, which launched in September 2006, distributed 1,600 grants totaling \$1.6 million in funds this year to education professionals to help fill this gap, so that teachers may continue using the valuable experiential learning gained from field trips to enhance students' classroom studies."

Carter and 136 students will make the trip March 12-13.



Arc Walk for Independence Saturday, April 5, 2008

Southeast Los Angeles County
12049 Woodruff Ave. Downey, CA 90241

Get Your Walking Team Together!
A one or three mile Walk to raise funds for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.
Stonewood Center – Downey

Acapulco Restaurant
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Opening Ceremonies
8:00 a.m.
Walk Starts at
8:30 a.m.

➤ **Registration Fee \$10.00**
Free Breakfast Courtesy of Acapulco Restaurant
*Come celebrate and "Walk the Walk". Great fun for the family!
You can make a difference! Join us for a morning of Giving and Hope!!!*

• **SPECIAL GUEST – PHILLIP PALMER (KABC)**

The Arc is a private non-profit organization serving over 400 people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities every day in 14 different programs.

For Registration Info. – Call 562-803-4606 ext. 262
or register on-line at: www.arcselac.org
E-mail: ARCKMAC@aol.com

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For information, call Linda
Larson at (562) 904-3668

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Early morning traffic collision turns fatal

DOWNEY – A traffic collision early Tuesday morning involving three vehicles at the intersection of Imperial Highway and Downey Avenue killed one person and left another injured, police said.

According to police witnesses, a blue Honda Civic traveling eastbound on Imperial Highway entered the intersection on a red traffic signal just after 5:30 a.m. Upon entering the intersection, the Honda was broadsided on its driver's side by a red Ford Expedition traveling south on Downey Avenue.

The collision propelled both vehicles south of the intersection, where they collided with a grey GMC Yukon traveling north on Downey Avenue, police said.

The driver of the Honda, a 23-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the scene. His name is being withheld pending the notification of his family by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

The driver of the Ford, a 26-year-old female resident of Downey, was transported to Downey Regional Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries. The driver and passenger of the GMC, both residents of Paramount, were uninjured in the collision, according to police.

De La Torre honored for green work

LONG BEACH – Assemblyman Hector De La Torre was honored with the Legislator of the Year Award by the California Park and Recreation Society for his work in increasing funding for bicycle improvements, playground safety, joint-use projects and "his leadership in forging eminent domain reform."

The award was presented last Friday at the Long Beach Hyatt in Long Beach.

"Protecting green space throughout our communities is greatly needed in the Southeast Los Angeles County area, which I represent," said De La Torre. "I look forward to continue working with the California Parks and Recreation Society to preserve parks, open space and recreation facilities for all Californians."

De La Torre, a democrat, represents portions of Downey in the California State Assembly.

'Mister Baseball' offering youth camp

DOWNEY – Former professional baseball coach and scout Joe Magno will present a two-day training program March 28-29 through a program sponsored by the Bernabé Community Center.

Magno, also known as "Mister Baseball," has worked for the Dodgers, Red Sox, Angels, Mariners and others.

He now offers youth camps where children practice exercises in hitting, pitching, throwing, fielding and catching.

The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information or to sign-up, call (562) 879-8665.

Parenting class offered March 15

DOWNEY – The Bernabé Community Center will offer a parenting class on March 15 from 9 a.m. to noon where visitors can "learn the tools and techniques that will improve your parenting skills."

The class is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Childcare will be provided for free.

Visitors can register in advance by calling (562) 863-1899.

Lifeguard certification training offered

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

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

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

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

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

Registration began last month at the Community Services Department office, located at 11111 Brookshire Ave.

For information, call (562) 904-7238.

Clippers prove a slam dunk with students

■ West Middle School beats out 182 other schools in a month-long reading contest to earn the visit.

BY BROOKE KARLI,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Nothing motivates middle school students to read more than a visit from the Los Angeles Clippers' Elton Brand and Shaun Livingston.

Eighty of West Middle School's brightest students got to meet the two NBA stars on Feb. 26 after the school logged 339,445 minutes of reading for the organization's Read to Achieve Program.

The program, which was brought to the attention of West Principal Craig Bertsch last September, challenges and encourages elementary, middle school and high school students to read on a daily basis. According to the team's Web site, nba.com/clippers, the goal of the program is to "build a lifelong love of reading in young people by providing greater access to books and technology while encouraging families and adults to read regularly with young children."

Upon receiving information about the program, Bertsch passed the baton to librarian Julia Desalernos, who thought of no better way to get the kids to read.

"We had never participated in a program like this and thought, if anything, it gets the kids to read," said Desalernos. "We had no idea our kids would read this much and that the Clippers were going to reward us the way they did."

The students began reading on Nov. 12 and had until Dec. 14 to rack up their reading minutes. A total of 24 classes – 805 students – participated, all of whom contributed to the more than 330,000 minutes accrued.

In January, Bertsch was notified that West recorded the most



The Los Angeles Clippers' Elton Brand, left, and Shaun Livingston visited West Middle School last week where they read "Nim's Island" to the school's 80 top readers. Photo by Brooke Karli

minutes, beating out 182 schools in the Greater Los Angeles area.

In addition to the school's overall success, students Raul Alvarado and Josephine Jimenez, who read 4,800 and 4,530 minutes respectively, have been selected as Reading All-Stars and will attend the Los Angeles Clippers Community Kids Block Party on April 5 at Knott's Berry Farm.

The rest of the school, however, did not go unrewarded. Last week, the school was treated to a pep rally, where six members of the Clippers Spirit Team performed

and Brand spoke to the school, encouraging the students to stay in school and read as much as they can.

The top 80 readers, who wore white Read to Achieve T-shirts to the rally, were treated to a private reading of "Nim's Island," read by both Brand and Livingston.

Following the book reading, the kids had the opportunity to ask the players questions.

And before leaving the school, both players signed the shirts of each student and handed out books.

"We are so grateful to the

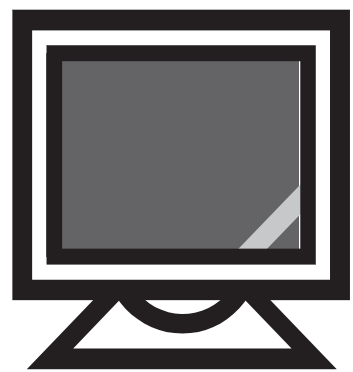
Clippers for all they have done," said Desalernos. "Our kids worked really hard and they will never forget this day. They deserve this just as much as anybody else and they are motivated now more than ever."

A cake reception was also held for the players and students, as well as the West staff and city officials and dignitaries that attended.

"Someone once told me, 'if it's good for the kids, do it,'" said Bertsch. "This was very, very good."

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ONE BOOK

Continued from page 1

learning about the book, are invited to a book discussion at the Downey City Library this Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

Brokaw's book pays tribute to America's "citizen heroes" of the World War II era, men and women whose values and courage helped shape America. In the book, Brokaw interviews people like Charles Van Gorder, who during D-Day, set up a MASH-type medical facility in the middle of the fighting and later came home to create a clinic and hospital in his home town.

"If you have read all or any part of the book, we would like to hear from you," said Jan Palen, senior librarian. "Joining in a group discussion often changes your perspective on a book and its themes. If this reading project has inspired you, challenged you or reconnected you with the community, please come and share your ideas."

The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

To RSVP, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

USO Show

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 tonight 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.

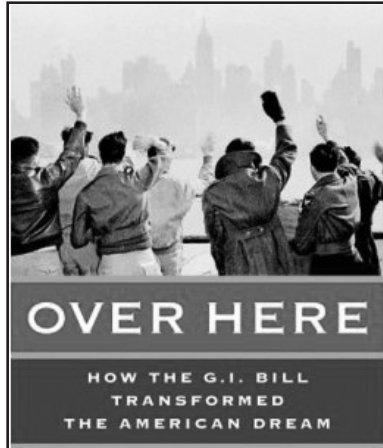
The community center is located at 7810 Quill Dr. The community is invited to attend.

World War II Stories

Harold Houglund survived a fiery attack on the aircraft carrier USS Franklin, but had to bury 724 of his shipmates at sea.

George Delis, who served in the Army Infantry from 1941-45, lost a close friend in the war but years later located his friend's mother. "I've been waiting for you, George," she said. "Tell me everything from the time you met my son."

George Harrington served as an Army Engineer from 1943-46. At home, his wife, Ellie, worked as a civilian on the base. She later got a job with the Dick Haymes Show, followed by working as Errol



Flynn's secretary. Ellie saved more than 100 love letters her husband sent her. The letters all began with "Hello Honey" and ended with "P.S. I love you."

These are some of the remarkable stories of Downey veterans whose stories are captured in an oral history project sponsored by the Downey City Library. From March 1 through March 31, the community is invited to view "Downey's Greatest Generation," a display of the stories and photos of 25 veterans who served during World War II.

As part of the library's "One Book, One Community" project, the display in the library lobby is the result of a team effort by library staff, volunteers and local veterans, who brought their photos and were interviewed at the library on Feb. 2.

"This has been such an enriching experience," said City Librarian Nancy Messineo. "We wanted to capture the personal side of the war and the contributions made by men and women in Downey."

The library's 2008 "One Book, One Community" project encourages the public to read Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and attend programs on a World War II theme. Other scheduled events include:

- "Vultee: a World War II Slide Show Featuring Downey Vultee Aircraft" (March 9, 2 p.m.)

- "The Japanese-American Internment Experience" with Paul Yokota (March 10, 7 p.m.)

- "California at War" film screening (March 11, 7 p.m.)

- "Women During Wartime: Rosie the Riveter" with Gerrie Schipske (March 13, 7 p.m.)

Free tickets will be distributed at each event 30 minutes before show time.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 3.



Kirby Kangaroo hugs a second grader from Ward Elementary School last Friday in celebration of the school's opening of the Kirby Kangaroo Club, sponsored by Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU). Kirby Kangaroo is the mascot of the youth savings account program at DFCU. More than 150 students were encouraged to start saving money for the future at the school's assembly.

Library books delivered to the homebound

DOWNEY – The Assistance League of Downey, in partnership with the Downey City Library, will begin providing library materials to Downey residents who are not able to make it to the library.

The materials available to homebound patrons include books, large print books and foreign language books. Eligible patrons can be any age, handicapped, elderly, ill, or injured with confinement expected to last two months or more.

This service is initiated by completing an application. If the homebound person does not have a library card, the volunteer will bring a library card application on the first visit. From there, the volunteer and homebound patron will set up a delivery schedule that is convenient for both of them. Visits are every six weeks.

For more information, call Josephine de la Dingo at (562) 904-7362.

Sidi filming concert for PBS

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

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

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

Publisher speaks at Citizens for Downey

DOWNEY – Jennifer DeKay-Givens, publisher of *The Downey Patriot*, will be the featured speaker at the Citizens for Downey meeting Wednesday at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 7 a.m.

DeKay-Givens will share her journey from being a former Miss Downey Princess to becoming the publisher of a community newspaper. For information, call Don Johnston at (562) 803-9000.

The Poet's Corner

The Master At Work

Majestic purple mountains
Streams playfully cascading
over rocks and ferns
Wild flowers scattered
through sunny meadows
Birds singing in the night
Blue skies

Awe inspiring sunrises
And breathtaking sunsets
Billowing clouds
Soft misty raindrops
Violent sudden storms
Hail rattling on tin roofs
Little riverlets at play
on soft sandy shores
Wondrous whitecaps
reflecting silvery moonlight

Then
Large fluffy snowflakes
Frosty ice covering
green fields
Crystal sculptures
reflecting --- again
Our God's wonderful gifts
--- To all of us.

– Leona Swanson,
Downey

ShipWrecked

The night stole the winds drift
I questioned but knew well the reason for its shift
Like those who swindle surprise by asking for a
certain gift

Where are the tyrants that hold us back
The fairies that swatch our will to attack
Mind it come a careless night
Or shipwrecked, caught tongueless, motionless
with sighting fright

Give way for the patron oof destinies plight
I'm here shipwrecked today at night
Poor captain vowed to rest with his ship
The passengers who longed for the trip
Are gone at the lash of the ocean's whip

Swollen clouds pace through tasting my lower lip
If only they could taste teh anger management within
Screaming purposefully I'm wrecked in sin
A wrecked flea spun of the ship
Harbors his fled in excess of blood
Not tasting the bitterness, in just, stealing much of.

– James Hernandez,
Downey

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:

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.

Textbooks open for review March 10

DOWNEY – The Downey Unified School District invites the community to examine textbooks being considered for adoption by the Board of Education for use in middle and high school special education, middle and high school visual and performing arts, high school English, and high school science classes. The materials selected are in alignment with State Content Standards as required by California Code of Regulation (CCR), Title 5, Section 9531(a).

Copies of the textbooks will be on display at the Gallegos Administration Center located at 11627 Brookshire Ave.

Textbooks will be available for review from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, March 10 through April 14.

The policy of the Board of Education provides that anyone wishing to offer suggestions or criticism about the textbooks proposed for adoption must submit comments in writing to the superintendent seven days prior to the board meeting on April 15.

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The Downey Patriot

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Celena Murillo
Court Reporting Major

Letters to the Editor:

911 high jinks

Dear Editor:
At 5 p.m. last Monday there was a knock on the door. When I opened it one of the six Downey police officers asked if I had heard any gunshots. I said I did not hear any gunshots. I was on my computer and my wife was resting.

One officer said there was a 911 call from our residence reporting gunshots. I told the officer no one has been using our phone for hours. The same officer wanted to come into our home to make sure everything was OK. There was no reason to enter our home to check on anything. Then the officer asked me for our phone number. Another officer compared our number with the one of the 911 caller. It was not a match. That call was made from a cell phone. The officers apologized and left.

I wanted to know who placed that call for possible legal action and drove to the Downey police station. An officer checked and told me the call was made by a 13-year-old teenager and he was not at liberty to reveal the name. I asked the officer in charge if the police would talk to the parents or caregivers of the teenager. He said it was up to their discretion to do so.

I really became agitated and told the officer it was my decision, not his, to talk to the parents. My wife and I are the victims, the police is supposed to serve us and not the other way around. If I make a false 911 call I probably will be charged with a felony while this young teenager goes untouched. My wife and I have been harassed and the police department did not provide the service my wife and I deserve.

I am 95 percent sure of the identity of this young person and hope Downey PD will talk to the parents and notify me.

I have had other experiences with officers and code enforcement persons that have led me to the conclusion there is room for improvement, including consistency issuing traffic citations.

— **Dieter Oltersdorf,**
Downey

Small group, big impact

Dear Editor:
I hope Roger Brossmer's statements in the Feb. 29 article about his candidacy for the open District 3 seat on the City Council were out of context with regard to his views on Measure G and keeping term limits in Downey the way they are. ("Brossmer Announces Candidacy for City Council District 3 Seat," 2/29/08)

I disagree with the statements attributed to Brossmer "that 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 issue is really about."

My opposition to Measure G had nothing to do personally with those on the Council who proposed and supported it. And if there is any polarization on the issues, it is with the current Council members, not the citizens who are active on matters before the Council.

I'd like candidate Brossmer to clarify his views on term limits, as it is obviously the proverbial "third rail" in Downey politics, electrocuting so to speak those who touch it, as the landslide against Measure G in the last election demonstrated.

Several thousand voters constitute much more than any "small group." Good luck to Brossmer in his run for the seat to be vacated by Rick Trejo, thanks to a "small group" of voters who took on the issue.

— **Brian Heyman,**
Downey

Opportunity lost in jungle of Manhattan

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Reading so many sparkling and invariably reverential written tributes to the memory of William F. Buckley, founder of *National Review* and 33-year talk-show host who died last week at the age of 82, jolted me into realizing that I missed a golden chance to really watch him in action, back in New York towards the close of the '60s and the beginning of the '70s.

I can't say I was in New York at that time to further my political understanding; I was in the Big Apple more to study and observe economic and management principles and techniques. Even so, I should have paid closer attention to what pundits such as Buckley were doing and saying. After all, they were a staple on TV and in periodicals—in that avowed center of communications and finance. I could have enriched my understanding of politics, especially American politics, much sooner.

For example, Buckley's writer-friends/eulogizers such as George Will and William Kristol have me believing that the toothy Yale debater epitomized and energized modern conservatism, whose mighty currents swept Ronald Reagan into the presidency, paving the way for Communism's eventual collapse. In short, Buckley mattered. And he did what he did with wit, kindness and style—traits so sorely needed in today's political tussles.

For like it or not, it is politics, in concert with economics, which wields power among the world's peoples and nations. There was a time when the functions of church and state were intertwined. This is no longer the case with more developed, more enlightened countries. Backward nations, though, won't or can't shake off the shackles of old, dead-end systems.

Reading about Buckley's legacy has moreover thrown in high relief the differences between conservatives and liberals—a handy primer in the upcoming presidential election, and not least in local political discourse, which all too often suffers from the execrable antics of the lunatic fringe. And if indeed in his voluminous writings and memorable jousts with people of note he held truth to power, then he's also a hero in my book.

Beautiful Firestone

Dear Editor:
We love Downey, and we have been residents here for 20 years. When will the city of Downey beautify Firestone Boulevard and demolish ugly buildings from Lakewood Boulevard to Ryerson Avenue? The boulevard in Lakewood is pretty with lights on the streets and plants along the way. We can't wait to see the change in downtown Downey!

— **Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dychioco,**
Downey

Bare necessities

Dear Editor:
Wow! I was not aware that there was no breastfeeding allowed at the Downey City Library. I really think that the library should post a sign to inform women of this.

On Feb. 27, while at the library helping my child with her homework, I witnessed something that I had only seen on the news. I never imagined that I would have witnessed outright humiliation, a lack of respect and consideration to a breastfeeding mom. This woman was sitting in the children's section of the library with her older son and her baby, which I believe looked about seven months old. I noticed she had begun breastfeeding her child. My daughter and I were a few tables from where they were and not once when she was feeding her baby did any part of her breast get exposed. She did it in a very discrete manner and once finished, she immediately covered herself. Did I fail to mention that this woman was Hispanic, and wait, did I fail to tell you that the person who approached the woman was a Hispanic male library worker accompanied by an older Caucasian lady?

You see, the woman did not speak English – or maybe they just assumed she didn't. With a smile on her face she just nodded as they spoke to her. I could see her get smaller and smaller as they spoke to her. Just from her body language I already knew what this woman had been told. As I was exiting the library this woman was also leaving. In Spanish, I asked, "Did they complain about your breastfeeding?" She softly responded that people in the library had complained. I offered to complain on her behalf, but she begged me not to because she was embarrassed enough.

I respected this woman's wishes, but as soon as I got home I called the library and spoke with the front desk manager about what I had witnessed. I made it very clear to her that I was the one who was offended. The simple fact that she was told she could not breastfeed there was totally callous. Is a breastfeeding mom expected to leave her other child unsupervised to go somewhere else to feed her youngest child? I ended the conversation with a simple question: If that woman would have been white and could speak perfect English, would the two staff members still approach her?

If breastfeeding makes people uncomfortable then they should look the other way. Why don't I contact the Le Leche League and let them know how the Downey City Library feels about breastfeeding...wouldn't that be fun!

— **M. Rooney,**
Downey

A good read

Dear Editor:
Read...Think...Talk...Listen...Grow.
I encourage the citizens of Downey to be involved with "One Book, One Community" by reading Tom Brokaw's "*The Greatest Generation*." Books are available to check out at the Downey City Library and available to purchase at the Friends Bookstore inside the library.

I also encourage business leaders to make books available in your waiting areas and break rooms for your clients and employees to enjoy. I encourage parents to read the book, or even just parts of the book, with your children and teens.

The library is sponsoring a number of related programs the week of March 9. Visit the library for more information and to view the Downey Veteran Oral History Project, an exhibition of photos and stories from Downey veterans.

Information is available at www.downeylibrary.org and www.downeylibraryonebook.blogspot.com.

— **Mary Crawford,**
Downey

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. Letters may be edited for style and/or length. Letters must include a full name and address.



Claims of assault

Dear Editor:
With the election behind us, we should probably start looking at other aspects of Downey city government. One particular entity that we heard being glorified nonstop during the election was the Downey Unified School District.

Now we all might like to pretend that the district is a smoothly running educational system, but the people of Downey deserve to know the truth. The school district and its employees engage in routine violation of the U.S. Constitution during their "discipline" proceedings. This is exemplified nowhere more than at the middle and high school levels.

What we have here are a crop of administrators who labor under the delusion that they can do anything they want in the name of "discipline." More often than not, this "discipline" includes verbal harassment, tug-gish bullying, and the egregious violations of the Constitution that I mentioned above. What's more, the power-hungry administrators refuse to admit any mistakes on their part, hunting down anyone who challenges them like rabid hyenas.

For example, I was suspended for refusing to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and when I informed an administrator that this was unconstitutional, she responded with the sort of rudeness that has become all too typical these days. Then she and her counterparts had the audacity to claim that I was disrespectful.

Another time, I inquired about a possible violation of the Fourth Amendment involving unlawful searching conducted with dogs. For merely asking about this, I was suspended for five days. What's more, upon my inquiry, the administrator in question (who just so happens to be the one who suspended me for not standing for the Pledge of Allegiance) flew into a berserk rage, screaming at me to leave the office, and then proceeded to physically assault me by slamming a door on my leg and torso.

When I tried to file a police report after being assaulted, I was not taken seriously. They even tried to feed me the line that what she did was accidental. If you're even tempted to believe this, let me ask you something. Where would I be if I had been accused of slamming a door on an administrator's leg? This isn't just about me; it's about the people who are harassed and abused by district employees every day, but are too afraid of retribution to stand up for themselves. This serves as a sad reminder that anyone who doesn't take a district employee's abuse with good humor is subject to further abuse, and that the police primarily serve as protectors and servants of administrators, not students.

The people of Downey deserve to know the condition of their school district and police department, and they deserve to know that their tax dollars are being used to harass and bully their sons and daughters.

— **Julian E. Gutierrez,**
Downey

No more free ride for hardrock mining

CONTRIBUTED BY TED WILLIAMS, BLUE RIDGE PRESS

In "*Roughing It*," Mark Twain depicts the methods used in his era to mine such "hardrock" minerals as gold, silver and copper: "Imagine a stranger staking out a mining claim among the costly shrubbery in your front yard and calmly proceeding to lay waste the ground with pick and shovel and blasting powder."

He wrote these words in 1872, the year Congress enacted "The General Mining Law." Much has changed since then. Now, instead of picks, shovels, and blasting powder, hardrock miners lay waste to your land with bulldozers, backhoes, draglines and dynamite.

What hasn't changed is the law. It still allows a company or individual, foreign or domestic, to stake an unlimited number of claims on public land and extract precious metals belonging to all Americans. The law even lets miners purchase public land for 1872 prices (\$2.50 an acre). (Although Congress has imposed a moratorium on such bargain sales, the 1872 act remains the law of the land.)

Unlike other extractive industries – assessed eight to 16.7 percent of value for such valuable public-domain resources as timber, coal, oil, and gas – hardrock-mining companies pay no royalties. They are the worst industrial polluters in America, spewing toxins into air and water, including cadmium, arsenic, cyanide, mercury and lead. And they don't always have to clean up their messes. Frequently they declare bankruptcy and bolt.

While all legislative attempts to reform the law have been shouted down, modest controls were implemented by the Clinton administration to the limited extent possible under existing regulations.

Enter the administration of George W. Bush, a rest home for retired mining-industry Pooh-Bahs, such as Interior Deputy Secretary J. Steven Griles. While serving as the president's chief mine regulator, Griles met at least three times with the National Mining Association, the industry group fighting to preserve the 1872 Mining Law. In his former life as a mining-industry lobbyist Griles had worked for the association. In June 2007, he was sentenced to 10 months in jail on a felony conviction for lying to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Bill Clinton's resourceful interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, had found a provision in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that outlaws "unnecessary and undue degradation of public lands" and used it to deny hardrock mining on environmentally sensitive areas. The Bush team promptly scuttled this reform.

Babbitt had also implemented "bonding" improvements whereby, as

with other forms of mining, hardrock operations would contribute to a fund to cover cleanup and reclamation costs in the event that they went bankrupt. Bush's Interior Department promptly did away with this reform, too.

- On top of this the Bush administration has:
- Opened vast tracts of de facto wilderness to hardrock mining by allowing companies and states to build roads on public land.
 - Reinterpreted the 1872 Mining Law to allow unlimited use of public land for disposal of toxic mine waste.
 - Removed mining regulations that controlled erosion, required revegetation, and protected ground and surface water.
 - Tried (unsuccessfully thanks to a court order) to disavow the government's authority to deny a mine permit for any reason.

No matter who's in the White House, legislation offers the only hope for real and lasting reform of the 1872 Mining Act. In November 2007 the House approved a bill (vehemently opposed by Interior) that regulates hardrock-mining companies like other extractive industries and requires them to pay royalties.

But in the Senate there's a push to excuse existing mines from royalties. Standing in the way of meaningful reform are Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) whose home state produces 90 percent of the nation's gold, and John Barrasso (R-WY) and Pete Domenici (R-NM) whose constituents, heavily invested in uranium and mining, profit from world demand for nuclear power.


Never has the need to bring the 1872 Mining Act out of the 19th century been greater. Roughly a quarter of our nation is still open to hardrock-mining; and this public land is threatened by soaring mineral processes. There has been an 80-percent increase in hardrock-mining claims over the past five years in the West, including 800 within five miles of Grand Canyon National Park.

The 1872 Mining Law had no analogue in American history. It is a historic artifact at once fascinating and destructive – as if grant ground sloths were found foraging in New England apple orchards.

As Mark Twain also wrote, and as he might have admonished those who use this vestigial statute to blight his America and ours: "Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first."

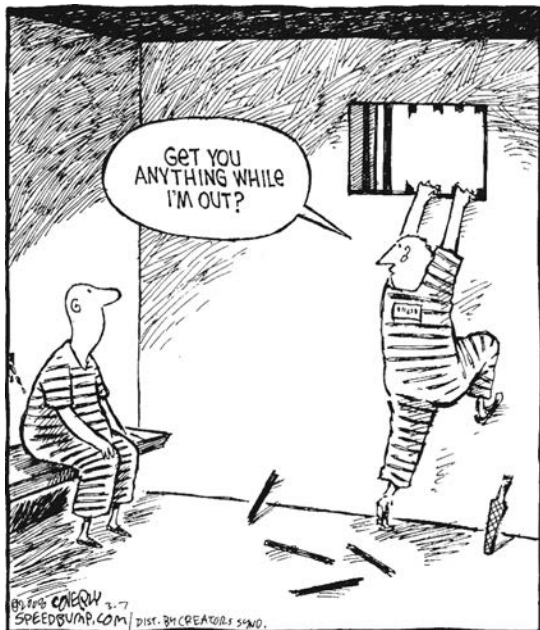
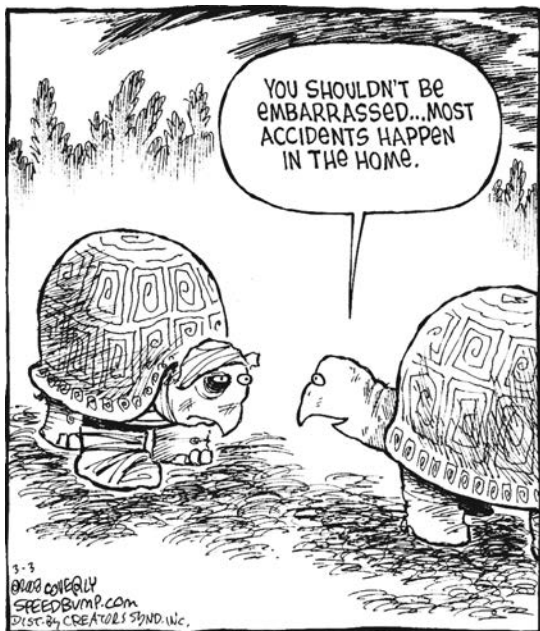
Ted Williams is conservation editor for Fly Rod & Reel Magazine.

The Downey Patriot

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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For March

Sun. March 9 - Thurs. March 13: "One Book, One Community" events, Downey City Library
 Mon. March 10: Irish Jigs, Reels and Songs performs at OASIS, Downey Adult School, 2:45 p.m.
 Tues. March 11: City Council meeting, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
 Wed. March 12: Citizens for Downey meeting, Rio Hondo Event Center, 7 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-Bear 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 Sambis, 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.

On This Day...

March 7, 1936: Adolf Hitler defies the Treaty of Versailles by ordering his troops into the Rhineland.
1965: Alabama state troopers and other law enforcement use billy clubs and tear gas to break up a civil rights demonstration in Selma.
1994: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that satirizing an original work can be considered "fair use" that does not need permission from the copyright holder.
1996: American film director Stanley Kubrick dies of a heart attack in his sleep. He was 70.
2003: Broadway actors and musicians stage a four-day walkout.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

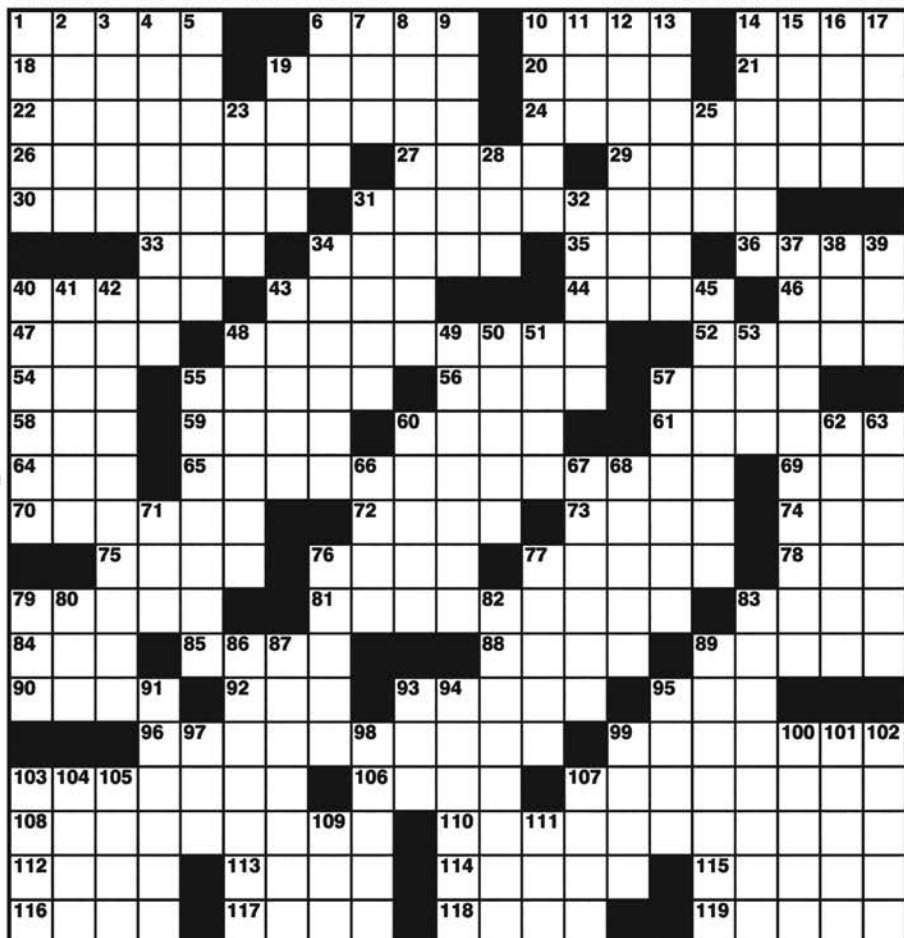
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

ANIMALISTIC: Another beastly puzzle

by Randolph Ross

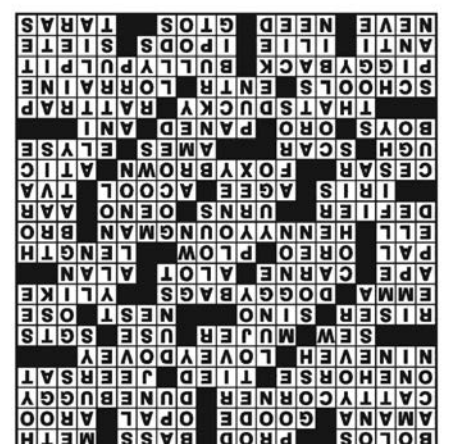
- ACROSS**
- 1 String ties
 - 6 Cattle coaxer
 - 10 Low voice
 - 14 Prot. denomination
 - 18 Westinghouse rival
 - 19 "Johnny B. ..."
 - 20 Fall birthstone
 - 21 Buck back?
 - 22 Diagonal
 - 24 Beach vehicle
 - 26 Very small, as a town
 - 27 Needing a rubber match
 - 29 Taunts
 - 30 Ancient city on the Tigris
 - 31 Very affectionate
 - 33 Install stitches
 - 34 Lady of la casa
 - 35 Put to work
 - 36 Friday and Bilko of TV
 - 40 Choir platform
 - 43 Japanese War
 - 44 Fit in
 - 46 Verb ending
 - 47 Jane Austen title character
 - 48 Leftovers packages
 - 52 Resembling a fork in the road
 - 54 Flatter, in a way
 - 55 Chile add-in
 - 56 Big-time
 - 57 Actor Arkin
 - 58 Buddy
 - 59 Circular treat
 - 60 Work the fields
 - 61 Inseam measure
 - 64 Pipe shape
 - 65 King of the one-liners
 - 69 Address in the hood
 - 70 Rule breaker
 - 72 Caterer's supply
 - 73 Winery word form
 - 74 Swiss river
 - 75 Flower painted by Van Gogh
 - 76 '40s Time film critic
 - 77 Keep head (stay calm)
 - 78 Power agcy. since '33
 - 79 French film award
 - 81 Rap artist
 - 83 Suffix for problem
 - 84 "That's awful!"
 - 85 Lion King villain
 - 88 Iowa city
 - 89 Family Ties mom
 - 90 Little shavers
 - 92 Metal in Montana's motto
 - 93 Like French doors
 - 95 Singer DiFranco
 - 96 "Excellent!"
 - 99 Hovel
 - 103 Groups of fish
 - 106 _acte
 - 107 Bracco of The Sopranos
 - 108 One way to ride
 - 110 Position of authority
 - 112 Pro foe
 - 113 "Why would _?"
 - 114 Apple products
 - 115 Tres less than diez
 - 116 Actress Campbell
 - 117 Scholarship criterion
 - 118 '60s muscle cars
 - 119 _ Bulba (Gogol novel)
- DOWN**
- 1 Breakfast order
 - 2 Sultanate citizen
 - 3 Grow dark
 - 4 Cruising
 - 5 Practice, as a speech
 - 6 Sponge opening
 - 7 '80s First Son
 - 8 Part of Beethoven's 9th
 - 9 Infer
 - 10 Mr. _ (Clue victim)
 - 11 Clerk on The Simpsons
 - 12 Central American capital
 - 13 LP holders
 - 14 Povich et al.
 - 15 Units of work
 - 16 Roman raiment
 - 17 Baseball great Wilhelm
 - 19 "Golly gee!"
 - 23 Rowing team
 - 25 Small buzzer
 - 28 Poetic adverb
 - 31 Fencing move
 - 32 Maguire's Spider-Man costar
 - 34 Small and pretty
 - 37 Becoming unglued
 - 38 Sound of admonition
 - 39 Match in poker
 - 40 Collected crops
 - 41 Pierce
 - 42 Raise suspicion
 - 43 Philosopher Kierkegaard
 - 45 Anacin alternative
 - 48 Risk takers
 - 49 Horsefeathers
 - 50 Baseball family
 - 51 Graduate garb
 - 53 PC linkup
 - 55 Legacy sharers
 - 57 AA offshoot
 - 60 Corning brand
 - 62 "Honky Tonk Moon" singer
 - 63 Mann of education
 - 66 Erstwhile imported auto
 - 67 Allow entrance to men and women
 - 68 Cat calls
 - 71 Novelist Levin
 - 76 Oversize hairdos
 - 77 Former House majority leader
 - 79 Young shark
 - 80 Latin for "I"
 - 82 Legally insolvent
 - 83 Its hub is da Vinci Airport
 - 86 Fuel holder
 - 87 Gallery event
 - 89 Place in the care of
 - 91 Cheap cheroot
 - 93 Groan inducer
 - 94 Show off
 - 95 Senior lobby
 - 97 Today, in Taxco
 - 98 Faked out, on the ice
 - 99 Orbison and Lichtenstein
 - 100 More mature
 - 101 Author Shreve
 - 102 Dragon (Disney film)
 - 103 Extend over
 - 104 Movie house
 - 105 Design on a Dime channel
 - 107 Honorary law degs.
 - 109 French equivalent of inc.
 - 111 Old card game

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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.

NINEVEH (30 Across), an important city in ancient Assyria, is mentioned in Genesis as having been built by Ashur, grandson of Noah. The CESAR (79 Across), France's national film award, is named for sculptor Cesar Bal-dacini, who designed the trophy. The last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony features his setting of the Schiller poem "ODE TO JOY" (8 Down).



GOOD

Continued from page 1

They are all intermingled in a complex knot that results in crime, vandalism and, ultimately, a lower quality of life in Downey.

Thankfully the problem has not grown to epidemic proportions, credit in large part going to an involved Downey business community, citizenry and police department that has taken a proactive interest in the direction this city is heading.

GOOD serves at the forefront on the battle against gangs. I visited their meeting this week to see how they accomplish all that they accomplish.

Organized and proper, but passionate and strong-willed, a profusion of Downey leadership and administration filled a modest and unassuming room in the Manuel Gallegos Administration Building on Brookshire Avenue, located directly across the street from Downey Regional Medical Center.

The room was a virtual who's who of talent and smarts: along with Jackson, president of GOOD, there was David Gafin, Robert Jagielski, Wendy Doty, Thad Phillips, Steve Allen, Carol Rowland, Stan Hanstad, John Lacy, Mary Stauffer, Dan Fox, Candie Blankman, Jerry and Margarita Rogers, and more.

Law enforcement was represented by Capt. Mike Miller, Sgt. Jeff Calhoun and Detective Mike Parino of the Downey Police Department, as well as Raul Muniz of Los Angeles County Probation.

Close to 25 people were in attendance, all volunteering their personal time and expertise to make Downey a better community in which to live and work. The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 a.m. The public is always welcome.

On this particular day, GOOD was making preparations for its annual luncheon fundraiser, this year scheduled for April 16 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Doty announced that Michael Josephson of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, creators of Character Counts, will be the keynote speaker, while Supervisor Don Knabe will serve as emcee.

The meeting was relaxed and relatively swift, beginning with a check presentation from the Stauffer Foundation, which was donating \$10,000 towards scholarships for "at-risk" students.

Downey Federal Credit Union, a staunch supporter of the community, donated \$5,000 to GOOD.

"Downey Federal Credit Union strongly supports Gangs Out of Downey, a community-based organization that encourages young people to stay away from gangs through prevention and intervention." Executive Vice President Orlando Waters said in a statement. "Our commitment to the program helps empower young people in Downey between the ages of 10 and 20 years old to take control of their own lives and live up to their potential."

Indeed, it's the support of businesses and organizations like Downey Federal Credit Union and the Stauffer Foundation that help power GOOD and their ultimate philosophy that people deserve second chances in life.

Jackson told the story of a recent visit to Downey Superior Court and being searched at the security checkpoint by a student he had previously mentored. Graduating from Columbus High School, she had turned her life around and was now holding down a steady job, in law enforcement no



Gangs Out of Downey has long enjoyed the support of Downey Federal Credit Union, which donated \$5,000 to the program this week.

less. Telling the story, Jackson sounded almost like a proud father.

In other news, Robert Jagielski, an administrator with the Downey Unified School District, said GOOD was looking to revamp its aging logo with a fresh look, which raised a question: Should GOOD go with an aggressive, assertive type of design, or keep to a restrained, rosier look? It's a question that stands to be debated.

Carol Rowland of Keep Downey Beautiful announced that the city, armed with two trucks and three employees, had removed 58,000 square feet of graffiti last month. The city will remove graffiti off private property, Rowland said, a service some cities don't offer.

Capt. Mike Miller said robberies at liquor stores and banks in Downey seemed to be on a decrease, but gaining in popularity are street crimes, apparently committed by gang members, where pedestrians are robbed of their cell phones and iPods.

Sgt. Jeff Calhoun said the thieves will sometimes park their car ahead of a pedestrian, rob the victim, and run back to their car to escape.

Miller said the Downey Police Department was "aggressively tar-

getting" the thieves by sending three two-man units to targeted areas, which has included North Downey.

"We're sending them out in marked units, we're not hiding," said Miller. "We want [the thieves] to know we're out to get them. We need our citizens to feel safe in their own community."

Juddy Cisneros of the city of Downey's Public Information Office said the reinstated Neighborhood Watch program was off to a tremendous start, with an outpouring of community support. Of course, there's always room for improvement, so call Cisneros at (562) 904-7285 for information on how to get Neighborhood Watch implemented on your block.

More than an hour into the meeting, it was time to wrap things up (people had regular jobs to get to). I came away with the distinct impression that GOOD is responsible for more community goodwill than they are often given credit for. Their accomplishments are the type that go unnoticed and unheralded.

Comprised mainly of city residents, GOOD members have an active stake in the organization's success. This is their community.

This is our community. Gangs are not welcome.

Songfest 2008 has a harmonic lineup

DOWNEY – The 16th Annual Interfaith, Multi-Cultural Songfest, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will be held on March 15 at the church's South Downey facility located at 12425 Orizaba Ave. Prelude music will begin at 6:45 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m.

Songfest 2008 will feature choral and gospel singing, as well as solo performances by talent from Downey and neighboring communities. Nine musical groups and soloists are scheduled to perform.

Performers include The New City Parish Choir, led by Mark Coates; The Voices of Inspiration and Immanuel Gospel Choir, led by Alexander Hamilton; the Hollywood Mass Choir, directed by Patrick Hare; Zion's Voice, led by Lega Tipeni; The Chinese Choir of Hacienda Heights, directed by Lo DeFranchi; The Samoan Choir of Lynwood, directed by Misioni Frost; Tapestry of Redondo Beach; and the Warren High School Vocal Ensemble, directed by Robert Peterson. Scheduled soloist is baritone Henry Charles Johnson.

"Once again we are happy to have such marvelous talent at our annual musical togetherness event," said Lois Buchanan, event coordinator and community relations director for the Downey Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "It is our pleasure to again offer an evening of music and togetherness to the people of Downey and to our neighboring communities. It is also a great opportunity to meet as friends from various religions and from different cultures. Everyone is invited to this free evening of harmony."

For more information, call (562) 861-8450.

Annual GOOD luncheon scheduled for April 16; tickets still available

DOWNEY – Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) will hold its annual luncheon fundraiser April 16 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. The event will spotlight the work done by the community-based organization to combat gang activity in Downey.

GOOD is comprised of local community leaders and has received national recognition, including the president's Points of Light Award and the California Merit Award in 2002.

The luncheon costs \$30 per person or \$300 for a table of 10. Sponsorships are also available in the following amounts: platinum sponsorship for a donation of \$5,000 or more; gold sponsorship for \$2,000 to \$4,999; silver sponsorship for \$1,000 to \$1,999; and bronze sponsorship for \$500 to \$999.

Proceeds from the event are used by the Downey Police Department, city of Downey and Downey Unified School District to fund anti-graffiti programs, programs for "at-risk" students, the 10/20 Club for gang suppression, and the Community Policing in the Schools Program.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Barbara Lamberth, CEO of Downey Federal Credit Union, at (562) 862-8141, ext. 223, or Stan Hanstad, assistant superintendent with the Downey Unified School District, at (562) 469-6541.

The event is an annual sellout with over 400 people in attendance.



Soroptimist International of Downey presented Kevin MacDonald, executive director of Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County, and Karina Lujan, a consumer in Arc's employment programs, a check for \$1,000 to be this year's Gold Sponsor for the Arc Walk, which will take place April 5 at Stonewood Center. Pictured are, left to right, Jan Scott, Pat Heineke, MacDonald, Lujan, Dianne Lumsdaine, Dorothy Pemberton, Sue Potter and Karina Madariaga.



The Downey Optimist Club has joined the 2008 Arc Walk as a diamond sponsor with a contribution of \$2,500. Joining in the check presentation ceremony were (from left) Optimist Club President-Elect Roy Acker and Treasurer Steve Allen, Arc Executive Director Kevin MacDonald and job seeker Vanessa Rosales. The Arc Walk is April 5 at Stonewood Center.

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CUBA

Continued from page 1

"Unless you're living there, you can't really know how things will turn out," said Lupe Tavera, a 15-year Downey resident. Tavera was born in Cuba and came to America with her family when she was 4 years old. Although she has never been back to visit, her sister, who currently lives in Cuba, visits the U.S. on a regular basis. Her brother, who also lives in Cuba, has not been allowed to leave the country for unknown reasons.

"As far as the Cubans that live there are concerned, they don't believe anything is going to change - there has been a loss of hope," said Tavera, a Wescom Insurance employee. "They can't really trust what the government says because they say what the country wants to hear. Everyone can see that Cuba is falling apart."

However, Tavera said, the people of Cuba should not lose hope. Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra, who was born in Cuba and came to America at the age of 6, couldn't agree more.

"This is the start of freedom," said Guerra, whose grandfather owned Guerra Cigars in Cuba. "The Cuban people live life to the fullest and try to enjoy life with each passing day."

Guerra, who said he made his only visit back to Cuba four years ago, also believes that Raul Castro will just continue what Fidel Castro has already started.

"The country has always hated Raul more than Fidel because Raul does all the dirty work while Fidel sets the tone," Guerra said. "My biggest concern for the Cuban people is for them to eat and have Cuban dignity and human rights."

Although Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte told CNN the U.S. embargo on Cuba, imposed in 1962, will not be lifted in the near term, Guerra feels the embargo has hurt the people of Cuba the most. It is rumored, however, that Raul Castro might seek an arrangement with the U.S. to open the door to more trade and tourism now that Cold

War rivalries have eased.

According to Reuters, Raul, nicknamed "Fidel Lite" by the U.S. government, accepted the presidency on the condition that his brother continued to be the "commander in chief of the revolution." "Fidel is Fidel," he said. "Fidel is irreplaceable."

Raul is said to lack the "oratorical flair" of his brother, and has supposedly encouraged the Cuban people in the last year and a half to voice concerns over the economy, raising hopes in modern reform. He is also expected to pursue limited economic reforms to tackle food shortages and poor living standards, reported Reuters.

Fidel Castro, also known as the "father of revolutionaries," adopted a socialist economic model and one-party Communist rule for Cuba in the 1960's, keeping with communism even after the Soviet Union disintegrated and the majority of the rest of the world concluded that state socialism was a sour idea.

Defenders of Fidel say social progress made under his revolution includes racial integration and universal education and health care.

Alicia Tallon, a 23-year Downey resident who came from Cuba at the age of 14, agrees that Fidel Castro has provided free education and health care to the people of Cuba, of which is the extent of any "good" coming from his leadership.

"The government brainwashes you," she said. "It's going to take a long time and a lot of money to change Cuba."

"I think there have been preparations taking place for quite a while to assure the crowning of Raul Castro," Janisset Rivero, executive director of the Cuban Democratic Directorate, told CNN. "It doesn't mean any change to the system. It doesn't mean there will be freedom for the Cubans. One big dictator is replacing the other."

"It will be a big deal when political prisoners are released, when political parties are allowed to organize, when the country stops being ruled by a single party."

Volunteer drivers in need

DOWNEY - The American Cancer Society needs volunteer drivers to transport cancer patients to their treatment appointments. Training is provided.

Licensed drivers with a good driving record and their own insurance are invited to call (562) 437-0791.

Blind college student lands scholarship

NORWALK - Diana Michel, a court reporting major at Cerritos College and a resident of Long Beach, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from Long Beach Legal Secretaries Association (LBSLA).

Michel hopes to become a deposition reporter and has been volunteering at the Braille Institute, helping people with visual impairments.

"I was shocked to receive the scholarship," she said, "because I was not expecting to win it at all."

She said she is planning to use the scholarship to purchase equipment necessary to participate in the program, such as a steno machine.

Lynwood traffic signals going greener

LYNWOOD - Senator Alan Lowenthal, who represents portions of Downey in the 27th Senate District, announced this week that the city of Lynwood has received a \$330,000 loan from the California Energy Commission to replace aging incandescent traffic signals with new energy efficient LED technology.

Lowenthal said the loan will pay for the replacement of 1,905 incandescent lamps at 55 intersections with LED modules. In addition to energy savings, Lowenthal said the project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 347,492 pounds per year.

"By replacing inefficient traffic lights with new LEDs, we can save the city more than 425,000 kilowatt hours and \$44,000 annually," Lowenthal said. "This effort makes it possible for Lynwood to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money and resources, and ensure that roads remain safe for everyone."

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Youth soccer players recognized for effort

■ Soccer Awards Night rewards young athletes for achievements during past soccer season.

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DOWNEY – Fun, prizes and awards were enjoyed by team members and family at the Bernabé Community Center's Soccer Awards Night held Feb. 15. The event was held in the worship hall at Redeemer Covenant Church.

Over 200 children participate each year in softball, tag football, soccer or basketball at the center. At the end of each season, the children receive trophies to recognize their effort.

This year's award celebration started off with a bang as Coach Mike Davis of Kidz 'N Sports Radio brought everyone to their feet when he announced a competition for a poster and soccer tickets. The Sea Horses, an adult league soccer club, donated 12 game tickets while Goal Line Soccer in Downey donated two tickets to a Los Angeles Galaxy game.

Winners answered questions such as, "What is the name of the award given to the soccer player who scores the most goals?" (answer: Golden Boot); and "Who is considered the greatest soccer player of all time?" (answer: Pele.)

Davis also encouraged the children to stay in school and apply themselves to their studies.

"How many of you like to make money?" Davis asked the kids. "No matter how dumb it may seem, finish high school, go to college and get your degree – and then you will make lots of money."

Davis also encouraged the parents to recognize their children's academic accomplishments. "When your child hits a home run, what happens? Instant reward – you stand up and cheer. Your child needs that cheer when they bring home a better grade."

Bernabé Community Center Director Dennis Dennehy then recognized youth sports coaches for their longtime commitment to kids and their sports, including James Flores, who has been with Bernabé since it opened nearly a decade ago. Also honored were Javier Marquez, Art Franco, Mike Trimmell and Rey Guevara, who help coach the children along with other staff from Santa Fe High School.

This year's soccer champions were Team Real Madrid: William Baires, Anthony Brienco, Daniel Deladillo, Priscilla Galdamez, Mark Gazmen, Angel Lernas, Omar Martinez, Winston Moeun, Jason Oviel, Damian Perez, Steve Reyes, Thomas Small Perez, Greg Valdez and Jose Vegas.

Second place awards went to Team United: Jonathan Alvarado, Stephanie Aquillares, Stephanie Barrous, Jake Brown, Luis Crisostomo, Alexander Delgado, Eli Einiguez, Jessica Hernandez, John Manzo, Carlos Martinez, Francisco Mena, Juan Jose Romero, Daniel Sanchez and Stephanie Sanchez.

Trophies were also awarded to Team Chelsea and Team Galaxy. Members of Team Chelsea included Fidel Avita, Kevin Cisneros, Jacob Correa, Janice Couarrubias, Tatiana Deltaville, AJ Franco, Julian Java, Brenda Lara, Miguel Martinez, Nicole Perez, Rafael Ramirez, Daniel Rodriguez, Cristol Tores and Adran Vazquez.

Team Galaxy: Elpidio Barrales, Michelle Campos, Edgar Cantoran, Pedro Corona, Anehandra Diaz, Max Flores, Natalie Gomez, Aldo Gonzalez, Aaron Henderson, Angelita Herrera, Anthony Luna, Bryan Morales, Ervy Rodriguez and Arianna Rojo.

Basketball signups at Bernabé Community Center are now being taken. For information, call Dennis Dennehy at (562) 863-1899.

Hawaiian grill opens at Downey Landing

DOWNEY – Aloha Hawaiian Grill opened their first restaurant in the food court at Downey Landing last week.

MeeMee Malau'ulu, who grew up in Hawaii, and his wife, Uluani, who was born on the island of Oahu, are the franchisees. They have been Downey residents for over 30 years.

MeeMee was a fire dancer and Ululani a hula dancer at Disneyland's Tahitian Terrace in the 1970's. After marrying, they produced their own Polynesian/Hawaiian reviews, in addition to catering Hawaiian parties.

MeeMee currently coaches varsity volleyball at Bellflower High School. He previously coached at Artesia, Jordan and St. John Bosco High Schools.

Nominations open for Hall of Fame

DOWNEY – Downey High School is searching for distinguished alumni who wish to be considered for induction into the school's Hall of Fame.

Alumni will be considered in the following categories: Arts, Athletics, Business, Civic/Community/Government, Education and Professional.

Past inductees include Dr. Robert Ballard, the discoverer of the Titanic; entertainers Richard and Karen Carpenter; musician George Pajon, Jr., guitarist for the Black Eyed Peas; and international skating figures JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley.

To nominate a person, call Assistant Principal John Baker at (562) 869-7301, ext 5524, for an application.

Sponsors sought for Street Faire

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

All sponsors will be featured in advertisements, posters and flyers distributed to 10,000 elementary school students, as well as publicity in *Downey Business*, the Chamber's newsletter, and local newspapers.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, call the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.



Willowbend, a "friendly ensemble of Celtic musicians," will perform Monday at Downey Adult School.

Willowbend performing at OASIS program

■ Four-member band will play traditional Celtic music at Downey Adult School this Monday.

DOWNEY – "Irish Jigs, Reels and Songs," a musical program featuring Bea Romano and the band Willowbend, will perform at this Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

Harriett Paine, OASIS instructor, describes the entertainers as a friendly ensemble of Celtic musicians. The group will feature traditional acoustic instruments, including the hammered dulcimer.

A special St. Patrick's dinner will be served, which will include sliced corn beef and cabbage, scalloped potatoes, green Jello, salad, homemade rolls, shamrock cupcakes, and milk and coffee.

All older adults are welcome to the meeting. Enrollment is free and begins at 2:45 p.m., at which time visitors can purchase an optional dinner ticket for \$3.50. The program will start at 3:45, followed by dinner at 5.

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

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

World War II Titles

• *"Army at Dawn: the War in North Africa, 1942-1943"* and *"Day of Battle: the War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944"* by Rick Atkinson. These are the first two volumes in the "Liberation Trilogy" by Atkinson, who won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2003.

• *"Embattled Dreams: Californians in War and Peace, 1940-1950"* by Kevin Starr. This rich history of California in the 1940's shows how the state took on a new role in the war industry.

• *"Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945"* by David M. Kennedy. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2000, this narrative spans the 17-year period that changed America.

• *"Impounded: Dorothea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment"* by Dorothea Lange. With 119 photographs, this work captures the ordeal of a community uprooted in the early 1940's and the reality of the internment camps.

• *"The Interpreter"* by Alice Yeager Kaplan. A compelling story of war, race relations and capital punishment in the 1940's.

• *"Just Americans: How Japanese Americans Won a War at Home and Abroad"* by Robert Asahina. In 1944, a segregated unit of Japanese-American soldiers became one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history.

• *"The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million"* by Daniel Mendelsohn. Six members of Mendelsohn's family disappeared during the Holocaust. After uncovering desperate letters sent to his grandfather, the author embarked on a hunt for eyewitnesses to his relatives' fates.

• *"Sea of Thunder: Four Commanders and the Last Great Naval Campaign, 1941-1945"* by Evan Thomas. Journalist and historian Thomas captures the battles of World War II in the Pacific with an analysis of both American and Japanese military minds.

• *"The Second World War"* by John Keegan. This military history focuses on five major battles, offering insights into the methods of modern warfare.

• *"The War of the World: Twentieth Century Conflict and the Descent of the West"* by Niall Ferguson. The author explores the paradox of why unprecedented progress in society has often coincided with unprecedented violence.

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

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VANTAGE POINT PG13 (10:15 12:40 3:05) 5:30 7:55 10:20
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STEP UP 2 THE STREETS PG13 (11:00 1:35 4:10) 6:45 9:20
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Police chief touches on all subjects at Kiwanis meeting

By GWYNN GUSTAFSON,
KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNEY

As a recent Kiwanis Club of Downey meeting got underway, the flag salute was recited while all in attendance faced guest speaker Police Chief Roy Campos. Campos was wearing the only U.S. flag present in the room. Regardless of how small the flag, that is the symbol of our great nation.

Campos stated that the relationship between the Downey schools and the police department is very strong because education and law enforcement work together.

Touching on the subject of inter-agency relationships since 9/11, Campos said it is critical that Downey have a strong working relationship with all surrounding agencies during times of strife, such as occurred during the recent wild fires.

"It is good to know we are not alone," said Campos.

The Santa Fe Springs office of the California Highway Patrol is the busiest in the state and yet Downey can still count on their support when needed. This constant support is guaranteed because there is mutual respect between Downey and Santa Fe Springs police departments, Campos said.

There are many community outreach programs in Downey, Campos said. One was the undercover operation to find which stores were selling liquor to underage youth. Later news coverage reported the coalition between the Alcoholic Beverage Control and Downey PD was very effective.



Police Chief Roy Campos, center, is welcomed to the Kiwanis Club of Downey meeting by Lee Powell, left, and John Casillas.

An ongoing program is the control of tagging, where police record every example of graffiti. When a vandal is caught in the act, they can be tied to many other sites with the new photo identification system. When brought to trial, taggers now serve longer terms.

The Downey Police Department should also be considered for a career in law enforcement. During a recent phone conversation Campos had with retired Chief Pete Stone, the first officer hired to Downey PD, Stone said, "I miss it." There are three openings now at the Downey Police Department.

"We don't hire just anybody off the street," said Campos. "We hire only those with excellent personal

and professional character. It is better to be short staffed than to hire an officer who doesn't follow the rules and regulations and jeopardizes the welfare of the community."

Every Downey police officer goes through a six-month academy and they all learn the same message: Respect, Empathy, Dignity.

Campos closed by thanking Kiwanis Club of Downey for their dedication to Downey and its children.

"It's organizations such as Kiwanis that are the heart and soul of this city," he said.

Details on hiring at the Downey Police Department are available on the Web at www.downeypd.org or by calling (562) 904-2374.

Griffiths students participate in music benefit at Hollywood's Key Club

HOLLYWOOD – Members of Griffiths Middle School's After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles recently participated in a music event held at the Key Club in Hollywood, where the students were able to perform onstage for the venue's audience. All proceeds went towards music education programs in various schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District that offer After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles programs.

"It is [our] mission to provide students who have the fewest resources, a safe learning environment, so that they may excel in the arts through absolutely free music – this deters kids from involvement with the dangers of drugs and gang life, and redirects them to something that is both productive and constructive," said Ana Campos, president and executive director of

After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles. "By educating, enlightening, and inspiring young people through music, we seek to cultivate positive self-esteem and provide the kids with opportunities to grow as musicians."

With KROQ, the Guitar Center, Vans and the Key Club as sponsors, the After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles "I Wanna Rock" event on Feb. 2 featured local rock, 80's and metal artists.

"It was a fantastic evening and the kids had a great time," Campos said.

Originally founded by Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2002, After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles is a leading middle school after-school program provider whose programs educate, enlighten and inspire thousands of middle school aged youth each day through after-

school activities centered around health, fitness and nutrition; the visual and performing arts; and youth leadership and community service learning.

"My goal was to create a safe, educationally enriching and fun after-school environment at all of California's public elementary and middle schools," said Schwarzenegger, who continues to serve the organization as its Honorary Executive Chairman.

Griffiths Middle School has offered the program to its students since May 2002.

"Providing a supervised and structured after-school haven for our most vulnerable youth not only protects our school children, it keeps our neighborhoods safe," Schwarzenegger said. "Kids are the future – by focusing on their success, we focus on the success and future of Los Angeles."

For more information on After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles, visit www.la-allstars.org.



A new Fresh & Easy grocery store is expected to replace the former Albertsons building on Firestone Boulevard. Photo courtesy Fresh & Easy

Fresh & Easy expected to spruce up Downey at old Albertsons location

By BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – After years of sitting vacant, the Albertsons building located on Firestone Boulevard between Downey and Dolan Avenues will become the new home to Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market by the end of this year, said Scott Pomrehn, assistant to the City Manager.

According to Pomrehn, the company will be remodeling the current structure and will only use about half of the building. It is unknown what will occupy the remainder of the building.

"I think the community will enjoy having the option of shopping at Fresh & Easy," Pomrehn said. "They have a variety of specialty products that many of our residents travel elsewhere to get."

Fresh & Easy, a company of the United Kingdom's Tesco, offers healthy food products which do not contain artificial colors or flavors or added trans fat, and only use preservatives when absolutely necessary, says their Web site.

"Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market is different than any other supermarket," Chief Marketing Officer Simon Uwins writes on the Web site. "We've designed a modern grocery store for the modern American. We offer fresh, wholesome food at affordable prices with a range of authentic products and national brands, as well as our private label."

The chain, which thus far is only located in California, Nevada and Arizona, also serves as a pilot member of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Volume Certification Program, which means they strive to operate according to high environmental standards both structurally and functionally. "Fresh & Easy has made it a priority to reduce its impact on the environment in every neighborhood in which we operate," Uwins said. "From solar panels to recycling, we're doing everything we can to reduce emissions, use energy efficiently, and be environmentally responsible in all facilities and operations."

For more information on Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, visit www.freshandeasy.com.

Daylight Savings convenient time to provide home safety reminders

CONTRIBUTED BY BRK BRANDS, INC.

With the beginning of Daylight Savings Time and the "Spring forward" time change this Sunday, many people will change the batteries in their smoke alarms, along with setting their clocks ahead one hour.

However, simply replacing the batteries in some smoke alarms may not be enough to ensure protection against fire emergencies, specifically if those alarms are older than 10 years. Studies from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate one out of four alarms may not be functional due to the age of the alarm, as well as dead or missing batteries. That's why the NFPA strongly recommends replacing smoke alarms after 10 years.

"Daylight Saving Time has

always served as a good reminder to change the batteries in smoke alarms," said Debbie Hanson, director of external affairs for BRK Brands/First Alert. "But we need people to remember that smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years. It's imperative that smoke alarms be replaced after 10 years to ensure families are protected in fire emergencies."

Advances Significant in 10 Years

In addition to ensuring the best protection and earliest warning in the event of a fire, the smoke alarms available today offer new technologies and features that were virtually inconceivable 10 years ago. First Alert, a leader in home safety products including smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, offers award-winning ONELINK Technology, which allows homeowners to create a network of smoke alarms that "talk" to each other with no wiring required. When one alarm sounds, all alarms sound, giving everyone in the home a better chance of hearing the alarms and reacting quickly.

In addition, several smoke alarm models are now available with special lithium batteries that last 10 years and never have to be replaced during the recommended life of the alarm. Other features of today's smoke alarms include remote controlled muting, to quiet nuisance alarms and easy access

battery compartments, which allow consumers to change or replace batteries without having to remove the alarm from the ceiling.

Smoke Alarm Maintenance Tips

According to Hanson, fire safety education and routine maintenance of smoke alarms are the cornerstones to reducing the incidence and severity of home fires.

The following are simple steps people can take that will greatly reduce the risk of fire-related injury and property loss:

- Change the batteries in smoke alarms every six months or when the low battery signal is heard
- Test your alarms weekly using the units' test buttons to ensure batteries and all alarm functions are working properly
- Never remove the unit's batteries to stop an unwanted alarm or "nuisance" alarm, such as those caused by cooking smoke or burnt toast.

According to the NFPA, half of the deaths in homes equipped with smoke alarms occur because the smoke alarm did not sound – usually when batteries are dead, disconnected or missing.

• Replace older smoke alarms after 10 years or in accordance with manufacturer's warranties

To learn more about protecting your family from smoke, fire and carbon monoxide, visit www.firstalert.com.

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Leo John Martini worked for Vultee during WWII

DOWNEY – Leo John Martini, a 30-year resident of Downey, passed away in his home on Feb. 8. He was 97.



Martini was born on March 22, 1910 in Marburg, Austria. Following World War I, Martini immigrated to America with his mother, Anna, joining his father, John, and brother, August, in Huntington Park.

He graduated from St. Matthias Grammar School in 1925, which is where he met Anita Theresa Stark, whom he married in 1937. He then graduated from Huntington Park High School, where he was a member of the varsity tennis team.

After completing school, Martini joined his brother in working in ornamental iron for A.J. Bayer, a large employer of Los Angeles' German-speaking community of the time.

In the years leading to World War II, as well as during the war, Martini worked for major aircraft companies Northrop and Vultee. In 1948, he joined Weber Showcase as a development technician, and following his retirement, returned to work for Master Fence, heading a research and development department.

Before moving to Downey in 1976, he was active in the South Gate Tennis Club for numerous years, winning a city championship in the 1940's and playing recreationally into his eighties.

He is preceded in death by his wife Anita, who passed away in 2003. Martini is survived by daughter, Gretchen (Ted) Clark of Marina del Rey; sons, John Leo (Gebrielle) Martini of Long Beach, and Mark William (Julie) Martini of Huntington Beach; grandchildren, Daniel (Verica) Clark, Theresa (Karl) Lutke and Jason Martini; great-grandson, Mark Lutke; and nieces, Margaret Dita Bohnert of Downey and Madeline Regul Reller of Ranch Mirage.

Services were held at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach.

Clifford John Devenish was WWII veteran

DOWNEY – Clifford (Cliff) John Devenish, a longtime Downey resident, passed away on Feb. 29. He was 80.



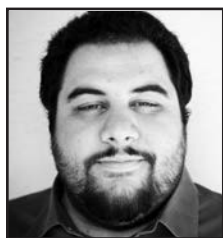
Devenish was born here in California on Jan. 7, 1928 to Charles H. and Ethel Simmons Devenish. He served four years in the Navy during World War II. Following his service, he worked as a line-man for the Union Pacific Railroad for 35 years.

He is survived by sister, Charlene, and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at the Spanish Fork City Cemetery in Utah.

Gregory Scott Gilbert succumbs to diabetes

DOWNEY – Gregory Scott Gilbert, a graduate of Warren High School, passed away on Feb. 27 due to untreated diabetes. He was 26.



Gilbert attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara and worked as a Systems Analyst at Brooks Institute of Photography, also in Santa Barbara.

He is survived by mother, Laura Tesoriero and father, David Gilbert.

Photo by Greg Lawler

Renee Drake was active in Assistance League

DOWNEY – Renee Drake, a longtime Downey resident, passed away on Jan. 27 due to lung cancer. She was 91.



Drake was born on Sept. 26, 1916 in London. She married Basil Drake, a member of the U.S. Air Force 355th Fighter Group, in 1944. The two came to America the following year.

As a resident of Downey, Drake was active in the Assistance League of Downey, Bellflower Adult School, OASIS and the Downey Occidental Chapter of Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1980.

She is survived by daughter, Lorinda, and son-in-law, David Crow of Huntington Beach.

Services will be held March 18 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Downey at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Seal Beach Animal Care Center or the Salvation Army.

Donna Ray Hale was editor of 'Southeast News'

DOWNEY – Donna Ray Hale, former editor of the *Downey Southeast News*, passed away on March 2. She was 88.



Hale was born on March 7, 1919 in Cous Bay, Ore., moving with her family to California at the age of 10.

She graduated from USC with a bachelor's in journalism and a bachelor's in political science. She also received a master's in telecommunications from USC.

Hale was the editor of the *Downey Southeast News* and spent 32 years as the news editor for Farmers Insurance Company.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Leslie Hale; father, Ray Lenore Hale; and niece, Donna Parr Walgreen.

She is survived by sister, Patricia Parr; nephew, Mike Parr; grand-nephews, Chris and Leslie Walgreen; and great-grandnephews, Drew, Connor and Duncan Walgreen.

Services will be held tomorrow at the Downey Zrelak Family Mortuary Chapel at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at the Los Osos Valley Memorial Park in Los Osos, Calif.

Respect for the dead important to the living

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

In Greek mythology, the souls of the dead ended up in Hades, which was surrounded by the rivers of hell. The souls each had to pay the ferryman, Charon, one obol (the coinage at the time) to secure passage across the river Styx, before they could be admitted to the realm of the dead. No obol, no passage. There was another condition: according to Greek belief, the soul could not negotiate the Styx and repose in the abodes of the dead unless the body had been properly buried or burnt, or a pious hand somehow flung speckles of dust over it. Thus, "Antigone," the "Iliad," etc.

In addition, there was a place of torment called Tartarus, as well as a place of bliss called the Elysian Fields "where," one author wrote, "falls not hail, or rain, or any snow/ Nor ever wind blows loudly; but it lies/ Deep-meadow'd, happy..."

Do you know how the first mummy came about? It has to do with the Egyptians' belief about the last of their warrior/gods, Osiris, whom they considered their most important god, one who actually led them into battle, and who was a good and wise ruler. Accounts of his story from various sources, including those by Herodotus and Plutarch, have been woven into a unified narrative, telling of how immortal Osiris, in that distant time, slept with his brother Seth's wife, Nephtys, who was also his wife Isis's sister. Enraged, Seth had Osiris' body hacked to fourteen pieces and cast into hidden corners of the land. After much travel and travail, Isis, with the help of Nephtys, was able to retrieve all the parts but one. These they bandaged together, using "a long, winding piece of white linen."

Egyptian lore after this continues with the birth of Horus, Egypt's first mortal king. But that is another story.

For centuries, the living buried their dead above ground, with tombs dotting cemeteries. The paradigm shift to memorial parks is a relatively recent phenomenon, with mourning giving way to ceremonies celebrating the life, and honoring the memory, of the departed one. It is a welcome shift, more attuned to the modern eye. Too, cost and geographical considerations have rendered cremation more socially acceptable. Visually and emotionally, although traditions die hard, eschatological practices seem to conform to clean, modern lines.

With this changed landscape, pre-planning arrangements for the inevitable hour has become more important than before, and increasingly viewed as an integral part of the death care process, which today is valued at an estimated \$10 billion-a-year. Estimated 'American way of death' market shares in L.A. county show independents owning close to two-thirds of the total pie, with familiar names Forest Lawn and Rose Hills accounting for 9-10 percent and 8-9 percent, respectively.

Other big players are led by Service Corporation International (SCI), followed by Stewart, Adenwoods, HK, and PRIME. Funeral homes servicing the local area are Miller-Mies Mortuary and Downey Zrelak, both owned by SCI. Independent Risher Mortuary, long associated with Montebello but not without roots in Downey, has quietly come to town and is expected to announce its expansion here at an appropriate date.

At bottom, care for our departed hasn't really changed much through the ages. We still try to give them a solicitous send-off, a fitting burial and memorial, we still pray for their souls, and we cling to our memories of them and our hopes of meeting them again in the afterlife—but determined to live as life should be lived

Thai dance troupe performs at local church

DOWNEY – The Thai Dance & Drama Troupe from Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand will be performing at the First Presbyterian Church of Downey on March 26 as part of their United States tour, which consists of 25 performances.

Led by Rev. Rob Collins, director of Payap University's Christian Communications Institute, and his wife, Esther Wakeman, the troupe consists of seven professional dancers and actors.

Their program will feature a number of dances from various regions of Thailand, as well as a traditional Thai Likay (melodrama), with English translation, of the parable of the prodigal son.

Performances at the church will include a children's matinee at 3 p.m., followed by an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. Performances are free, but there will be an opportunity to contribute to the troupe's tour expenses.

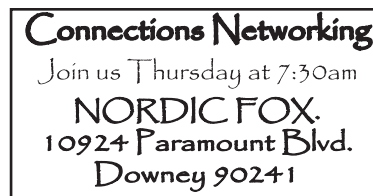
For more information, call (562) 861-6752.

Class assists in purchasing a computer

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library will offer "Purchasing a Computer," a class for consumers interested in purchasing their first home computer, on March 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Cormack Room.

The class is ideal for those who want to make an informed purchase but are confused by computer terms and the range of products on the market. Students also will learn how to find the best consumer evaluations and determine your personal skill level and computer needs.

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



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Community Meetings

March 11 & 25, 2008	March 13, 2008	March 19, 2008
2 p.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.
HomeTown Buffet	Talbert Medical Group	HomeTown Buffet
8432 Firestone Blvd.	8311 Florence Avenue	8432 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, 90241	Downey, 90240	Downey, 90241

Space is limited, so call 1-800-980-0295 (TTY 1-866-832-8671),

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time), any day of the week to RSVP for a meeting near you and learn about the variety of health plan options available.

Or visit our Web site at www.aarpmedicarecomplete.com.

For accommodations for persons with special needs call: 1-800-980-0295, TTY 1-866-832-8671. A sales representative will be present with information and applications.



* You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium if not otherwise paid for under Medicaid or by another third party.

AARP does not make health plan recommendations for individuals. You are strongly encouraged to evaluate your needs before choosing a health plan. The AARP® MedicareComplete® plans are SecureHorizons® Medicare Advantage plans insured or covered by an affiliate of UnitedHealthcare, an MA organization with a Medicare contract. AARP is not an insurer. UnitedHealthcare pays a fee to AARP and its affiliate for use of the AARP trademark and other services. Amounts paid are used for the general purposes of AARP and its members. The AARP® MedicareComplete® plans are available to all eligible Medicare beneficiaries, including both members and non-members of AARP. AARP and the AARP Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of AARP. The SecureHorizons and MedicareComplete marks are trademarks or registered trademarks of United Healthcare Alliance, LLC and its affiliates. AARP and its affiliates are not insurance agencies or carriers and do not employ or endorse individual agents.



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Mother's Day is May 11!!!
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The Downey Patriot will publish a special section dedicated to Mother's Day. For only \$25.00, you can honor your mother, grandmother or that someone special with a 1.986" by 3" announcement.
 Deadlines for announcements is May 1 and will be published on May 9, 2008.

- Include the following information:
 ✓ Completed Information Card
 ✓ Photo
 - By Mail - photo must be 2" x 3"
 - By Email - photo must be 300 dpi (DowneyPatriot@yahoo.com)
 ✓ Check payable to The Downey Patriot

Send to:
 The Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

Mother's Name
 Line 2
 Line 3
 Line 4
 Line 5

ACTUAL SIZE

The Downey Patriot
 YOUR HOMEOWNERS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
 8301 E. Florence Avenue, Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240
 Line = approximately 20 to 23 characters including spaces and punctuation

Line 1 (Mother's Name) _____
 Line 2 (Your message here) _____
 Line 3 _____
 Line 4 _____
 Line 5 _____

Billing Information
 Name: _____
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 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562) 904-3668

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How to prepare for the next major disaster

CONTRIBUTED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

The recent Southern California wildfires caused one of the largest evacuations in the state's history. And even though the response to the emergency has been widely praised, the wildfires should still serve as a wake-up call on how quickly disaster can strike. A 2007 survey shows that even with a history of natural disasters, Americans aren't ready for the next big one. According to the American Red Cross, the majority of Americans remain unprepared for a disaster – 23 percent have not taken even a single action to prepare for a catastrophe, and only four percent have taken all of the recommended preparedness actions.

"During the recent wildfires, the American Red Cross acted swiftly to meet the needs of the victims," said Paul Schulz, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles. "Red Cross provided nearly 25,000 overnight stays in 26 shelters throughout Southern California and served more than 375,000 meals and snacks at more than 80 feeding sites. We

want Southland residents to know there is help available during a disaster, but preparedness starts with each individual. The American Red Cross is best known as a disaster responder, but we are also the leading resource for disaster preparedness. We can assist residents with tools and plans that will help protect their loved ones during those critical first days after a disaster."

The American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles offers the following steps to prepare for most emergencies, including wildfires, home fires, and earthquakes.

Get or make a kit – A well-prepared emergency kit should have supplies for three to five days and include the items listed below. Additionally, your kit should be easy to carry and checked every six months.

- At least one gallon of water per day per person
- Non-perishable, high-protein foods such as energy bars, ready-to-eat soup and peanut butter
- Flashlight with extra batteries

- First aid kit with a reference guide
- A supply of the prescription and non-prescription medications you use regularly
- Cash, because ATMs and credit cards may not work due to power loss
- A list of your family's phone numbers in a single location so you can locate and confirm their safety following a disaster

Make a plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, and they do not always happen when families are at home together. Take time to:

- Prepare emergency plans in advance
- Choose places to meet after a disaster (no more than two)
- Plan for emergency scenarios when family members are at work or school
- Practice home evacuation plans twice a year
- Ensure each adult in the household learns how and when to turn off utilities, such as electricity, water and gas

Get informed

By staying informed about the risks for disasters, you will become better prepared for the next emergency situation. Here's how:

- Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur where you live, work and play
- Discuss with your family these types of emergencies and establish responsibilities for each person
- Know how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how to get important information
- Contact your local American Red Cross chapter about first aid and disaster training classes

For more information about disaster preparedness, visit the American Red Cross online at www.redcross.org

A Hummer of a house being built next door results in a nightmare

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS BOLGIANO, BLUE RIDGE PRESS

Our best friends Philly and Jake retired last year and built their dream house a short walk over the ridge from where my husband and I live amid 100 acres of Appalachian Mountain forest. We all met in college and bonded on the first Earth Day. Since then, my husband and I have gone "Back to the Land," homesteading in the lushest temperate woodlands in the world, while Philly and Jake worked their way across the continent. For 35 years, we've looked forward to retiring together.

Now, their dream has become my nightmare. It began with their plans for a 4,000 square-foot house – twice the size considered comfortable for a family of four just a few decades ago. Suddenly, I felt frightened for the state of the world, and saw the situation in double negatives: If my nature-loving friend Philly wouldn't choose not to build a mansion, who would?

"It's a personal decision, how much space you need," Philly said, not in answer to my question, which I've never asked, but after I e-mailed her a link to a Web site that calculates the environmental footprint of such "personal" decisions. Every decision an American consumer makes is environmentally charged because we use more of everything and pollute more than anyone else in the world. Philly knows this, and she knows that I know that she knows.

As Philly's blueprint materialized, I recognized the green-eyed face of jealousy, namely my own, reflected in the wall-sized windows of her cathedral-ceilinged great room.

Philly's house is much bigger and far more elegant than my rustic, passive-solar cabin – House Beautiful versus Field and Stream. Trading jealousy for guilt, I joined Philly on shopping forays and shared her new-house happiness by buying toxic remodeling products likely made by exploited Chinese workers.

Meanwhile, Jake was directing bulldozers to open the view by pushing down two acres of big oaks and pines. No one limited the tread of tires, no one tagged any trees for protection, and no one saved the mossy-carpeted forest topsoil for reuse.

In a footprint eight times larger than the standard quarter-acre suburban yard, nothing above microscopic level was left alive, and even the soil microbes must have been pretty hard pressed. Then dozens of dump trucks delivered soil mined elsewhere. Jake just bought a riding mower.

The real test of friendship came when I first walked down the southern slope of Jake's new yard. Fallen trees sprawled across the property boundary and their wilting canopies sagged into our creek, where they would, in a sudden storm, divert the flow and erode the stream banks. I knew this to be a violation of a local erosion ordinance.

Talking to my husband later, tears sprang to my eyes. "If it was anybody else, we would turn them in just like we did those other two neighbors when they threatened the creeks." One case involved a careless logger and the other a careless house-grader, and both times the creeks ran the color of bad coffee.

"Yes, that's true," my husband acknowledged. "But these are our best friends. We're not going to...turn them in?" His voice took a Valley Girl swing upward.

No. Ethical questions about who is responsible for protecting the environment faded in the harsh light of being a snitch. Who am I to criticize, anyway? We sent our share of sediment to the beleaguered Chesapeake bay when we built our quarter-acre pond. Our ecological footprint here casts a shadow even at high noon on a clear day.

Scales of space and time determine what is sustainable. Extrapolated to each of the world's six billion plus human beings, the scale of even my (minimally) more modest materialism would crash the earth's ecosystems sooner rather than later, according to climatologists.

Well, I'm hoping for another twenty good years of living next door to Philly and Jake before the world collapses or I take the ultimate "Back to the Land" trip. Now that they've moved in, we get together regularly for dinner and a movie. We laugh at all the same jokes, just as we did in our youth. Our dear old friends have become poster people for the American environmental disconnect, but like siblings committed to family peace, we skirt the topics of our personal contributions to consumption, climate change, energy wars, and pollution.

For me, friendship trumps ideology. And if environmentalism is a religion – if the Creation is sacred – then I want to be a "hate the sin but love the sinner" kind of believer, not a "if thine eye offend thee pluck it out" kind. All I can do is ride herd on my own damage to the earth.

Chris Bolgiano is the author of "Living in the Appalachian Forest: True Tales of Sustainable Forestry," which won a Southern Environmental Law Center Writing Award, as well as four other books.

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Home Buyer's Fair in Los Angeles coming in April

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.

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Kirk Cartozian is the President of Cartozian Associates Real Estate. He holds a real estate broker's license, as well as an MBA and a Master's of Real Estate Development from the University of Southern California.

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