



The Downey Patriot



Batter up: It's Opening Day
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Friday, April 4, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 50

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

DUSD considering sweeping cuts in response to state budget crisis

■ School district officials review their options at budget study session this week. Cuts could mean the closure of an elementary school, administrators say.

BY HENRY VENERACION,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—With administrators and teachers, parents and other community members, PTA and union members, and other stakeholders in attendance, the Downey Unified School District's Board and the Personnel Commission held their first ever joint meeting Wednesday to study the areas where possible district budget cuts can be effected due to the state budget crisis.

The district is staring at an \$8 million budget cut directly stemming from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's announced across-the-board state budget shortfall of \$14 billion.

Because of the economic uncertainties accompanying the housing slowdown and the proportionate lowered property tax revenues, increasing energy and other costs, and the prospect of declining enrollment in the district, and other factors, Superintendent Wendy Doty speculates the deficit may very well increase to \$16 billion or more by the time a point of stability is reached.

"It's a crazy world," Doty said. "It is a bad year for education and the economy in general. Mid-year cuts have occurred only three times in the last 30 years, in the early 1980s, in 2002-03, and this year. There will be pain."

Speaking in general terms, she said the district's original three-

"The reality is anything that can be reduced or delayed or cut, will be done. This can only enable us to look toward the future."

—Superintendent Wendy Doty

year projections, which figured on, for example, a 5 percent COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) for 2008-09, will have to be greatly modified. Anticipating a short to medium-term "no raises - cuts needed" scenario (including a zero COLA), she and her administrative team crisscrossed all school sites for two solid weeks to discuss the possible budget ramifications as well as seek input from everybody concerned. She said their school visits were heavily attended, and productive.

The result of the visits is a five-page quantified preliminary 2007-08 budget analysis of the unrestricted General Fund projected three years to the 2010-11 school year. The figures and the projections were objects of intense scrutiny in the second half of the study session, which was presided over by Asst. Superintendent-Business Services Kevin Condon.

See BUDGET CUTS, page 7

The following is a partial list of budget cut suggestions being considered by the Downey Unified School District as it seeks to trim \$6 million to \$8 million from its budget for 2008-09 and beyond. DUSD estimates 33 percent of the proposed cuts will require collaboration with employee groups. Some of the proposals are pending union negotiations while others have already been implemented.

- ✓ Reduce school year to 166 days, matching the schedule of the Los Angeles Unified School District
- ✓ Reduce or eliminate middle and high school sports and related costs (cheer/pep/band, etc.)
 - ✓ Reduce campus security
- ✓ Reduce or cut art, music and science programs
 - ✓ Reduce counselors in grades 7-12
 - ✓ Eliminate all extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Suspend state testing (requires state legislation)
- ✓ Reduce assistant principals at all grade levels
- ✓ Reduce Character Counts funding by \$50,000
 - ✓ Postpone textbook adoptions
- ✓ Reduce lawn maintenance workers - contract out
 - ✓ Charge for busing service
- ✓ Reduce home-to-school transportation
- ✓ Place married couple employees on one health plan versus double enrollment
 - ✓ Offer cash in lieu of health coverage
- ✓ Increase staffing ratio in grades 4-12 and kindergarten
 - ✓ Eliminate grade 3 class size reduction
 - ✓ Reduce school supply budgets
- ✓ Reduce non-high school library staffing
- ✓ Reduce several clerical and other support positions
 - ✓ Institute various days of unpaid furlough
 - ✓ Distribute all newsletters via the Internet
 - ✓ Reduce nursing staff
- ✓ Reduce overtime and substitute expenses
- ✓ Reduce travel and conference expenses
- ✓ Reduce legal fees for general counsel services
- ✓ Eliminate electives with low enrollment in middle and high schools
 - ✓ Reduce district directors and coordinators
 - ✓ Institute an energy conservation program
 - ✓ Eliminate Print Center position

Source: Downey Unified School District



Gamers emulated the hard rock sounds of Slash, Tom Morello and Bret Michaels at the Guitar Hero Tournament hosted last week at the Epic Lounge. Photo by Brooke Karli

Guitar Hero Tournament breeds local 'rock stars'

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – For some, the Guitar Hero Tournament held at Epic Lounge last Friday and Saturday was the best way to end their spring break. For others, it was a chance to show off their skills.

David Devis, owner of Epic Lounge and resident of Downey, said he hosted the tournament in an effort to give the kids something fun to do.

"Everything we do here is all about the kids," he said. "We want to provide them with a place to just hang out and meet with friends – a place that is safe and familiar. More importantly, we want them off the streets and out of trouble."

At the start of the tournament, eight participants took to the stage created specifically for the event. The participants all varied in age – some were in junior high, some were in high school, some were in college, and yes, some were the event's security guards. While some were "pros" and could compete on the "expert" level, others were picking up the guitar for the very first time. But despite age and skill level, they were all there to "jam" and supported each other regardless of who was doing best.

"Although it was a tournament, we decided not to keep any kind of score," Devis said. "We just wanted the kids to have fun and felt it wasn't necessary to have a 'winner' or 'loser.'"

Those who participated really "fell" into the role of "rock star." Devis turned the Lounge into a surround-sound concert by surrounding the stage – indicated with a large area rug – with lights and speakers. Players immersed themselves into each performance, singing along and playing as if they were the original artists.

See GUITAR HERO, page 3

'Gorgeous music' on tap tomorrow courtesy Downey Symphony and special guest

■ Music Director Sharon Lavery will present her pre-performance discussion at 7:15 p.m.

BY JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

DOWNEY – The final concert in this Golden Jubilee Anniversary Year of the Downey Symphony promises to be rich with gorgeous music, some special treats exclusive to the spring performance, and a stage graced by two exceptional young women, our fine new conductor, Sharon Lavery, and the outstanding violinist Danielle Nesmith.

Scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Civic Theatre tomorrow evening, April 5, the program titled "Picture-Perfect" offers Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," a fanciful work splashed with color, and Verdi's Overture to Nabucco.

The centerpiece is Felix Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin in E minor, performed by Ms. Nesmith, a recent honors graduate of USC's Thornton School of Music, an experienced concertmaster, teacher and coach, competition writer, and international touring performer. And she's only 23.

But then, she began her violin studies when she was 5, and obviously the instrument has not been out of her hands more than a total of two hours ever since.

Those other treats you'll enjoy at this concert? Baton winner Roy Streeter opens the whole shebang conducting Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," we'll auction the baton for next year's winning performance, and at the end of the evening the ladies of the Symphony Guild will spread out their famous complimentary punch and home-baked nummies, to encourage members of the orchestra and audience to mingle and munch. How can you resist?

Music Director Lavery's preview discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. for ticket holders, and the box office will open at 6:30 p.m. for ticket purchase. All seats are reserved, priced at \$25 and \$20, \$10 for students. The theater is at the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Brookshire Avenue in Downey, with plenty of free parking.



Sharon Lavery



Twenty-three-year-old violinist Danielle Nesmith is an accomplished concertmaster and performer. She will be the featured soloist tomorrow night at the Downey Theatre.

Arc Walk expected to draw large crowd

■ Annual fundraiser regularly draws more than 1,000 walkers in support of Arc.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – Thousands are expected to show their support tomorrow morning for Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County's annual Arc Walk for Independence, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. in the Stonewood Center parking lot.

The springtime event is Arc's largest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds benefiting Arc's work with the mentally and developmentally disabled.

Phillip Palmer of ABC-7 will host the event, while former mayor Meredith Perkins will emcee.

The Arc Walk for Independence includes two walking courses: a one-mile and three-mile route, each winding its way along Downey sidewalks before ending back at Stonewood Center.

Registration is \$10 per person or \$30 per family. Children 10 and under are free.

Walkers can also enjoy a complimentary breakfast, courtesy Acapulco Restaurant.

Registration for the walk starts at 7 a.m. and the opening ceremony begins at 8. The actual walk will begin at 8:30.

For more information on the Arc Walk for Independence, call (562) 803-4606, ext. 230.

East students give a whole new meaning to cross-country running

■ In an effort to keep students motivated on school minimum days, P.E. teacher Sheri Martin launched "From Downey to New York...And Back," an innovative running program promoting learning and self-motivation in kids.

BY BROOKE KARLI,
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – Struggling with what to do on minimum days at East Middle School, physical education instructor Sheri Martin launched "From Downey to New York...And Back," hoping the program would motivate students to set goals for themselves while, in this case, running to meet them.

"We only have 35 minutes to work with on Wednesdays," Martin said, "so I had to implement a program that would keep the kids active, but that was able to fit into the time given."

Martin got the idea for the program while attending a conference for physical education middle school teachers in 1999. Since then, "From Downey to New York...And Back" has become one of the more popular programs on campus, with students requesting to be in Martin's P.E. class every year.

In a nutshell, here's how the program works: every three laps around the East Middle School field makes up one mile. Every mile accounts for 11 "Downey to New York miles." For example, if a student runs nine laps, they have completed three miles. Those three miles equate to 33 miles into their trek from Downey to New York.

Students are awarded certificates when they have reached a quarter of the way, half of the way, three-quarters of the way, and of course, when they have reached New York.

Once students have reached New York, they have two options – they can either run back to Downey or use their Wednesday P.E. time as free-time. Many of the kids, Martin said, choose to take the free-time in the beginning and then decide to run back to Downey.

Altogether, students run approximately 70.5 miles (212 laps) to get to New York, and a total of 142 miles (426 laps) if they run to New York and back.

If students run to New York and back, they are added to the "Wall of Fame." For the 2006-07 school year, more than a dozen students made it to the wall, with the 2007-08 school year total still pending.

Students also keep a "sportsfolio," which tracks goals and records improvement. According to Martin, it's very rare when a student doesn't improve their mile



Students who complete the entire "Downey to New York...And Back" program are added to East Middle School's "Wall of Fame." Photo by Brooke Karli

"Ultimately, the Downey to New York program offers every student, regardless of their ability or skill level, the opportunity to succeed." – Sheri Martin, P.E. teacher

time or meet their personal goals. In fact, many of them take the opportunity to run laps during their lunch breaks just to make sure they meet their goals.

Throughout the years, Martin said, adaptations have been made to the program in order to incorporate cross-curricular subject matter. When the kids aren't running laps, the period is spent in the classroom learning about the state they are currently "in." For example, if a student has run to Nevada thus far, they will visit the 14 maps located throughout the classroom and answer questions pertaining to Nevada.

Students have to become familiar with the state's capital; the number of oil and gold fields within that state; the name of the dominant Native American tribe and its characteristics; the number of settlement towns, forts, churches, and major Indian battles; the name of the confederate or union general; the picture on the state's license plate; a presidential fact that occurred in that state; a fact about any female and male athlete from that state; the state's official bird

and flower; the state's flag, colors, symbols, motto, tree, stone, gem, mineral and rock; the state's region and time zone; the state's wildlife and famous people; and oddly, even how many Hometown Buffet's are located in that state.

"We change our program to follow the changes in our community and nation," Martin said. "When Hometown Buffet came to Downey, the kids were really excited, so we wanted one of the maps to indicate how many there were in each state. It makes learning a little more fun."

The route from Downey to New York differs from the route from New York to Downey so that students can visit and learn about different states.

Although the program primarily caters to sixth and seventh graders, some eighth graders participate as well.

Colin O'Connor, an eighth grader at East, has participated in the program the past three years, making it onto the "Wall of Fame" numerous times.

"From Downey to New York...And Back" is so much fun,"

Colin said. "We use the P.E. field as if it were states."

Marie Bourgeault, an eighth grader who participated in the program during sixth and seventh grade, added, "The program is more than just running for a grade – it's about running to meet your goals and being able to have your name on the 'Wall of Fame.'"

Richere Barbeau, also an eighth grader, said the program has motivated her to set her own goals and achieve them.

And according to seventh grader Daniel Sandoval, "From Downey to New York...And Back" is a good way to train for cross country and track, sports many of the students plan on participating in high school.

Three P.E. teachers currently make "From Downey to New York...And Back" part of their regular curriculum and mandatory for all of their students.

"Ultimately," said Martin, "the Downey to New York program offers every student, regardless of their athletic ability or skill level, the opportunity to succeed."

Josephson to speak at GOOD luncheon

DOWNEY – The annual Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) luncheon highlighting the work being done by the award-winning community-based organization to combat gang activity in Downey, will be held April 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

With the active participation of many community leaders, GOOD has received national and state recognitions, including the president's Point of Light Award, and the California Merit Award in 2002.

This year's keynote speaker will be Michael Josephson, founder and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. Through the institute, Josephson founded Character Counts, the nation's leading character education system that reaches over 5 million youth.

Josephson also launched the Pursuing Victory with Honor sportsmanship campaign, endorsed by virtually all amateur athletic organizations.

For more information on the GOOD luncheon, call Downey Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Stan Hanstad at (562) 469-6541; GOOD President Darrell Jackson at (562) 618-2550; or Downey Federal Credit Union CEO Barbara Lamberth at (562) 862-8141, ext. 223.

Public information officer to speak

DOWNEY – Juddy Cenicerros, the public information officer for the city of Downey, will speak at this Wednesday's meeting of Citizens for Downey at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Cenicerros will tell of her job duties and emphasize the renewal, emphases and expansion of the Neighborhood Watch program and how Downey citizens can be involved.

Breakfast will be available at 7 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:15. No reservations are required.

Christian Club meeting this Wednesday

DOWNEY – "April Showers" will be the theme of this Wednesday's lunch meeting of the Downey Christian Women's Club, scheduled for 11:45 a.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Gracie Reed will speak on "finding purpose and meaning in life." Candy Bouquet, a company offering unique arrangements composed of candy, will be the meeting's special feature.

Cost for the buffet luncheon is \$12 and men are invited. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

Festival features local students' artwork

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Funding of the Arts (FOA) Club is hosting a "Festival of Awesome" this Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Downey High School gymnasium.

The event, hosted in an effort to raise funds for the Music, Dance, Drama, and Art Departments at Downey High School, will display art by students, which will also be available for purchase. The evening will feature the high school's Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, Dance Team, ComedySportz Team, and other entertainment. Frantone's pizza, churros, and drinks will be offered as well.

For information, call Karina Gordon at (562) 676-7710.

Library treating kids to musical fun

DOWNEY – Craig Newton will present "A Musical Journey Through America" for children ages 3 – 12, and their parents, on April 13 from 2 to 2:45 p.m. at the Downey City Library in the Cormack Room. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library and is a part of National Library Week, April 13 – 19.

Throughout the program, Newton will demonstrate 10 different musical instruments while performing American folk songs.

"This event is perfect for families," said Children's Librarian Gina Orello. "Be sure to join us for some hand-clapping, toe-tapping fun!"

Free tickets will be distributed 30 minutes prior to show time for this program. For information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4.

Fujikami recognized for safe driving

DOWNEY – Leslie Fujikami, a tractor trailer driver for UPS, was recently recognized by the company for completing 25 years without an accident.

Fujikami works out of the facility located at 13233 Moore St. in Cerritos and currently provides service in the Stalene, Nev. area.

Manager Manuel Duarte presented Fujikami with the 25-year safe driving award, recognizing his achievement.

Fujikami and his wife, Estella, live in Downey and have two children.



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Journalist, author to speak at library

■ Emmy Award-winning Ruben Martinez will make library appearance April 16.

DOWNEY – Award-winning author, journalist and educator Ruben Martinez will speak and sign books at the Downey City Library on April 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cormack Room. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library and is a part of the National Library Week, April 13 – 19.



Ruben Martinez

Martinez is an Emmy-winning journalist, poet and author of five books, including "Crossing Over: a Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail" and "The New Americans," a companion volume to the PBS series of the same name. As a political commentator, Martinez has appeared on "Life & Times," "Nightline" and "Frontline." He currently holds the Fletcher Jones Chair in Literature & Writing at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and taught in the creative writing program at the University of Houston.

In "Crossing Over: a Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail," Martinez follows the Chavez family from their small Michoacan town of Cheran, Mexico into and across the United States. The book begins at the scene of a tragedy: three of the Chavez brothers – Jaime, Benjamin and Salvador – are crushed in their pick-up truck in an accident resulting from a Border Patrol chase while attempting to cross the border. Martinez also traces the migrations of other families from Cheran as their journeys take them to California, Missouri, Wisconsin and Arkansas in search of a better life.

When he first heard about the accident, Martinez said he was drawn from his home in Mexico City to Cheran and the Chavez family. As a journalist, he spent four years documenting the experiences of immigrants and how they changed both Mexico and the United States.

"This new great American story," said Martinez, "is going on all around us in fields and restaurants, big cities and small towns, and in pick-up trucks, barreling across the California desert at dangerous speeds. But America is still doing what America does best – changing, accepting and beginning anew."

In his presentation, Martinez will share his perspectives on the immigrant experience as well as his work as an author and journalist. Copies of his books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

For more information, or to register, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.

GUITAR HERO

Continued from page 1

For those not familiar with the "Guitar Hero" phenomenon, participants in the tournament competed in "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock," which features more than 60 songs and includes such guitar geniuses as Slash (Guns N' Roses, Slash's Snakepit and Velvet Revolver); Tom Morello (Rage Against the Machine and Audioslave); and Bret Michaels (Poison and the Bret Michaels Band).

When playing the game, players must hit notes as they scroll towards the bottom of the screen in rhythm with the music in order to maintain their performance and score points. Players hit notes by strumming the strum bar while holding down the correct fret button(s) located on the neck of the guitar controller. "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" has four levels of difficulty: Easy, which uses three of the fret buttons; Medium, which makes use of four of the fret buttons; Hard, which utilizes all five of the fret buttons; and Expert, which adds no new fret buttons, but increases the number of notes and general difficulty.

When a player misses a note, their performance meter drops, and if the meter drops low enough, the

player fails the song and is "booed" off the stage.

As players progress through multiple levels of songs, new songs are unlocked along the way.

"Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" also offers the co-op career mode, which allows two players to compete – one on lead guitar, the other on bass or rhythm guitar; and battle mode, which is a competitive mode between two players either locally or over network play.

In addition, the game features 71 playable songs – 40 are "main setlist" songs, six are exclusive to the co-op career mode, and the remaining 25 are "bonus tracks."

Devis said he is planning on hosting another tournament before summer hits.



DowneyLINK buses operate Monday through Friday over four city routes. Fares are 25 cents each way. Photo courtesy city of Downey

City rolls out fleet of energy-efficient buses

■ New propane-powered buses, offering increased energy efficiency and greater resistance to graffiti and other forms of vandalism, now in service.

DOWNEY – The city of Downey rolled out a fleet of seven new propane-powered buses Monday, buses purchased with Proposition A funds.

The buses are operated by MV Transportation and will be used by DowneyLINK, the city's transportation system.

The ElDorado National Transmark XHF Transit buses feature various environmental components, including a Cummins ISB series propane engine, bike racks, and room for 27 passengers and two wheelchairs (31 passengers without wheelchairs).

The new buses also feature: three interior surveillance cameras, posted routing schedules and maps, 'kneeling' feature to get passengers closer to the curb, RICON wheelchair lift, Echovision sonar back-up warning system, Freedman citiseats (greater resistance to graffiti and vandalism), fire suppression system, slide guide doors, LED exterior lighting, and armored clearance lights.

DowneyLINK operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with a 25-cent fare each way. There are four routes (Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast) and the buses all meet at the Downey

Transit Depot located at 8150 Nance St. every 45 minutes.

During peak operation hours, two additional buses operate on the most popular routes to accommodate riders.

Bus schedules can be found online at www.downeyca.org (click "DowneyLINK"). Brochures are also available at the Transit Depot, Downey City Library, Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, or from a DowneyLINK bus driver.

City officials said tube receptacles will be installed at bus stops displaying route maps and schedules throughout the next few months.

Eligible residents can also use the city's Dial-a-Ride service by calling (562) 904-7215.



Downey's new buses can accommodate up to 27 passengers and two wheelchairs. Photo courtesy city of Downey

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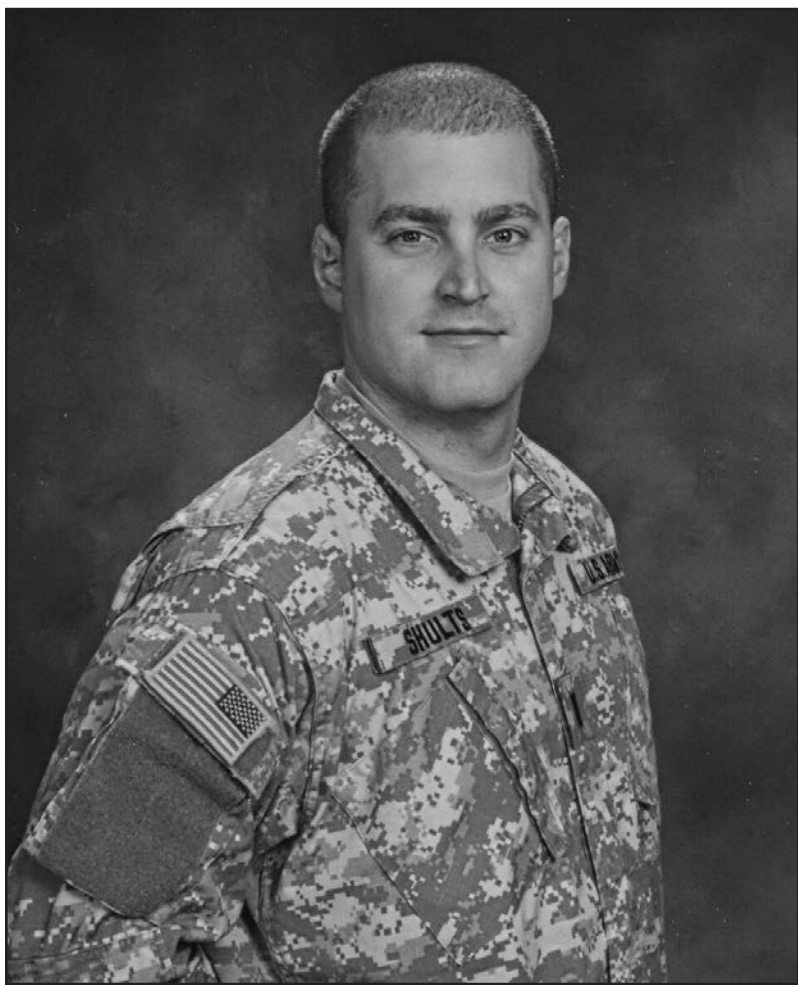
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1st Lt. Michael C. Shults has been deployed with the 311th Sustained Command (Expeditionary). After final training at Fort Bragg, Shults will serve in Kuwait. Shults is a 1999 graduate of Downey High School and Cal State Long Beach. He is the son of Earl and Jane Shults.

Businesses warned against suspicious fire inspections

■ Company allegedly making unsolicited and unauthorized fire safety inspections on behalf of the Downey Fire Department.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – The Downey Fire Department is warning local businesses about a company allegedly making unannounced and unauthorized fire inspections on behalf of the fire department and then billing for their services.

The company, Orco Fire Extinguisher Service, states that they are working in conjunction with the Downey Fire Department, said Capt. Darren Moon.

“The Downey Fire Department does not charge for fire safety inspections and the fire inspections are always conducted by uniformed personnel,” said Moon. “If someone comes to your place of business who is not in a Downey Fire Department uniform, do not allow them to conduct this inspection and contact our office immediately. If you have received an invoice from Orco Fire Extinguisher, contact our office as well.”

According to Moon, the fire department has received multiple complaints regarding the inspections and is working with the city prosecutor.

OASIS features Rancho’s adult services

DOWNEY – Nancy Matthews and Gina Phelps of the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will discuss the services provided to hundreds of older adults in Downey through the Rancho Adult Day Services at this Monday’s OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

Dinner will also be served and will include chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, broccoli, carrot salad, pineapple upside down cake, and coffee and milk.

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.

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There is normally NO trade-in allowance on old systems, so this is a rare opportunity. And we don’t know when interest rates will shoot up again. So, please, we urge you not to miss out on this “Double Bonus”, plus two more big savers waiting for you.

In the bargain, you’ll be getting a brand new air conditioning and heating system that is **Guaranteed** TO SAVE YOU twenty-five percent ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS over your old system. (This averages between \$360 and \$520 cash that says in your pocket!) The guarantee is just

this simple: “Get a new system from DOCKSTADERS, installed by our highly trained technicians using our unique methods and skills. If after a SOLID YEAR of use, it doesn’t save you at least twenty-five percent in energy bills over your old central system, we’ll write you a check for the difference.” That’s it. NO hassels, no bother, just pure savings.

And yet another great benefit is our 5 year parts and labor warranty. This warranty is so complete that you **CAN’T** spend a cent in repairs for the next 5 years. We cover you with complete protection from repairs, so you can relax in total comfort - year after year - and not even think about repair bills.

But to take full advantage of the ZERO INTEREST RATE, and on the Spring Trade-In Special, you must call before we get all the trade-ins we need. Remember, there’s normally NO trade-in allowance on older A/C units, but for the next couple of weeks you can get up to \$600 cash for yours.

So call DOCKSTADERS today at (562) 698-0201 to set up your FREE, no-obligation survey. We’ll send someone right out. Call (562) 698-0201 before we get all the trade-ins we need. Thank You.

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Leiana Alina Pasmant, a 1999 graduate of Downey High School and former Miss Downey Princess, married Michael Shawn Solis on Feb. 23 at Hurst Ranch in West Covina. Leiana attended UCLA and is currently a school director for a private school in Orange County. She is the daughter of Andrew and Gloria Pasmant of Downey. Michael graduated from El Rancho High School and Rio Hondo College, and is currently employed by the city of Anaheim. He is the son of Baldemar and Elaine Solis of Pico Rivera.



The Miss Downey Court, as well as members of the Downey Chamber of Commerce and City Council, attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bon Appetit on March 26. Bon Appetit is a sushi restaurant located at 7808 Florence Ave. in Downey.

Chamber mixer planned Wednesday

DOWNEY – The Downey Chamber of Commerce will hold a mixer this Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Philly’s Best inside Downey Landing. Free admission includes live entertainment, refreshments, and door prizes. Philly’s Best is located at 12008 Lakewood Blvd.

Makeup students transform cast members

DOWNEY – Downey Adult School’s advanced makeup artistry students will be doing the makeup of cast members for the upcoming Youth Cultural Arts Foundation’s production of “Bugsy Malone,” April 4 – 6. Performers will be transformed into characters to imitate the original production’s members, time period, and overall dramatization. For more information, call (562) 940-6200, or visit www.das.edu.

Fail-Safe fundraiser Tuesday

DOWNEY – Fail-Safe 4 Felines, a non-profit organization working to eradicate the unwanted cat population in Downey through non-lethal means, will host a spaghetti night fundraiser this Tuesday at the Downey Elks Lodge.

The cost is \$20 and includes an all-you-can-eat salad bar, and spaghetti with meatballs or sausage. The event will also include raffles and door prizes.

The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. For tickets or reservations, call (562) 708-2672.

St. Mark’s Episcopal School

10354 Downey Ave, Downey, Ca. 90241



A Christian School Founded in 1964

- Preschool and Full Day Program for K-8
- Grades 4-8 include Algebra, Life, Earth & Physical Science and Religion- High School Preparatory
- Enrichment Instructions: Spanish, Computers, Music and Physical Education Provided during the Regular School Day
- Secured Campus with Small Class Sizes
- Total Enrollment 150
- Extra Curricular: Homework Club, Bell/Chimes Choir, Recorder Choir, Band, Club Fit and Service Club to Enhance Leadership Skills
- Additional Programs: Keyboard Lessons, Dance Class and Manners/Etiquette Classes Offered at Cost
- Before and After School Child Care Available

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

The Poet’s Corner

I Went Away Today

I went away today, I could not stay.
A beautiful sunrise on the horizon called me by name.
Come, I heard, the angels wait for you.
The streets here are paved with gold.
My body is young, no one here ever grows old.
The love you feel is forevermore, because hate is not allowed.
It is that packet of love I saved that got me in this gate.
All my friends and family welcome me, for now at last I’m home.
An angel whispers in my ear to look over there.
I think, it’s mom and dad, they look so happy and rested,
waiting just for me.
The water here is crystal clear transparent like glass.
The Lion here is tame.
The bells so loudly ring and only in heaven
can you hear the way birds really sing.
There’s John the Baptist and Elijah too!
Here comes Jesus who always knew.
My home is in heaven not on earth,
because Jesus knows everything, from the time of our birth.
I’m happy now!
I’ll wait for you.
Don’t be afraid when your time comes,
just grab for the pearly gate and open it very wide.
Just remember, I’ll be waiting for you on the other side.

– Sylvia Halcomb,
Downey

Eight

Time, time, time
He wants to be mine
He wants you ‘til the end of time
But he won’t let you be mine
He won’t give you time
It’s just time
Just time
And it’s just your life
And all the time
He wasted in your life
With all his lies
Has seemed to be the kind
Of sadness that sweeps your mind
Because he is mine
Because you are mine
And now I need time
And he gave her mine
And I miss me being mine
And my heart being mine
And my time being mine
Time, time, time
I need it - it’s mine
And I got no more time
What a wasted life.

– Valerie Osegueda,
Downey

Children’s author shares insight at library

DOWNEY – Children’s author Janet Squires will present “Creating Writers: an Author’s Perspective” on April 14 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Downey City Library in the Cormack Room. The event is part of National Library Week, April 13 – 19.

Squires will discuss the writing process and suggest ways to develop ideas and edit your work. She will explain the steps she took in revising her children’s book, “The Gingerbread Cowboy,” a Southwestern rendition of the classic picture book, “The Gingerbread Man.” In her book, the Gingerbread Cowboy can run past the rancher’s wife and gallop right by cattle grazing on the mesa. But in her book, young readers will learn what happens when he meets a coyote sleeping in the sun.

Squires works part-time as a library media specialist and coordinates a yearly book drive to put books in the hands of children from lower income families. She has co-chaired Young Authors conferences and taught writing workshops for children. She has also won a Writer’s Conference Award from Pierce College for writing magazine articles and is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and Women Writing the West (WWW).

“If you have an idea for a children’s book or novel – and you love writing – this event is for you,” said Literacy Coordinator Claudia Dailey. “Come learn about the writing process and be inspired by this creative, award-winning author.”

Copies of Squires’ book will be available for purchase and signing at this event.

For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 23.

Kathy Bee performs in Little Tokyo

LITTLE TOKYO – Downey resident Kathy Bee, along with The Red Hot Mammals, will be performing at the 7th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Southern California on April 6 at noon in Little Tokyo in Downtown Los Angeles.

Bee is known as a singer, songwriter and talk show host, and has landed on the Billboard and Cash Box National music charts and has appeared on television shows such as “The Leeza Show,” “Jerry Lewis Telethon,” and “Nashville Now.” Her cable television show, “Touching Lives,” aired more than 235 shows and was on the air for nine years.

For more information, visit www.kathybee.com.

Fail-Safe 4 Felines, Inc. presents

Spaghetti Night at
The Downey Elks Lodge
April 8, 2008 6:30 pm

- Full on salad bar All You Can Eat Spaghetti Meatballs or Sausage
- Dessert table, coffe & tea.
- Raffle & 50/50 Drawing
- \$20.00 Donation

For tickets or reservations, call (562) 708-2672

All of us at Fail-Safe thank you for helping us “Work the Solution”

Recognize Chávez with national holiday

BY CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CA-34

César Chávez, a man of resilience and determination, dedicated the majority of his life to defending the rights of our nation's farm workers and their families.



On March 31, we observed César Chávez's birthday and his great legacy of community organizing and empowerment. I am pleased to join members of Congress in supporting legislation to create a national holiday to recognize his many contributions. A César Chávez Day would honor this national hero by encouraging all of us on this day to help others in our communities through volunteer work and educational and cultural activities.

To fully appreciate César Chávez's tremendous achievements, we must go back to the humble beginnings of this great man. He was born on a small farm near Yuma, Ariz. At the age of 10, his family began to travel throughout the Southwest working in fields and vineyards. They lived in cramped quarters often without bathrooms, electricity or running water. The long hours and dreadful working conditions hampered Chávez's formal education. His personal hardships, however, strengthened his resolve to change his circumstances and improve the working conditions and lives of farm workers in this country. To accomplish this mission, Chávez, along with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the United Farm Workers Association, which was later called the United Farm Workers (UFW).

My fondest personal memory of César Chávez goes back to my days as a little girl in Boyle Heights. He and Huerta were part of the Community Service Organization (CSO), which was born out of the grassroots movement that elected the first Latino in the 20th Century to the Los Angeles City Council. That man was my father, the late Edward R. Roybal.

As a labor leader, Chávez traveled throughout California listening to farm workers and their families talk about their struggles. He shared with them his belief that united communities hold the power to affect change. By inspiring hope and pride in a community marginalized by poverty and racism, Chávez was able to lead thousands of UFW members in strikes and marches in support of workers' rights. Chávez's non-violent tactics succeeded in bringing about important reforms, such as restrictions on the use of dangerous pesticides, guarantees for better wages and bans against discrimination and sexual harassment of farm workers. Through his work in migrant labor camps, Chávez championed civil rights for all working Americans and became a hero and role model for millions of Latinos.

Building on his commitment to improve the quality of life for farm workers, I have introduced the "Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE Act)." This bill addresses the tragedy of the hundreds of thousands of children who work in agricultural fields without the same level of protections under the law afforded to juveniles working in other occupations in our country.

Farm worker children work long hours and earn sub-minimum wages. They often toil in the fields using dangerous farm equipment and are continually exposed to hazardous pesticides. Tragically, these working conditions can lead to serious injuries and even death.

The CARE Act furthers César Chávez's goals by amending the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The measure would raise the labor standards and protections for farm worker children to the same level set for children in occupations outside of agriculture. It would also increase penalties for violators of child labor laws and establish civil penalties against employers when children are injured in the fields.

Therefore, it is truly a personal honor to sponsor the CARE Act and to support efforts in Congress to create a national holiday in his honor. His legacy of fighting for fairness and justice and his inspirational message of "Si se puede!" ("Yes, we can!") continues to motivate us today, as it will for generations to come.

Dispose hazardous waste at Countywide Roundup

LA MIRADA—Los Angeles County residents can dispose of household hazardous and electronic waste at the next Countywide Household Waste Roundup on May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at La Mirada Regional Park.

Residents can bring up to 15 gallons, or 125 pounds, of household hazardous waste per vehicle to the Roundup. Waste includes unused pharmaceuticals, antifreeze, car batteries, used motor oil, paint, pesticides; universal waste, including household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs; and electronic waste (e-waste), such as televisions, monitors, computers, VCRs, stereos, and cell phones.

"The Roundups offer County of Los Angeles residents a convenient way to discard common household products, e-waste and universal waste such as household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs that are hazardous to people and the environment if not properly disposed of," said County of Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe (4th District). "And, even though old computer monitors and key boards can be reused, refurbished, or recycled, electronic waste is a growing problem."

"Improperly disposing of household hazardous waste is a serious threat to public health," added La Mirada Mayor Hal Malkin. "By taking part in these free and convenient Roundups, we can all do our part to avoid the serious pollution problems that result when these items end up in landfills or storm drains."

For more information, contact the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (888) CLEAN-LA, or visit www.888cleanla.com.

Letters to the Editor:

Motor mouths

Dear Editor:

I think that a lot of people are very dissatisfied with our Police Department and I am very much so.

They are not very friendly to start with. My daughter and I had two of them laugh at us for what we had called about. They gave us the old story, "We have to see it or hear it." Well you can't see it or hear it if you never come down our street.

We used to have a very nice street, but not anymore. Some weekends we are overrun by motorcycles. They are like a gang, riding up and down the sidewalk making as much noise as they can. Sometimes, there are more than 40 motorcycles at one time. I've been sprayed in my eyes with something for telling them to quiet down. The police have no idea what goes on. I have pictures of all the motorcycles that show up over the weekends. Everyone is afraid to say something to them, but not me - I'm not afraid of any of them.

I've called my councilman and he does nothing. When [Diane] Boggs was in office, I could call her and it would get taken care of the next day. So it's time for a change in our law enforcement. The Sheriff's Department could be the answer and probably cheaper too.

—Robert Engle,
Downey

Rewriting the Pledge

Dear Editor:

Having lived in Downey for 52 years (I am now 88 years old), I am very pleased to learn that we have an admirable young Downey resident, Julian E. Gutierrez, who apparently truly thinks for himself and has the courage to act responsibly on his convictions ("Patriotism and Dissent," 3/28/08). We need more young citizens to think more for themselves and to become more knowledgeable about the document which basically defines our nation - the U.S. Constitution.

As to the Pledge of Allegiance, Julian is correct. We shouldn't be pledging our allegiance to a piece of cloth (the American flag). Nor should we be pledging allegiance to "a nation under God" because our nation, by the Constitution, is not under any God. Nor should we be saying or implying that ours is a nation that provides liberty and justice for all, because that simply is not accurate.

More correctly (I believe) our Pledge of Allegiance should state that we pledge allegiance to the United States of America and to the Constitution for which it stands and that we are a nation "seeking" liberty and justice for all (making clearer and more truthful that liberty and justice for all is a goal our nation is striving to achieve).

Some years ago, I had rewritten the Pledge of Allegiance, trying to make it a better statement. After reading Julian's letter, however, I realized that it was not quite accurate enough, so I have rewritten it. Here is my latest rewrite:

"I pledge allegiance to the United States of America
and to the Constitution for which it stands,
one nation indivisible
seeking equality, liberty and justice for all."

My thanks and congratulations to Julian E. Gutierrez. Keep up your informed work. Don't give up. Please try to carry out your convictions in the most responsible way possible.

—Edward Rodriguez,
Downey

Delegation continues work with Congress

DOWNEY - City officials led a delegation from Downey to Washington, D.C. recently in continuing to work with Congress and NASA on behalf of the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center (CMSSLC), which is currently being built in Downey.

"It was a very busy week but we feel we accomplished our mission and our message on behalf of our residents and the legacy and history of Downey and space flight," Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra said. "The Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center will be a regional learning facility that will include experiences that will educate students on space science knowledge and scientific literacy through multimedia technological enhancements and changing exhibits. It will be a great legacy for our city to help the next generation know about their past and their future."

Television sitcoms reflect changes in society

CONTRIBUTED BY GARY DAVID GOLDBERG, UBU PRODUCTIONS

Sitcoms have changed from the beloved series of the 1970's ("All in the Family," "Newhart," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and so on). I think the changes in the sitcom have been a natural reflection of the changes in society. Faster paced - multiple stories in play - lot more representation of different lifestyles and characters. All of which I think is very good.

There's also been a more realistic look at society, perhaps, reflected in the newer shows. Certainly a more cynical look which, also, I think, reflects the tenor of the times.

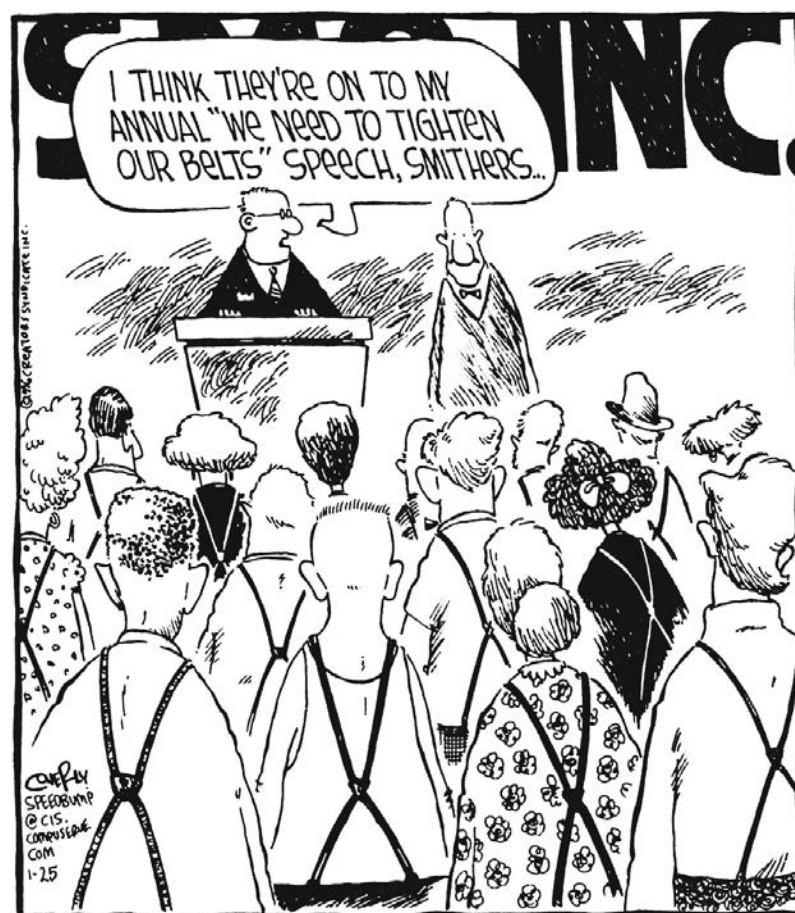
I do think the sitcom has survived as it's been transformed. I think we may have seen the end of the laugh track, and maybe even the end of the traditional multiple camera format shot in front of a live audience. Whether that's good or bad I don't know. Done well, those audience shows were pretty special. And, for writers and actors you did get that thrill of performing in front of a live audience. In the end, though, that format could also be confining. We tried to enlarge the sitcom universe with our approach to "Spin City" - shot about half in front of the audience, half on location; used five - sometimes six - cameras; and a lot of steady-cam in an attempt to create a satisfying hybrid.

But, in essence, I think TV right now is what it has always been - "the best of times" and "the worst of times" - at the same time. There are some excellent sitcoms out there. "Ugly Betty," "Scrubs," "The Office" - to name a few that my kids have insisted I watch. The last two series I kind of followed, "Friends" and "Will and Grace," were as funny as any ever done, I think.

What's different at this moment and time and impacting everything is new technology, instant ratings, a more or less insane need in the network mind to hit a very particular, very young demographic.

When I began my writing career in 1975, and through most of the "Family Ties" years in the early to mid-1980's, there were only three networks. It was difficult for any of those networks to actually lose money. It was really more a matter of how high can we go.

It was also extremely rare to have a show summarily cancelled after just a few episodes. If you had an order for 13 it was more the norm for all 13 to get a chance to air. If you look back on "Cheers," "Hill Street Blues," "St. Elsewhere," and "Family Ties," for example, these shows all started out slowly. But, they existed in an economic climate where they could be kept on TV long enough for audiences to find them. When I worked on "Lou Grant," we were the absolute lowest-rated show one week and then later that same year, the number one show of all shows. I'm not sure that



Inside edition

Dear Editor:

To Scott Cobos, who asked "What happened to pitching on the inside part of the plate?" ("Inside Pitching: A Lost Art in Baseball," 3/28/08)

Two words: Aluminum bats!

Young pitchers don't go there because a hitter with an alloy bat can fight off the pitch, not break his bat, and sometimes get a blooper out of it.

With wood bats, if you got contact, you also were usually left with a handful of splinters. No more.

Since it doesn't pay, and if you're not careful you plunk the batter, it's not a high-percentage pitch anymore - until you get to the upper-levels of the pros where alloy bats aren't allowed.

—Drew Kelley,
Downey

Dear Editor:

The problem with inside pitching, like rebounding, body-checking, boxing out, etc., is it isn't very glamorous. It's not a statistic that will get students today a college scholarship and it isn't going to get you the big bucks and fame possibly awaiting in the major leagues.

Inside pitching isn't very sexy. Mr. Cobos is correct when he states it's a lost art.

—Michael Bertrand,
Downey

Striking out with Warren prediction

Dear Editor:

It is always amazing to me how individuals outside the baselines can assess a team's outcome without knowing the individuals behind the game.

Mr. Scott Cobos' premature analysis of Warren's baseball team and prediction ("Breaking Down the Downey-Warren Game," 3/28/08) showed his true knowledge of America's great past time - baseball.

I can only suggest that inexperienced Mr. Cobos start attending more Warren games and take the time to interview the Head Coach. Provided he wants a true analysis, furthermore, this will assist in his development as a writer and give your newspaper credibility in the area of high school baseball. As an Assistant Coach, I have experienced many games with these kids and I stand behind their hard work and will to win.

Thanks Mr. Cobos for the motivation. Oh, and by the way, in case you did not stay for the entire game, we won 10 - 8. Game over!

—Carl Chavez,
Assistant Coach, Warren High School Baseball

The Downey Patriot

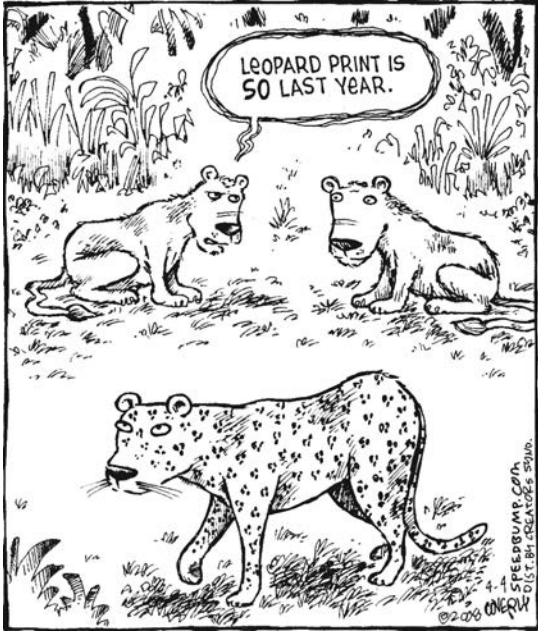
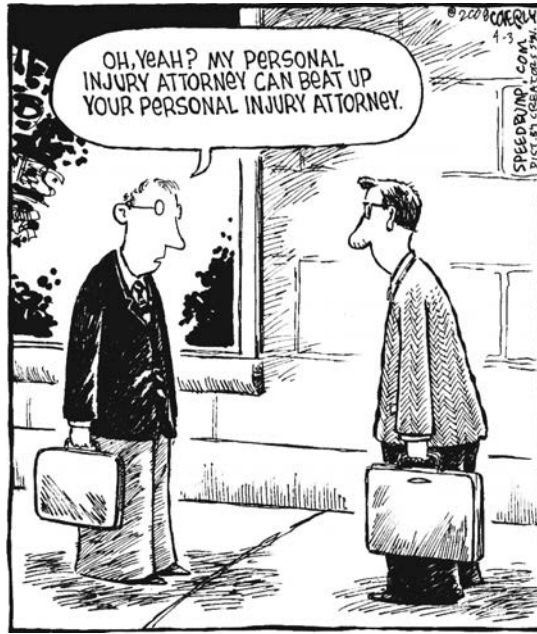
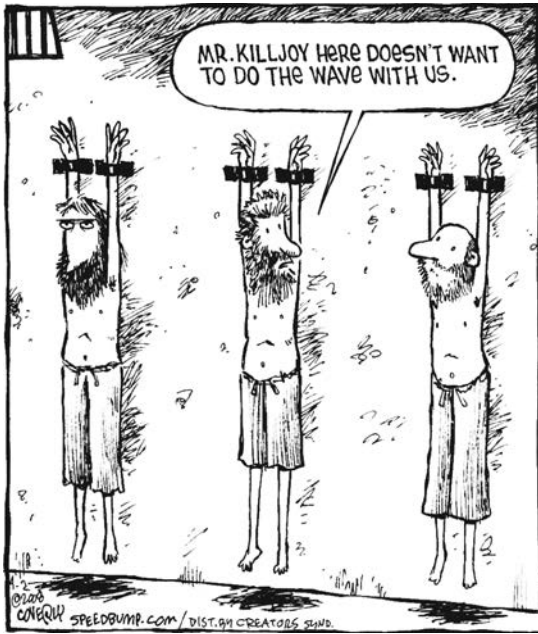
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 Hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
www.TheDowneyPatriot.com
 The Downey Patriot is published weekly by Jennifer DeKay-Givens.
 Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies printed. Distributed by
 Great Western Advertising Distributors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For April

- Sat. April 5: **Arc Walk**, Stonewood Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Sat. April 5: **Symphony concert**, Downey Theatre, 8 p.m.
- Mon. April 7: **Relay for Life meeting**, Downey Adult School, 6 p.m.
- Tues. April 8: **City Council meeting**, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. April 9: **Festival of Awesome**, Downey High School, 7 p.m.

City Meetings

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

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at 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...

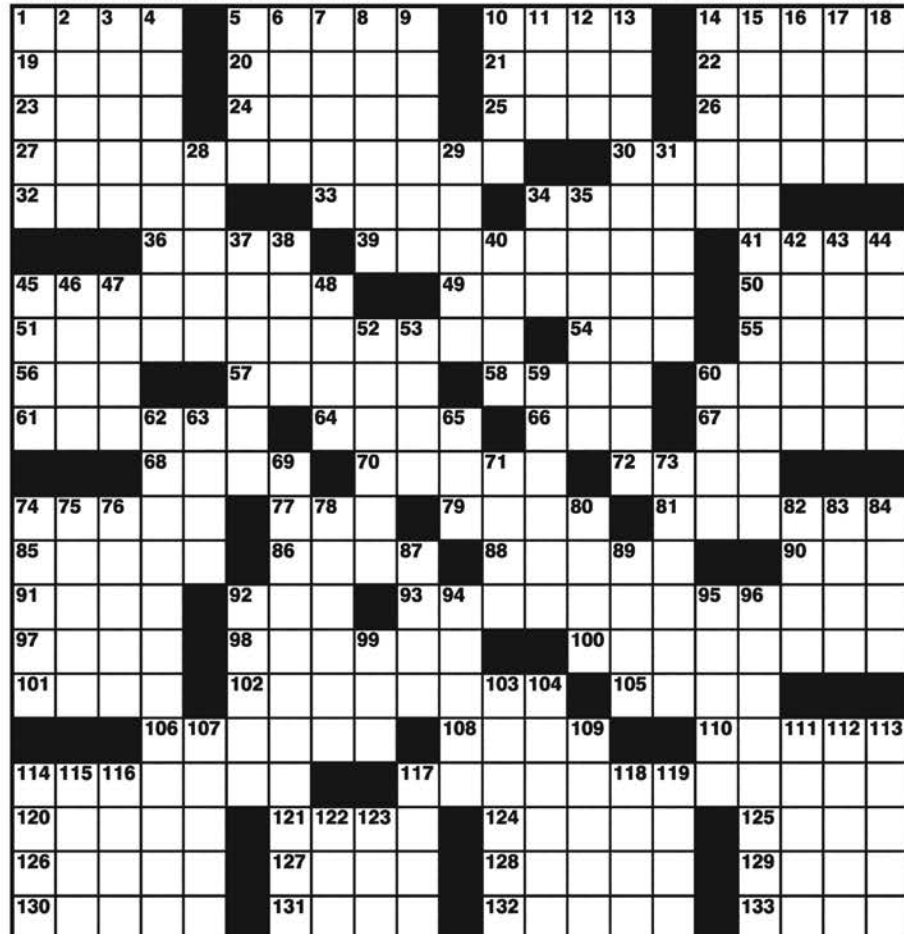
- April 4, 1841:** President William Henry Harrison dies in office of pneumonia only 30 days after his inauguration. He is the first U.S. president to die in office.
- 1932:** Award-winning poet and writer Maya Angelou is born. Also born April 4: Clive Davis (76), Craig T. Nelson (64), David E. Kelly (52), Robert Downey Jr. (43), Jill Scott (36), Kelly Price (35) and Jamie Lynn Spears (17).
- 1968:** Civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.
- 1974:** Hank Aaron ties Babe Ruth's career home run record with 714.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
CATCH OF THE DAY: An octet to reel in
 by Shirley Soloway

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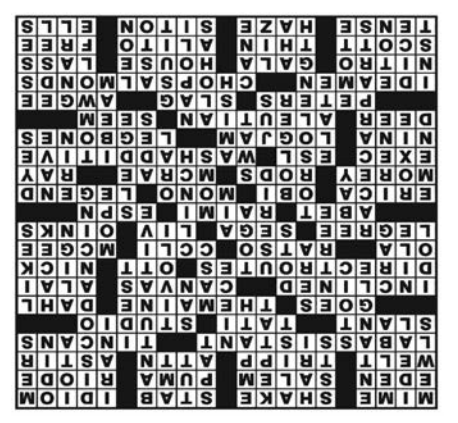
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

Comic MOREY Amsterdam (85) was known as "The Human Joke Machine" for his ability to come up with a joke on any subject from his large repertoire. The reference at 76 Down is to IRENE and Soames Forsyte, principal characters in the Galsworthy novel "The Forsyte Saga" and the TV miniseries adapted from it. The design for Planter's mascot Mr. Peanut (117 Down) was created by a Virginia schoolboy in 1916, who won \$5 for submitting the winning entry to a contest.



Budget cuts: DUSD considering 'painful' cuts to sports, Character Counts, and other programs.

Continued from page 1

In the meantime, Doty pointed to the district's strengths, including the following points: it's more solid than most surrounding districts with less decline in enrollment; it has relatively strong reserves because of its fiscally conservative practices; its pro-active relations with labor are good; where statewide, over 20,000 pink slips have been issued, some 300 pink slips in Capistrano Unified alone, for example, DUSD gave no March 15 notices; only 45 teachers have been let go in five years, whereas attrition in other districts has bordered on the scandalous; and so on.

The district's two-year recovery plan, she said, includes: an immediate hiring freeze on all non-essential positions; an immediate spending "chill"; cutting all extras; using "cost-shifting"; and reducing some capital expenditures.

"One thing is certain, though," Doty said. "Cuts will have to be made. The reality is anything that can be reduced or delayed or cut, will be done. This can only enable us to look toward the future."

She also said that it looks like the district may have to close down one elementary school.

"We'll be recommending the formation of a blue ribbon Declining Enrollment Committee for this purpose," Doty said.

Condon emphasized that the following proposed cuts, reflecting the total DUSD community's initial recommendations on the subject, are "just a picture of what we've identified as areas we can look at," and are not by any means a done deal.

They include such items as: 1) rolling back salary schedules across the board by 2 percent, which would amount to \$2.3 million; 2) freezing the so-called "Step and Column" salary raises (with no "catch up" provision) for two years, which would save some \$2.2 million, 3) suspending athletic programs (including coaches' stipends, operations costs, transportation and cheer costs), which could save some \$704,500; 4) elimination of SIP (school improvement programs) for low-income students, amounting to \$260,000; reducing all departmental supply budgets by 20 percent, as well as home to school transportation, which would save a combined \$432,000; and more.

"Adjusting the HVAC temperature by one degree throughout the

district can mean an annual savings of \$77,000," Condon said.

Items which have proceeded to be perceived as 'essential' or at least very important to safety and/or invaluable otherwise include the cost of a probation officer on campus (\$64,000) or Character Counts (\$50,000).

Programs like the latter are not likely to be eliminated, said Doty.

"In any event," said Doty, "we're going to Sacramento to lobby for shifting some of the state's restricted budget funds to offset some of our contemplated unrestricted budget cuts. Now is the time for everyone to call your Assembly representatives to voice out your concerns."

In this connection, more than one DUSD official noted that the Education Coalition of Downey has been very effective in this respect.

Both Doty and Condon stressed that looking at additional budget cuts will be an ongoing process. "We need your input," they said.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15 at the Gallegos Administration Building, 11627 Brookshire Ave., Downey.

Budget Cut Proposals and Options*	Estimated Savings
Roll back salary schedules across the board by 2%.....	\$2.3 million
Roll back salary schedules across the board by 1%.....	\$1.1 million
Across-the-board 2-day unpaid furlough.....	\$1.1 million
Reduce full-time classified (non-teaching) staff by 2.5%.....	\$672,000
Reduce special ed. encroachment by 5%.....	\$380,000
Reduce all departmental supply budgets by 20%.....	\$232,000
Reduce home-to-school transportation.....	\$200,000
Eliminate 2 nursing specialist positions.....	\$164,000
Eliminate grade 3 class size reduction, staff at 31 to 1.....	\$220,522
Staff kindergarten at 31 to 1.....	\$68,000
Staff grades 4 and 5 at 34 to 1 maximum.....	\$136,000
Staff grades 4 and 5 at 35 to 1 maximum.....	\$272,000
Staff middle schools lower by 2 full-time employees.....	\$544,000
Staff high schools lower by 2 full-time employees.....	\$272,000
Energy savings from class size increases above.....	\$44,000
Eliminate 4 middle school librarian positions, add part-time.....	\$364,000
Suspend all athletics - Cost of all coach stipends.....	\$352,000
Suspend athletic operation costs (utilities, supplies, MOT support)**.....	\$215,000
**90 percent of operation costs tied to pools at DHS & WHS	
Suspend cost of all cheer/pep/band & drill stipends.....	\$37,000
Eliminate all middle school coach stipends.....	\$71,000
Eliminate freshman high school coach stipends.....	\$24,000
Eliminate middle school & frosh athletic transportation budgets.....	\$23,500
Suspend all JV athletics - Cost of coach stipends.....	\$67,100
Suspend all JV athletics - Cost of transportation.....	\$27,000
Reduce 90% of travel & conference budget.....	\$96,000
Eliminate DUSD funding of 1/2 probation officer cost.....	\$64,000
Eliminate Character Counts funding from Safety/Violence Prevention....	\$50,000
funds	
Reduce general legal fees 20%.....	\$30,400
*The above figures only constitute a partial list of both negotiable and board action items that could potentially be implemented for 2008/09.	
Source: Downey Unified School District	

Kindergarten Round-Up registration for early-bird students begins in May

■ Children must be at least 5 years old on or before Dec. 2, 2008. Proof of age and immunization records are required.

DOWNEY - Early registration for children who plan to enter kindergarten at a Downey Unified School in September will be held at the elementary schools during May and June.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years of age on or before Dec. 2, 2008. Proof of age must be presented at the time of registration. This may be done with a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or other legal document. At the time of Kindergarten Round-Up, parents must also bring to the school proof of residence in the District.

In addition, parents must bring evidence their child has received a physical examination, which must be completed after March 1, 2008. Parents must also bring their child's immunization record and ensure that their child is current on their immunizations which include five DTP (four doses meet requirement if at least one was given on or after the fourth birthday); four Polio (three doses meet requirement if at least one was given on or after the fourth birthday); three Hepatitis B; and two MMR (the first dose of MMR must be given on or after the first birthday).

Parents must also verify that the child has received the varicella immunization or a statement from a doctor stating that the child had chicken pox. Parents must provide the results of a Mantoux test for tuberculosis; the test must be done after Sept. 1, 2007.

A new requirement by the California Department of Education is that parents must provide proof of an Oral Health Assessment, which must be completed by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional. Oral Health Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school meet this requirement (examination must be completed after Sept. 1, 2007).


Kindergarten Round-Up locations and dates are as follows:

Imperial Elementary	May 13
Williams Elementary	May 15
Gauldin Elementary	May 19
Gallatin Elementary	May 21
Price Elementary	May 22
Lewis Elementary	May 23
Ward Elementary	May 27
Unsworth Elementary	May 28
Rio Hondo Elementary	May 30
Alameda Elementary	June 2
Rio San Gabriel Elementary	June 3

For specific information about registration times, morning or afternoon sessions, and other areas of concern, call (562) 469-6500 and ask for your local school. If you do not know which school your child will attend, call (562) 469-6553.

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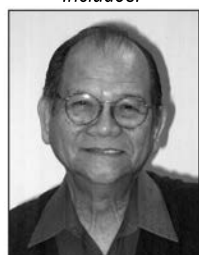
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Progress being made in battle against gangs in Downey

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR
How bad is the burgeoning problem of violence – most of it gang, if not race-related – plaguing the streets of Southern California?

The Los Angeles City Council this week considered adopting a 40-hour moratorium on murder and other acts of violence, a ceremonial if not silly gesture which would have taken effect today.

That's right, for 40 continuous hours the city of Los Angeles wanted to request that gang members refrain from drive-by shootings, stabbings, assaults, rapes, and all other toxicities that make up the gang lifestyle.

Gangsters, relax: It's only for 40 hours.

Thankfully, the council came to their collective sense and saw the ridiculousness in their proposal – an essential endorsement of gang

violence anytime outside the 40-hour window – and scrapped the idea.

Not to sugarcoat the issue, but when it comes to gangs and gang activity in Downey, things could definitely be a lot worse.

More than 61,360 square-feet of graffiti was removed by the city of Downey last month, Carol Rowland of Keep Downey Beautiful reported at Tuesday's early-morning Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) meeting, held at the Manuel Gallegos Administration Building on Brookshire Avenue.

Rowland, whose job it is to track graffiti removal in Downey and coordinate monthly clean-up efforts in various neighborhoods, said this city's hotspots for graffiti are Florence and Horley Avenues, Apollo Park and Dennis the Menace Park, among other areas. The city has also begun billing taggers for restitution.

In more positive news, Rowland said 111 residents – mostly children – volunteered March 15 to pick up trash at two separate Downey locations and plant trees at an Arbor Day celebration. The children, Rowland said, are a joy to work with and the clean-ups usually turn into a festive social occasion involving entire families. Volunteers are encouraged to call (562) 904-7159 and sign up for Keep

Downey Beautiful's next clean-up, scheduled for April 19.

GOOD President Darrell Jackson said he was in the midst of planning GOOD's annual golf tournament fundraiser at the Rio Hondo Golf Club, taking place May 28. The cost to participate is \$125 per player (down from \$150 last year) and includes lunch and dinner.

Former major league baseball player Darryl Strawberry has committed to the event, Jackson said. And unlike other celebrities, who sometimes promise an appearance if their meals and registration fees are comped, Strawberry will be paying the entry fee.

Non-golfers can still show their support by attending the dinner only for \$35. For more information, call Jackson at (562) 618-2550.

Ernest Caldwell, a straight-shooting ex-convict who regularly speaks to the kids locked up at Los Padinos Juvenile Hall as part of his work with the 10-20 Club, lamented on the need for parents to educate themselves on their children's activities and culture. Today, very unassuming – and borderline comical – bongs can be purchased at swap meets and smoke shops for teens to smoke marijuana out of. That large Mr. Potato Head sitting on your kid's shelf? It could be a disguised pipe, Caldwell said. The key is education.



Steve Allen, left, of the Downey Optimist Club presents a \$1,000 check to Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) President Darrell Jackson in support of the GOOD luncheon to be held April 16. The Optimist Club is a Silver Sponsor.

The key is also discipline, Caldwell said. When children complain of an overbearing parent, teacher or, if need be, probation officer, it means that person is doing their job well, Caldwell said.

"When kids don't like their PO (probation officer), that's a good thing," said Caldwell, who recently became certified to offer anger management training. "They need someone looking over them. Your mommy and daddy don't want to do it? The 10-20 Club will be your mommy and daddy."

Sgt. Leslie Murray and Detective

Mike Parino of the Downey Police Department encouraged residents to take a proactive approach against crime by reporting suspicious activity.

"The best case scenario is everything is legit, everything is OK and everybody is on their merry way," said Parino.

Murray said residents can call the police department's main number at (562) 861-0771 if the situation doesn't warrant dialing 911. Either way, she said residents shouldn't hesitate to call.

"Sometimes those are the best

types of calls we receive," said Murray. "They can be good sources of information."

Community Services Director Thad Phillips said he was monitoring a Cal Grant application from the state, a possible new source of funding for GOOD. He also praised a community services employee stationed at Golden Park who reported a tagger spraying graffiti on a park wall. The tagger was arrested and successfully prosecuted.

The fight against gangs and gang activity continues.

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Symphony Guild heading to Pechanga

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO, DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD
DOWNEY – The Downey Symphony Guild extends an invitation to the community to join them in their initial bus trip to Pechanga Casino on April 30.

The first-class bus, provided by Pechanga, will pick up passengers from the Woman's Club of Downey between 7 and 8:15 a.m. Parking is available there. The drive takes approximately one and one-half hours, returning to Downey between 5:30 and 6 p.m. Bingo will be played en route.

Cost per person for the complete trip is \$11 to be paid in advance by April 23. Each guest will receive a voucher worth \$5 for casino play, food, or shopping and is encouraged to register at the casino with identification for a "Rewards Card" for additional benefits. Guests must be at least 21 years of age.

Sorry, but no refunds will be given for last-minute cancellations, but last-minute reservations will be accepted if there remains room on the bus.

For reservations please make checks payable to Downey Symphony Guild for \$11 per person and mail to 8444 Quinn St., Downey, CA 90241-2624. For additional information, call (562) 862-3106 or (562) 861-8507.

Festa Primavera a pasta and meatball feast

BY ROSALIE SCIORTINO, DOWNEY SYMPHONY GUILD
DOWNEY – It's festive, it's colorful, it's a pasta dinner, it's musical and it's Italian. It is the Downey Symphony Guild's gala, Festa Primavera, a springtime festival to which the community is invited. A complete pasta and meatball feast will be served.

Get ready for the romantic songs of Roberto when you enter the Downey Woman's Clubhouse on Sunday, April 20, at 4 p.m.

A silent and live auction to benefit Music in the Schools and the Downey Symphony will feature valuable, exciting treasures, some of which have been donated by generous Guild members as well as merchants of the area.

This function will be the Guild's prime fundraiser for the year. Katie Hare and her crew are pitching in to insure that it will be a delicious, entertaining, and memorable occasion.

Reservations at \$65 per person (children age 12 and under \$10) may be made payable to Downey Symphony Guild, 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, CA 90240 by April 11, indicating number of people attending and their names.

Rise 'N Shine lineups announced

DOWNEY – Steve Roberson and Roger Nordin of Century 21 My Real Estate, along with Debbie Wallace of Employment Service Agency, will speak at the April 8 meeting of Rise 'N Shine Networking Group at Nordic Fox restaurant.

The meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. The cost is an order from the menu.

Nancy Matthews of Rancho Adult Day Services will speak at the April 22 meeting. Her topic will be "Beyond the Senior Center – Rancho Adult Day Services."

RSVPs are requested by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

Book club announces April selection

DOWNEY – Book lovers are invited to join "Booked for Lunch," the Downey City Library's book discussion group which meets on the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in the Cormack Room.

The selection for this Thursday will be "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," Lisa See's bestselling novel about the role of women in 19th century China.

The book club is a free program for adults. It includes a discussion of a different book each month.

Light refreshments will be served. Registration is available by calling (562) 904-7360, ext. 32.



Brian Saylor, president elect of the Rotary Club of Downey, presented a check for \$1,500 to Lorine Parks and Harold Tsklenis of the Downey Symphony to be used towards Downey Symphony programs.



John Swift, executive director of the Downey YMCA, received a check for \$4,000 from Brian Saylor, president elect of the Rotary Club of Downey.

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction:

- **"Act Normal"** by William Manchee. In this legal thriller, Dallas attorney Stan Turner struggles to keep his practice going in the wake of the tragic loss of his son.
- **"His Illegal Self"** by Peter Carey. Raised in privilege by his grandmother, the precocious son of radical Harvard activists years to find his parents and his true self.
- **"Murder in the Rue de Paradis"** by Cara Black. In her eighth mystery set in Paris, sleuth Anne Leduc must avenge the murder of her former lover Yves.
- **"One Fell Swoop: a Novel in Stories"** by Virginia Boyd. In this humorous and poignant first novel, the aftershocks of a murder-suicide resonate through a small town where everyone knows everyone else's business.
- **"The Soul Thief"** by Charles Baxter. In 1970's New York, graduate student Nathaniel Mason is a man with an "available soul."

Non-Fiction:

- **"Don't Sweat It; Hire it!"** by Philip Schmidt. Learn how to find, hire and manage home improvement professionals, from air duct cleaners to wood flooring installers.
- **"Earth: the Sequel"** by Fred Krupp. Environmental Defense Fund president Krupp discusses the bold innovators and investors who are reinventing energy and the ways we use it.
- **"Great Kids"** by Stanley Greenspan, M.D. Help your child develop 10 essential qualities for a happy life: engagement, curiosity, communication, emotional range, self-esteem, discipline, creativity, logical thinking and moral integrity.
- **"Too Far From Home: a Story of Life and Death in Space"** by Chris Jones. When the space shuttle Columbia exploded on Feb. 1, 2003, three astronauts were left stranded on the International Space Station.
- **"Two Meatballs in the Italian Kitchen"** by Pino Lueongo and Mark Strausman. Two friends and restaurateurs in Manhattan explain the difference between cuisine from Italy and the American variety, with delicious results.

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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Mary Lucille Squire was active in bowling industry

DOWNEY – Mary Lucille Squire, a longtime Downey resident instrumental in organizing one of the first bowling tournaments for handicapped children, died on March 16.



Squire was born March 13, 1922. She resided in Downey since 1952.

Squire was active in the bowling industry. She worked at the front desks of several bowling alleys over the years, including Wonderbowl and Downey Bowl, both of which are now closed.

For many years she was a secretary for leagues at Keystone Lanes in Norwalk and Del Rio Lanes in Downey. She was also a sought-after scorekeeper before the introduction of automated scoring.

Squire was instrumental in setting up bowling tournaments for handicapped children and veterans, as well as many junior bowling leagues for students.

She was inducted into the Bowlers Hall of Fame in Los Angeles in 1988.

She is survived by four sons, one daughter, three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, with one more due this month. She is also survived by a brother and sister.

All of her children attended various Downey schools, the boys entering the service after high school. Two of her sons currently reside in Downey.



The National Association of Realtors recently awarded Edi Casillas of Century 21 Jervis & Associates and Downey Association of Realtors, the "Graduate Realtor Institute" designation. The GRI designation is earned by attending a series of courses covering contract law, professional standards, sales and marketing, finance, risk reduction, the fundamentals of brokerage and other areas of real estate specialization. Casillas can be reached at (562) 889-9725.

Temple hosting Seder dinner April 20

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid is hosting a traditional Kosher-style Seder dinner on April 20 at 6 p.m.

Doation is \$30 for Temple members and their families, and \$36 for non-members and their families, which includes a choice of chicken or vegetarian dinners.

Paid reservations are required by April 11.

For more information, call (562) 861-9276.

'In Your Hands' workshop at church

DOWNEY – The Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment will present "In Your Hands," a workshop by speaker and poet Yvonne Blew on April 20.

Blew will speak on how "the shape of your fingers and the lines in your palm, formed in utero, spell out the gifts and abilities you brought with you to your present incarnation on Earth."

The workshop is \$20 pre-registered or \$30 at the door. For more information, call (562) 926-2445.



Keep Downey Beautiful coordinated an Arbor Day Celebration with Girl Scout Troop 267, as well as other individual volunteers, on March 15 at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center. The volunteers planted seven 24-foot box trees at the community center. Councilmember Anne Bayer was one of the event's volunteers.



Students from Mr. Jones' fifth grade class at Maude Price Elementary recently celebrated "Read In Week" with Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra.



Soroptimist International of Downey celebrated their International Day of Service on March 1 by picking up litter on Downey Avenue. The club adopted Downey Avenue through the Keep Downey Beautiful adopt-a-street program. Pictured are, left to right, Carol Rowland, Keep Downey Beautiful coordinator; Jan Scott, Pacific Western Bank; Bonnie Barler, Farmer John; Sue Potter, Soroptimist president; and Bernice Madariaga, Downey Adult School. Karina Madariaga of Downey Adult School was also in attendance.



A team from St. Mark's School recently participated in the Edison Challenge, an educational program created by Edison International and the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. The program offers middle and high school students the opportunity to take a hands-on approach to improving K-12 science education, and provides teachers the opportunity to participate in professional development science workshops. The team from St. Mark's explored the impact that disposable water bottles have on the environment. As part of their project, the team sold reusable water bottles at the school, and made presentations to the student body. From left: Bill Nye "the Science Guy," Megan Collier, Evelyn Martinez, Martha Salas, Marissa Santana, Mrs. McCloud (teacher and team advisor), and Abram Estafanous.

St. Raymond's Festival May 16 – 18

DOWNEY – The St. Raymond's All American Festival will take place May 16 – 18.

The weekend will include entertainment, games, food, and raffles.

Hours are May 16, 6 – 10 p.m.; May 17, noon – 10 p.m.; and May 18, noon – 6 p.m.

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Warren puts up big numbers, fends off Downey, 10-8

■ Bears use five-run second inning to defeat rival Downey High School, who chipped away at the lead but came up short.

SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR
DOWNEY – In what proved to be a slugfest, the Warren Bears edged the Downey Vikings 10-8 with the help of a five-run second inning at Taylor Field on Tuesday.

The Bears, who average over nine runs a game in all of their victories, got to Downey pitcher Adrian Vallardes, who struggled with his control through 1 2/3 innings. In the appearance, Vallardes allowed six runs and two crucial walks, which were both cashed in during the fateful second inning.

Warren sent 10 batters to the plate in the second inning, doing the majority of their damage with timely base hits.

Bears' hitters Mason Shelton, Alfonso Gonzalez and Joshua Perez came through with runners on base during the inning with RBI base hits.

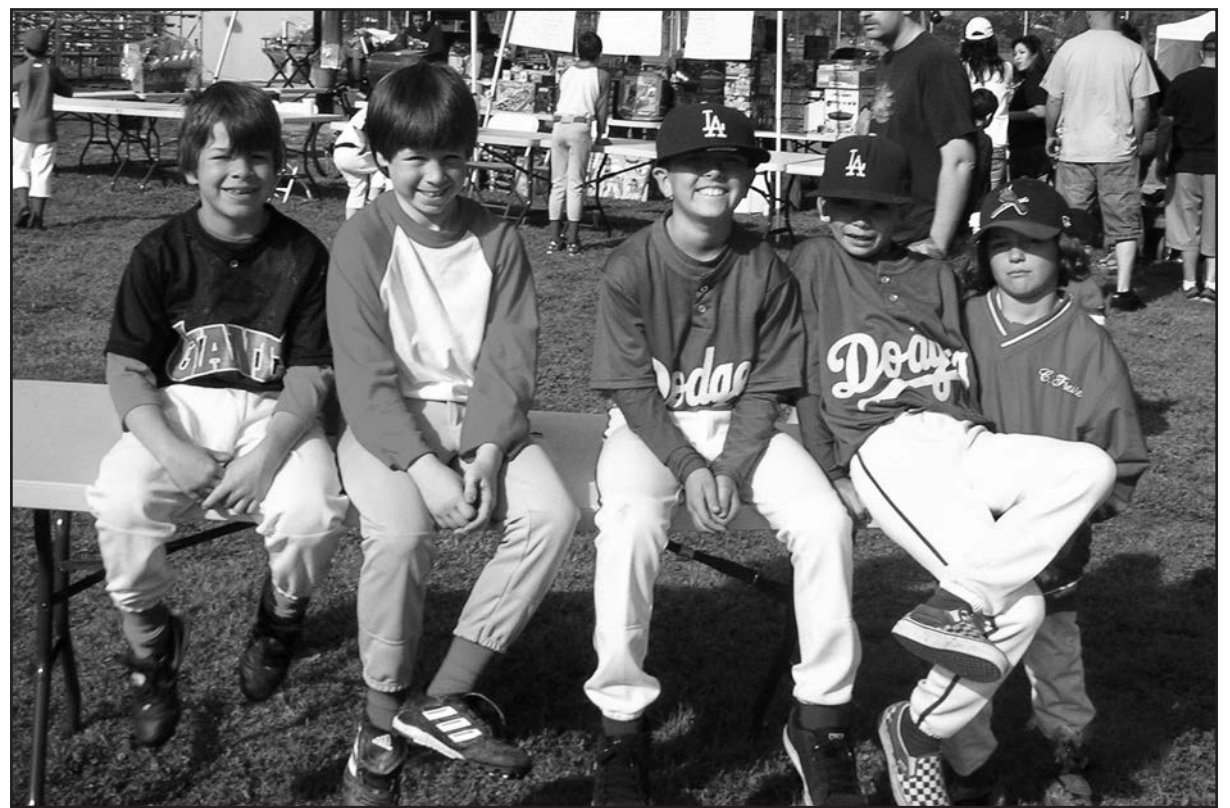
Shelton and Perez led the team with two hits apiece on the day and accounted for almost half of the team's runs.

Downey, down but not out, would continue to chip away at the lead with runs in the fourth, fifth

and sixth innings. But they fell short, going quietly in the top of the seventh inning.

Downey centerfielder Ivory Thomas lead the way with two hits, three RBIs and one run scored.

Warren pitcher Abraham Carrasco pitched a complete game for the win. Although he struggled through most of the game, allowing eight runs, he managed to have just enough in the tank to keep the Vikings at bay.



West Downey Little League held their 50th anniversary Opening Day ceremony on March 8, which was attended by former major leaguers Matt Luke (Los Angeles Dodgers, top left) and Craig Worthington (Texas Rangers, top right). Also on hand was Herb Welch, one of the original founding members of the league in 1958 and still actively involved with coaching and maintaining the fields. Over 500 players and their families joined in the festivities, which included a carnival featuring a rock-climbing wall, face painting, bouncers, train rides and more.

It's about attitude, intimidation when it comes to inside pitching

By SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

In response to the pitching column from last week titled "A Lost Art: Inside Pitching," Downey resident Drew Kelley brought up a great point.

"Two words: Aluminum bats," Kelley wrote. "Young pitchers don't go there because a hitter with an alloy bat can fight off the pitch, not break his bat, and sometimes get a blooper [hit] out of it."

"With wood bats," Kelley continues, "if you get contact, you were usually left with a handful of splinters, no more."

While this is a very valid point, I would still stress the negatives of becoming a one-dimensional pitcher. While pitching successfully is linked to changing speeds, changing planes is next in the crucial "must-dos" list as a pitcher.

That not only includes up and down planes, but also side to side planes. The argument being made here is all about potential. You will have more upside potential of getting a batter out if you use all of the plate rather than if you use only the outside part of the plate.

If I were still pitching, I'd much rather have a batter flare a pitch off the hands than my becoming predictable and risk the possibility of them hitting the ball off the barrel of the bat, especially if it is an aluminum bat.

Also, pitching is not only physical. It's a mind game as well. Putting the thought of possibly getting drilled in the ribs with a fastball will install that slight hesitation to inch up on the plate, opening up that outside corner.

It's all about attitude and intimidation when it comes to the inside part of the plate. Am I going to argue against some of the hardest balls hit are on the inside half of the strike zone? No sir. But I am going to argue that if setup properly, a batter doesn't have much of a chance to turn on a good inside pitch.

But to Drew, thank you for your input because you did bring up great arguments especially with this next piece of classic baseball.

What happened to wood bats?

Obviously, there are many pros and cons to having aluminum bats in Little League, high school, travel team tournaments and the collegiate levels.

They're great for Little Leaguers who are learning how to play. Bat control is especially key when it comes to learning how to swing the bat properly.

Costs are low for purchase and even lower for production making it a win-win for the manufacturer and customer.

Technology is getting better, which in turn is producing higher batting averages and homerun numbers. As they say, offense sells tickets. A typical college game will end with a score of 7-5.

Folks, if you see a college score like that, the starting pitcher did *very well*. If you see a score of 4-3, it was a pitcher's duel all the way through.

And finally, aluminum bats are becoming almost a fashion fad. One too many times I've seen a player run up to his teammate and say "Hey, I have the new Easton Stealth bat!"

But being the baseball purist I am (and the ex-pitcher I will always think like), aluminum bats are the devil.

With these bats, great pitches are only decent pitches, the fastball is slowly yet surely becoming the most boring pitch in baseball, ERAs are sky-rocketing everywhere you look and you're starting to get whiplash watching the whizzing baseballs fly by you.

Kudos to Major League Baseball for keeping wood bats as part of the game. But then again, if they didn't, could you imagine the moon shots blasted out of this universe hit by an Albert Pujols?

I'd wager a guess saying it's more of a safety concern when it comes to alloy bats and professional baseball.

But I say bring wood bats back. It'll help with the basic mechanics of a swing and will bring the scores back to normal.

Football sign-ups at Downey High School

DOWNEY – Downey Youth Football will host its annual "Back to Football Night" on April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Downey High School Cafeteria.

Participant eligibility is boys and girls ages 5 – 14 that meet the age and weight requirements, and live in Downey, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Norwalk, and South Gate.

"Back to Football Night" marks the first registration of the year where all players and cheerleaders get a chance to register and guarantee themselves a spot on a team before regular registration begins in May, avoiding any waiting lists.

Cost for new players is \$185 (tackle); \$130 (flag); and \$100 (cheer). Cheerleaders that sign-up at "Back to School Night" will receive a \$25 discount off registration and pay only \$75.

Downey Youth Football has also completed head coach interviews and has appointed the following to head coach positions for the 2008 season: Robert Olide, flag football; C.C. Gonzalez, Mitey Mite (red); Ron Marquez, Mitey Mite (white); E.J. Enslin, Jr., Peewee; Mike Baumann, Peewee; Jeff McCaughan, Jr., Midget; and Kyle Hudspeth, Midget.

For more information, or if interested in being an assistant or head coach, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081.

CSULB English professor awarded poetry prize for book of poems

LONG BEACH – Patty Seyburn, an assistant professor of English at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), has been named the winner of the 2008 Green Rose Prize in Poetry by the editors of *New Issues Poetry and Prose* for her third book titled, "Hilarity."

The Green Rose Prize is awarded to an author who has previously published at least one full-length book of poems. Seyburn, who joined the CSULB faculty in 2006, won a \$2,000 award along with her prize and will see the publication of her manuscript by New Issues Press, a literary press associated with Western Michigan University, in spring 2009.

"I feel thrilled to win the Green Rose Poetry Prize," Seyburn said. "It's a wonderful prize and the New Issue Press is a wonderful press with strong poets at its head."

Seyburn has published two books of poems – "Mechanical Cluster" from Ohio State University Press in 2002, and "Diasporadic" from Helicon Nine Editions in 1998, which won the 1997 Marianne Moore Poetry Prize

and the American Library Association's Notable Book Award for 2000. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals including *The Paris Review*, *New England Review*, *Field*, *Slate*, *Crazyhorse*, *Cutbank*, *Quarterly West*, *Bellingham Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Third Coast* and *Western Humanities Review*.

The title of her third book comes from the phrase "the emergence of hilarity," meant to describe the appearance of a sense of humor in infants.

"I had insomnia when I was pregnant with my daughter," Seyburn recalled. "I thought at first, 'I'm middle class; I don't have sleep problems,' but I was still awake. On the other hand, it was my first child so I could afford to be awake. I didn't have to be angry with myself for being awake and I could use the time. 'The Emergence of Hilarity' is the concluding poem in the book. It is a

long narrative piece that describes from my perspective the emergence of laughter from the Pleistocene Era to the present that ties in children, prayer and the fortunate missteps that redirect our lives."

"My poetry offers provocation without trying to alienate," she explained. "I try to convey to the reader a poet who reaches out to the reader but to whom the reader must come partway as well. I'm pleased with that."

"A lot of poetry I don't like is so opaque; it seems dismissive of the reader's efforts, time and concerns."

She thinks "Hilarity" is an imaginative book.

"The language is very musical and engaging," she said. "Like all poets, I'm concerned with love, time and death but there is still room to write poetry about how our families and lives manifest themselves in interesting ways."

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Kirk Cartozian is a Downey City Councilmember and the President of Cartozian Associates Real Estate and Viking Lending. He is a licensed real estate broker, and holds an MBA and a Master's of Real Estate Development from the university of Southern California.

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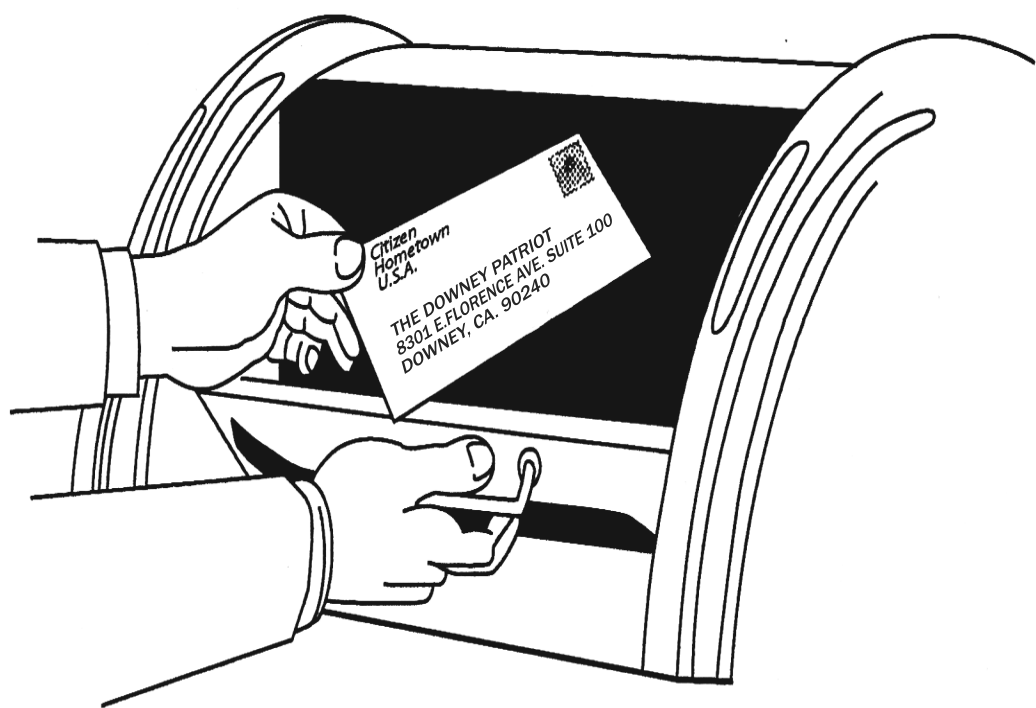
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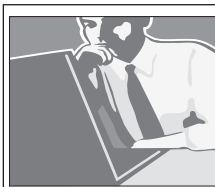
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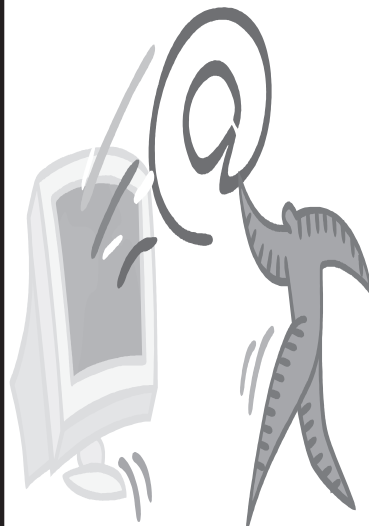
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Upstairs Apt., redecorated; granite kitchen countertops, new dishwasher, stove, verticals, on-site laundry, 2 parking spaces, no pets, no Sec. 8 program, excellent credit history required. \$1,395 mo. + \$1,000 security deposit.
(714) 637-3110

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bed, 2 bath, dble. gar., Florentine tile, grdnr. ser. \$1,950 + \$1,500 sec. dep.
7123 Dinwiddie, Downey
(310) 944-1851
(310) 433-6513

QUIET 2 BED APT.

Downey, by golf course. \$1,150 mo.
(310) 617-3640

2 BED BELLFLOWER

New floors, laundry \$995.
(562) 867-4710

SERVICES

CARPET 4 U

Nylon Carpet w/Pad installed: \$1.65 sq. ft. Vinyl Floor installed \$2.45 sq. ft.
(562) 866-2195
Showroom at 9303 Alondra Blvd. in Bellflower

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30 yrs. In Downey. Great Prices.
(562) 824-9129

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Exterior, Interior, senior discounts, references, dependable & reliable. Free estimates. Lic. #634063. Wayne.
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GARDEN SERVICE

Hedging, lawn mowing, sprinkler system, seed or sod grass + clean up. Lic. 214833
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(562) 712-1838

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Income Tax
This Weekend only \$99.00
Any individual 1040
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(562) 261-5080

FRANKS WINDOW CLEANING

Free estimates, licensed.
(562) 633-9317
(562) 862-0395

Mother's Day is May 11!!!

Send a message in The Downey Patriot!



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

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

ACTUAL SIZE

The Downey Patriot
YOUR HOMETOWN 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: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562)904-3668



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Shining Above the Rest

Congratulations to all our 2008 Award recipients who continue to provide our customers with top notch quality service



Maria Cibrian
Centurion Producer Award



Marlene Rodriguez
Centurion Producer Award



**Angie Pierce
Steve Roberson**
Centurion Office Award



**Lilian Lopez &
Lorena Amaya**
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Maria Cibrian
President's Producer Award



Marlene Rodriguez
President's Producer Award



Maria Zuloaga
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Maria Cibrian
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Brian Holden
Ruby Producer Award



Steve Roberson
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Marlene Rodriguez
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Brian Holden
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Mario Acevedo
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Maria Zuloaga
Ruby Producer Award



**Steve Roberson
Roger Nordin**
Quality Service Pinnacle Office Award



Oscar Rivera
Emerald Producer Award



Maria Zuloaga
Ruby Producer Award



Brian Holden
Ruby Producer Award



Steve Roberson
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Karen Hayashi
Multi- Million Dollar Award



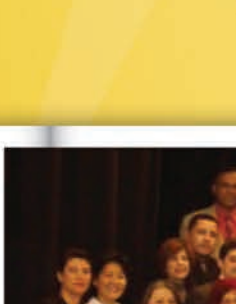
Edwin Huber
Ruby Producer Award



Oscar Rivera
Emerald Producer Award



Maria Zuloaga
Ruby Producer Award



Brian Holden
Ruby Producer Award



Steve Roberson
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Karen Hayashi
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Manuel Acuna
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Oscar Rivera
Emerald Producer Award



Maria Zuloaga
Ruby Producer Award



Brian Holden
Ruby Producer Award



Steve Roberson
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Karen Hayashi
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Manuel Acuna
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Oscar Rivera
Emerald Producer Award



Maria Zuloaga
Ruby Producer Award



Brian Holden
Ruby Producer Award



Steve Roberson
Quality Service Pinnacle Award



Karen Hayashi
Multi- Million Dollar Award



Manuel Acuna
Multi- Million Dollar Award



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An Elite Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional Quality Service for multiple years. (Only 8 out of 8,000 CENTURY 21 offices have ever received this award.)

- Easter Seals - #1 Supporter*
- Quality Service Pinnacle Award*
- Centurion Office Award*
- President's Award*



Nubia Aguirre
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 <p>DECORATOR PERFECT! Gorgeous 3 BD, 1.75 BA home in North Downey Priced at: \$499,900</p>	 <p>HOME SWEET HOME! 3 BD, 2 BA, Great Floor Plan, LARGE Bonus Room! ONLY: \$469,000</p>	 <p>9631 Downey Ave. 3 BD, 2,000 Sq. Ft. Of Living Space Built in 1974 REDUCED \$100,000</p>
 <p>UNDER \$800,000</p> <p>DOWNEY DUPLEX! 2 Houses (1) 1 BD, 1 BA (1) 2 BD, 2 BA. NOW ONLY \$489,900</p>	 <p>LOCATION! LOCATION! 3 BD, 2 BA, Central A/C 1,505 Sq. Ft., 5,279 Sq. Ft. Lot. Priced at: \$629,000</p>	 <p>BUILT IN 2005! 3 BD, 3 BA, one story vaulted ceilings - 3 YEARS NEW! CALL MARIO @ 562-7433</p>
 <p>TOWNHOUSE LIVING! Cute 2 BD, 2 BA home With a 2 Car Garage. Priced at: \$299,900</p>	 <p>WOW! WHAT A VALUE! 3 BD, 1.5 BA, 2 Car Garage, 5,500 Sq. Ft. Lot! NOW ONLY! \$439,900</p>	 <p>DOWNEY ORANGE ESTATES 3 BD, 2 BA 2,000 Sq. Ft. 7,400 Sq. Ft. Lot Call For A Private Showing</p>
 <p>Russell Skersick "24 Hour Power!" 562-619-8280 www.RussellSkersick.com</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 12-4PM</p>	 <p>Marie Picarelli "The Intelligent Choice!" 562-618-0033 www.MariePicarelli.com</p> <p>REDUCED!</p>	 <p>Mary Jane Lee "Selling Homes...24 Hours A Day!" 562-618-0390 MaryJane@Prudential24Hours.com</p> <p>N DOWNEY!</p>
<p>9533 Borson ~ Downey 3 BD, 1 BA, Remodeled in 2008 Priced at \$419,900</p>	<p>BANK REPO 3 BD, 8,616 Sq. Ft. Lot Priced at \$356,500</p>	<p>ONLY - \$635,000 3 BD, 3 BA, 1,700 + Sq. Ft., 9,190 Sq. Ft. Lot Call Today!</p>

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NEW CLASSES

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Spring Quarter 2008

Classes Begin Monday, April 28

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FREE

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 <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>Move Right In! 3 bed, 1 bath, 1134 sq ft, remodeled kitchen & bath, R.V. parking, 2 car detached garage & spacious yard. Price: \$389,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	 <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>Don't Miss It 3BD 2BA, 1627 sq ft on a 7560 lot. Features include a formal living rm, large family rm, central A.C., updated kitchen & hardwood floors throughout. Boasting a park like backyard w/ Koi pond. Won't last long @ \$575,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>This One's Hot! 5 BD, 3 BA newly-constructed home with 3205 sq ft living space. A great find @ \$824,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>
 <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>Home Sweet Home! 3 BD, 2 BA home in Orange Estates (N Downey) with living rm, family rm, det garage, and pool. Price: \$724,900 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>This You've Got to See! 5 BD, 4 BA, approx 4,500 sq. ft. all on an impressive 19,888 sq. ft. lot. Home features: pool/spa, sports court, 3BD guest house & RV parking. Price: \$1,599,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	 <p>REDUCED</p> <p>The Price is Right! 3 BD, 2 BA, top level condo in N Downey, 1968 sq ft living space - plenty of room for a great price! Price: \$385,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
 <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>Splish Splash! 3BD, 2BA, pool home with extra large 2 car detached garage on quiet street in Downey. Home is 2,189 sq ft on a 7,380 sq ft lot. Reduced to \$589,900 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>	 <p>OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>Location! Location Location! Upgraded 3BD, 3BA, NE Downey home on a 11,520 sq. ft. lot. With remodeled kitchen & extra large backyard w/pool. Don't miss this one priced at \$875,000 Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	 <p>IN ESCROW</p> <p>Act-Fast Amazing 4 bed, 2.5 bath, on a 8200 sq ft lot, remodeled through out. Price \$729,950 Virtual tour at www.MichaelBerdelis.com</p>
 <p>SOLD!</p> <p>A Great Deal in Downey! 3 BD, 2 BA, 1633 sq. ft. on a 6450 sq. ft. lot. Michael's buyer bought this home for \$500,000! Call Michael to help you find a bargain, too!</p>	 <p>SOLD!</p> <p>SOLD in 45 days 3 BD, 2 BA cul-de-sac home with new kitchen w/ granite counters, beautiful remodeled bathrooms, and much more. Sold for \$445,000! Michael can sell yours, too. Call Michael for a FREE market evaluation!</p>	 <p>SOLD!</p> <p>Michael's Buyer Bought This Hot Deal 3BD, 1BA home on a 10,000 sq. ft. lot. Michael's buyer bought this home for \$365,000! Call Michael and he'll help you find your next home!</p>

View these homes at: www.MichaelBerdelis.com