



The Downey Patriot



Slice of Hawaii here in town
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Manuel Gallegos mourned by city
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Ernie Garcia gets political
See Page 2

Friday, April 18, 2008

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

Future of the Rose Float in doubt

■ The Downey Rose Float Association is left scrambling after copper wire thieves steal their source of electricity. Officials say they have 30 days to find a new home.

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

DOWNEY – For the first time in over 50 years, the city of Downey may not have a float in Pasadena's illustrious Tournament of Roses Parade.

You can blame copper wire thieves.

Downey's participation in the New Year's Day event has been threatened by vandals who have stripped the copper wiring out of an abandoned laundry warehouse on the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center where volunteers annually construct the float, officials with the Downey Rose Float Association (DRFA) said this week.

The theft has left the warehouse, which sits on property owned by the County of Los Angeles, devoid of electricity.

"We contacted Southern California Edison and due to an agreement with the County they will not bring in new power sources to that land," Gary DeRemer, president of the DRFA, said in a letter. "Then we tried to contact Supervisor [Don] Knabe's office to see if the County could provide permission for Edison to install power for us and...we still have had no response.

"If we are not able to obtain electrical on our site or find a new site to build the float we will not be able to build this year's float and will have to withdraw from the parade."

In order to meet strict scheduling deadlines, DeRemer said a new site on which to construct the float needs to be found within 30 days. And skipping next year's parade would effectively signal the end of the DRFA, because the waiting list to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade is "miles long."

"There is a minimum 10-12 year waiting list to get an entry into the parade, unless you are some big corporation like Disney," said DeRemer.

Representatives for Knabe's office could not be reached for comment, but the DRFA has been borrowing space at Rancho for several years. The land, which is comprised of several boarded-up shacks, warehouses and auditoriums, is on track to be redeveloped soon, city officials said, and whether the redevelopment includes space for the DRFA remains to be seen.

"We have raised funds to build a building or to convert one," said DeRemer. "However, with the price of real estate and the rising cost of everything else these days we could never afford to buy land and build a building."

According to DeRemer, a typical float costs about \$70,000 to construct. The money is raised through various fundraisers throughout the year, including the popular Miss Downey pageant held in March.

But if the DRFA can't find a new float location, or if they can't get electricity going at their current warehouse, all the fundraisers will come to an end.

"If a home with power is not located in the next 30 days we will no longer have a float each year, shown on television around the world, showcasing how great Downey can be," said DeRemer. "Please contact your council member, the city management, the county supervisors and let them know this is important to you, that we not let another piece of Downey history disappear."

If you have a piece of property you would be willing to loan to the DRFA, or can help with electricity, call Gary DeRemer at (562) 260-8503.



Gary DeRemer, left, and Andrew Malarkey stand next to where thieves pulled copper wiring on the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. The theft has left the Downey Rose Float Association without the electricity needed to build a float. Photo by Art Montoya



Rose Float officials say an empty strip of grass near their warehouse is home to transients, which break into abandoned warehouses and steal copper wiring. Photo by Eric Pierce

WWII veteran Heiberg looks back on war past

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Drafted in 1943, Marine PFC and Council Bluffs, Iowa native Richard Heiberg underwent artillery training at Camp Pendleton before taking part in the liberation of Leyte. The six-month battle for Leyte, in which at least 60,000 Japanese soldiers reportedly lost their lives on land or at sea, while U.S. forces suffered 5,000 dead and 14,000 wounded, prompted Gen. Douglas MacArthur later to say it was "perhaps the greatest defeat in the military annals of the Japanese Army."



Since, as military historian Michael Graham said the event effectively shut off Japan from its resources in Southeast Asia and the Netherlands East Indies, it also led Japan's navy minister Adm. Mitsumasa Yonai to acknowledge the U.S. assessment in these words, "Our defeat at Leyte was tantamount to the loss of the Philippines. When you took the Philippines, that was the end of our resources." The companion Battle of Leyte Gulf, which dealt the Japanese a double mortal blow with the loss of four carriers, three battleships, ten cruisers, 11 destroyers, about 300 planes and 10,500 sailors and airmen—the bulk of the Imperial Combined Fleet—"rendered their navy ineffective," wrote Graham, "leaving hundreds of thousands of Japanese troops on Pacific islands without hope of support." "The climactic battle of Leyte Gulf," added eminent historian Samuel Eliot Morison, "determined that the U.S. would rule the Pacific until the end of the war, and by so doing hasten the war's end."

Heiberg was with the 11th 155-mm gun battalion of the 5th Amphibious Marine Corps under the command of Brig. General Thomas

See HEIBERG, page 8

Farmers market opens tomorrow

DOWNEY – Downey will celebrate their first-ever farmers market with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Mayor David Gafin tomorrow morning. The market will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Located on 2nd Street, between New Street and La Reina Avenue, customers will be able to choose from fresh California products, including fruits and vegetables, artisan breads and cheeses, eggs and fish, and other items. The community is invited to attend.

For more information, call (562) 904-7284 or visit www.downeyca.org.

Johnie's Broiler cruise tomorrow

DOWNEY – Supporters of Johnie's Broiler and Bob's Big Boy will hold a rally tomorrow from noon to 6 p.m. to celebrate "the news that Bob's Big Boy is coming to town."

Residents with custom cars or hot rods are invited to attend the rally at Johnie's Broiler, 7447 E. Firestone Blvd. The group will gather afterwards at Nordic Fox.

Block captain training Wednesday

DOWNEY – The city of Downey will conduct block captain training this Wednesday at the Downey City Library for residents interested in leading a Neighborhood Watch program on their block.

The informational training session will teach residents how to get their neighbors involved in neighborhood watch and how to become an effective block captain. Training will be conducted from 7 to 8 p.m.

For more information, or to reserve a spot, call (562) 904-1895.

Students raise \$2,400 for leukemia non-profit

By BROOKE KARLI
STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY – More than 150 students were treated to carne asada and homemade beans and rice at an on-campus barbeque last Friday at Warren High School, a reward the students received for raising \$2,400 for the Olive Garden's Pasta for Pennies fundraiser (formerly known as "Pennies for Patients").

Jay Waldron, a teacher at Warren, decided to combine his five classes – a week and a half before the fundraiser was over – in an effort to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

"The fun of it was getting the kids excited about giving," said Waldron, a Spanish teacher who also coached cross country and track and field at Warren for more than 14 years. "We wanted to be as selfless as possible."

Pasta for Pennies is a yearly fundraiser that collects pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters from elementary, middle school, and high school students throughout the nation during a three-week period, with all proceeds going to

"These are the best kids I've ever had. I'm lucky to have genuinely good kids and I wanted to thank them one way or another."

—Warren High School teacher Jay Waldron

the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Since the program's launch in 1994, more than \$36 million has been raised for the society by more than 10 million students nationwide.

Juan Padilla, a junior, not only donated his lunch money, but also his bus money and paycheck.

"My cousin has Leukemia and I wanted to donate whatever I could," Padilla said. "Those kids will never have the life I have so I want to try to make a difference and help. To know I'm helping in saving lives and making someone smile makes donating totally worth it."

Brianna Clemmer, also a junior, said the fundraiser was near and dear to her heart.

"My mom is a seven-year breast cancer survivor and my uncle passed away from colon cancer and my great-uncle passed away from lung cancer," Clemmer

said. "So giving to these types of organizations is very important to me. I know a little can go a long way."

As part of the fundraiser, the class raising the most in their school is rewarded with a pasta party delivered to their classroom and served by their local Olive Garden. Although Waldron's classes qualified for the party, the students decided to extend their giving and donated the food to a shelter in Los Angeles.

"These are the best kids I've ever had," Waldron said. "I'm lucky to have genuinely good kids and I wanted to thank them one way or another."

With the help of parents and former students, Waldron hosted a barbeque for his classes – complete with carne asada, beans, rice, tortillas, and an assortment of drinks and desserts.

"Some kids just couldn't donate

and if they couldn't bring something to the barbeque, I still let them come and join their classmates," he said. "All of the students agreed to raise money as a team and because of that, made up for what others could not provide."

Vasquez Meats of South Gate, who supplies meats to the Amapola restaurant in Downey, provided the carne asada at a discounted price.

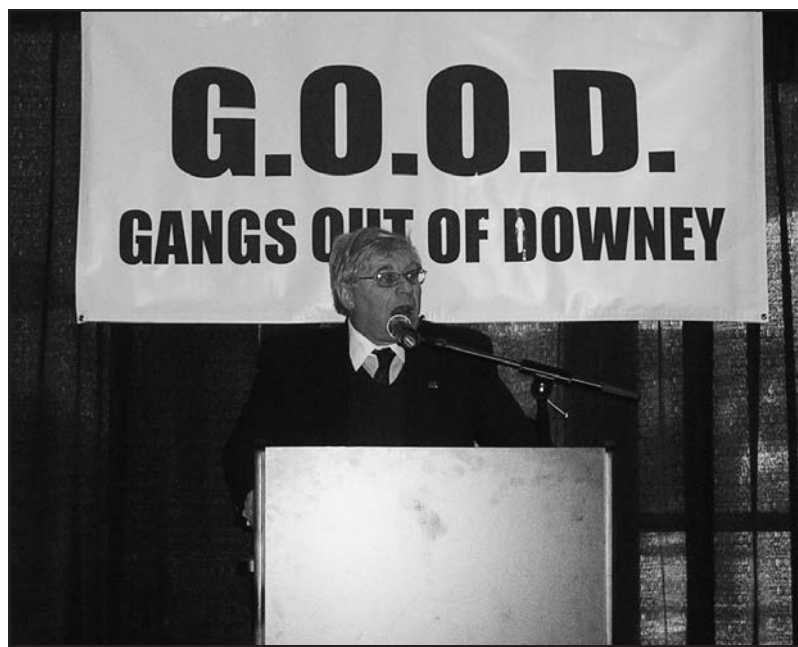
Above all, the classes not only learned the importance of giving, but also experienced first-hand the effects good character can have, Waldron said.

"Character Counts is such an important program on our campus and we made sure to recognize the different pillars represented through our actions," said Waldron.

For more information on the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, visit www.lls.org.



Parents, teachers and former students pitched in on a barbeque at Warren High School last week, a reward for students who raised \$2,400 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Photo by Brooke Karli



Michael Josephson spoke to a record-crowd at the Rio Hondo Event Center Wednesday as part of the Gangs Out of Downey luncheon. "It sounds cliché, but it takes a village to raise a child," Josephson said. The lunch was attended by hundreds of supporters.



Ernie Garcia, a resident of Downey and delegate for Assembly District 58, Senate District 27, and Congressional District 34, recently attended the California Democratic Convention in San Jose. While at the convention, Garcia got to meet with Lt. Gov. John Garamendi; Sen. Elaine K. Alquist; Sen. Alan Lowenthal; California State Controller John Chiang; Assembly member Betty Karnette (above); and Judy Chew, member of the California State Board of Equalization. Garcia was also elected this week to represent California's 34th Congressional District at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Art League features Michael Humphries

DOWNEY – The Traditional Artist's Guild of Paramount and Downey Art League will feature artist Michael Humphries at their next meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Furman Park.

The community is invited to attend and refreshments will be provided. For information, call Ryo Terasaki at (562) 803-5857.

Curves featured at Bingo luncheon

DOWNEY – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Women's Guild is hosting a Bingo luncheon on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Parish Center.

A representative from Curves will discuss the benefits of exercise at the luncheon. Cost is \$10.

For more information, call Pat Montano at (562) 923-3217.

'Invisible Children' depicts war in Africa

DOWNEY – Downey First Christian Church will be showing "Invisible Children," a documentary film, on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

The documentary depicts the 20-year war that has affected the people of Africa and focuses on the children of Northern Uganda who live in fear of being abducted by rebel soldiers. Children as young as five years old are being forced to fight alongside these soldiers, risking their lives and being separated from their families.

Funds raised by the Invisible Children Foundation are used to build schools, provide clean water, and fulfill medical needs with medicines and supplies.

For more information, call (562) 862-2438.

Teacher of the Year awards handed out

■ Masonic Lodge #220 honors four Downey teachers for their enthusiasm, drive, and devotion to their students.

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

DOWNEY—After a spirited performance by the Gauldin Elementary School Fitness Club under the direction of Alex Gaytan, the Downey Unified School District Board of Education Tuesday heard representatives from the Downey United Masonic Lodge #220 make presentations to Masonic Teacher of the Year honorees representing the district's elementary, middle school, high school, and Adult School levels.

First to be honored was Williams Elementary's Kathy Ambruso as Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Williams principal Mary Weyers narrated how Ambruso came to Williams Elementary more than 20 years ago and stayed there ever since, how she has taught kindergarten, second grade, and third grade, and who is now the school's Title I & School Improvement Resource teacher. In the latter role, said Weyers, Ambruso's sincerity and care for every child has "created a spark and fanned the flame of the joy of learning." She has been a tireless and persistent champion, said Weyers, especially of "struggling learners" in her determined efforts to give them the "important foundation they so desperately need."

In presenting East Middle School's Kevin Dodge with the 2007-08 Masonic Middle School Teacher of the Year award, EMS principal Brent Shubin pointed to his enthusiasm, drive, unifying character, and devotion to make sure his students "learn and succeed." An outstanding math teacher and a wonderful person, the UC-Santa Barbara political science grad, said Shubin, is "a wonderful role model for his students and colleagues" and is a "stellar example of what being an outstanding educator is all about."

Andrea Sims, who has taught at Downey High School for twelve years, is this year's Masonic High School Teacher of the Year." DHS principal Tom Houts extolled her teaching (including Honors English), organizational, and coaching skills, one who "respects her students who in turn respect her." She has been responsible for Downey High's girls' volleyball 11-year award-winning streak, Houts said, "a tribute to her professional and respectful (there's that word again) manner." Sims earlier received recognition as one of only 13 coaches in the entire state to be given the CIF's Model Coach Award, the sports conference's "highest and most prestigious award."

The Masonic Downey Adult School Teacher of the Year, Cindy Grafton, is in her second year as a Program Coordinator for DAS's Certified Shorthand Program (court reporting) and is in her 10th year as a full-time teacher, said DAS principal Roger Brossmer. She successfully introduced technology to the school, he said, while taking over many leadership roles. She has traveled to Sacramento as an advocate of adult education, and has served on many advocacy committees/organizations. She has, Brossmer said, become a mentor teacher and is very generous in "sharing her knowledge and experience."

Asst. Superintendent-Instructional Services Jerilyn King-Brown emceed the presentations.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude donations in cash and in kind from several donors, including a donation of 16 chairs and 8 computer tables valued at \$1,000 from Gilbert Smith, for instructional and office use at Gauldin Elementary School; a cash donation of \$2,000 from Lewis Elementary School PTA, for student field trips and related expenses at Lewis Elementary; and a cash donation of \$5,000 from Downey Los Amigos Kivans, to be used in support of the Character Counts! program;
- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;
- Ratified the general agreement with Logan River Academy, effective Feb. 25, 2008-June 30, 2008;
- Ratified payments for Special Education services;
- Approved the revisions to Williams Uniform Complaint Procedure, Adult School Calendar 2008-09, and Schedule of Regular Board Meetings, 2007-08;
- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;
- Ratified payments for hourly, overtime, and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services for the month of January;
- Ratified B warrants for payment of authorized purchase obligations incurred by law or district policy for March;
- Ratified the agreement between Downey Adult School Career and Education Center and Paramount Meadows Nursing Center to furnish practical experience to students enrolled in the Health Science program;
- Approved the Student Teaching Agreements with Azusa Pacific University and Western Governors University;
- Approved the audit contract with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP,



Kevin Dodge



Andrea Sims



Kathy Ambruso



Cindy Grafton

Certified Public Accountants, for fiscal years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2011-12, for independent audit services as required by California Education Code;

- Approved the MOU between the Downey Assistance League, the Downey Dental Academy, the Children's Dental Health Clinic and DUSD to provide dental services to students referred to this program;
- Accepted the Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report summary;
- Authorized the advertisement for bids for the printing and delivery of the Downey Adult School Schedule of Classes for the 2008-09 school year, to be charged to the Adult School Fund;
- Approved the renewal of the bid for backhoe services with Terra Pave, Inc., Whittier, on an as-needed basis from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2008, in the annual estimated amount of \$150,000, with no guarantee that this amount will be met or exceeded, chargeable to the General Fund, Bond Fund, and/or Deferred Maintenance Fund, as required;
- Approved the change orders involving Warren High School in its modernization program, that of Downey High School with its new classroom building program, as well as the purchase order for chicken products with Kings Delight of Atlanta, GA;
- Accepted as complete concrete, electrical, roofing, fencing, backhoe services, and painting work performed by various vendors, as well as the construction and installation a new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station for the Transportation Services Department;
- Approved adjustments to the 2007-08 General Fund restricted and unrestricted budgets;
- Acknowledged the receipt of claims submitted by Dixon & Daley, LLP (on behalf of Andrew Camarena, a minor), and Aly Douangphachanh, respectively, and denied same, in compliance with Government Code;
- Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;
- Authorized the services of teachers pursuant to Education Code, as well as that of the Speech and Language Pathologist;
- Ratified the abolishment of one position, while establishing a new one, at Rio San Gabriel Elementary School; likewise one new limited-term position assigned to Warren High School, one likewise assigned to Categorical Programs, to Sussman Middle School, and to Special Education;
- Approved the changes to the duties of Food Services Supervisor;
- Adopted a resolution on the Governor's proposed 2008-09 budget, enjoining the Governor to exhaust all possible avenues to solve the state's threatened budget cuts;
- Approved the proposed middle school and high school textbooks for adoption in the 2008-09 school year;
- Approved the designation of the members of the Board of Education for graduation: Boardmembers Donald LaPlante, Barbara Samperi and Martha Sodevani will attend Warren's graduation; Tod Corrin, Mark Morris, and Nancy Swenson, Downey High School; etc.; and
- Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on student cases, deliberated on with the Board in closed session.

The next meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on May 13 at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

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Broker claims collusion in broken property deal

■ Realtor claims City Council members interfered in plans to bring Porto's Bakery to Downey.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR
DOWNEY — A Downey real estate broker has accused two City Council members of "hijacking" a proposed plan to bring a popular West Los Angeles Cuban bakery and restaurant to the city, and is threatening legal action to recoup lost commission.

Anthony Mendez, president-elect of the Downey Association of Realtors and a broker with Ace Realty, said he will limit the compensation he seeks to his commission, "unless I have to seek legal counsel and then I have a right to demand punitive damages for abuse of authority."

Mendez made the accusations at last Tuesday's City Council meeting.

In a letter read out loud in front of the Council, Mendez said he was in talks to have Porto's Bakery, an authentic Cuban restaurant/bakery specializing in sandwiches, cakes and other desserts, open a new location in Downey.

But the plan derailed, Mendez said, with the interference of Councilman Kirk Cartozian and Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra.

"Mr. Guerra and Mr. Cartosian (sic) colluded to interfere in my contractual relationship, and they

literally hijacked the deal with their abuse of authority," Mendez wrote in the letter. "I was banished from the project through the actions of Councilman Guerra."

Mendez, citing potential litigation, declined to comment this week.

Guerra and Cartozian both denied the accusations, as did Raul Porto, who owns Porto's Bakery.

"The letter submitted by Mr. Mendez to the City of Downey states that a contractual relationship existed between Porto's Bakery and Mr. Mendez," Porto wrote in his own letter, dated April 9 and addressed to Mayor David Gafin. "This is completely false and inaccurate."

Porto said he and his architect, Leonel Prats, had discussed with Mendez the possibility of redeveloping a property at 9066 Firestone Blvd., across the street from Stonewood Center.

"Unfortunately, the site did not meet our needs, at which point we had no further interest in the location and our dealings with Mr. Mendez ceased," Porto wrote.

Meanwhile, Porto said he would continue working "to bring a premier retail baker to the city of Downey and its residents."

Expo shows businesses how they can 'go green'

DOWNEY — With more California businesses focusing on making their operations environmentally friendly, the Southern California Gas Company is showing companies how "going green" can be good for their bottom line.

On April 29, The Gas Company will host its third annual Energy Efficiency Expo, where commercial and industrial natural gas customers can learn about the latest energy-saving technologies and financial incentives available to accelerate the return on investment from energy efficiency.

California Public Utilities Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon will deliver the expo's keynote address. Economist Jack Kyser, senior vice president of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., and also a Downey resident, will lead a break-out session on energy and the region's economy.

The Gas Company also will honor the biggest energy-saving projects of 2007, including that of a South Gate oil refinery that

received a \$195,000 incentive from The Gas Company for equipment upgrades that have reduced the company's annual energy costs by more than \$1 million.

Customers attending the expo, which will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center on Firestone Boulevard in Downey, will learn how to take advantage of the \$18 million in incentives available to commercial and industrial natural gas customers this year. Business customers can register for the expo by calling (800) 427-6584 or online at www.socalgas.com/erc.

■ Exotical Hawaiian Apparel is celebrating nearly 45 years in the same Downey location.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER
Walking into Exotical Hawaiian Apparel on Firestone Boulevard is like walking into Hawaii captured within four walls.

The store, celebrating its 44-year anniversary this month, not only sells Hawaiian apparel, but also reveals the spirit and culture of the islands through the store's Tiki bar décor complemented by the smell of exotic perfumes and sound of tropical rhythm dispersed throughout.

Exotical Hawaiian Apparel opened its doors to paradise in 1964, after owner Paul Orloff opened a Rattan furniture business between Peg's Tiki Togs and Sears (now Tabbert's TV and Appliances). Shortly after opening the furniture store, Peg's Tiki Togs decided to close its doors. Orloff bought much of the store's merchandise and mannequins and before he knew it, they were knocking down the wall between the two stores and his furniture store was no longer just a furniture store — it was also a retail store selling Hawaiian apparel.

From floor to ceiling, the store is decked out in vibrant colors and bold prints, offering everything from wraps and dresses, to shirts and straw hats, to grass skirts, and yes, even coconut bras. Families can dress alike in coordinating wardrobe, women can wear one wrap 14 different ways and men can accessorize their ensemble with a ukulele and their dashboards with a hula dancer bobbling about. And no matter how big or little you or your wallet may be, merchandise varies in size from X-Small to XXXX-Large, and price from \$9.99 to \$395.

The majority of the merchandise is received directly from Hawaii, while other items are imported from other parts of the world such as Samoa and the Caribbean.

According to Orloff, 79, the store's peak season is between the months of June and September, with clientele coming from all

walks of life.

"Our clientele varies," said Orloff, a Downey resident since 1963. "We get customers from Downey, Long Beach, and many of our neighboring cities. Our biggest clientele, believe it or not, is from Las Vegas."

Orloff went on to say that the store does well simply because they are the only store of that kind in the area.

"When we first started, there were 16 similar stores in the area," Orloff said. "Now, we are pretty much the only ones around, with the exception of Hilo Hattie's in Orange County."

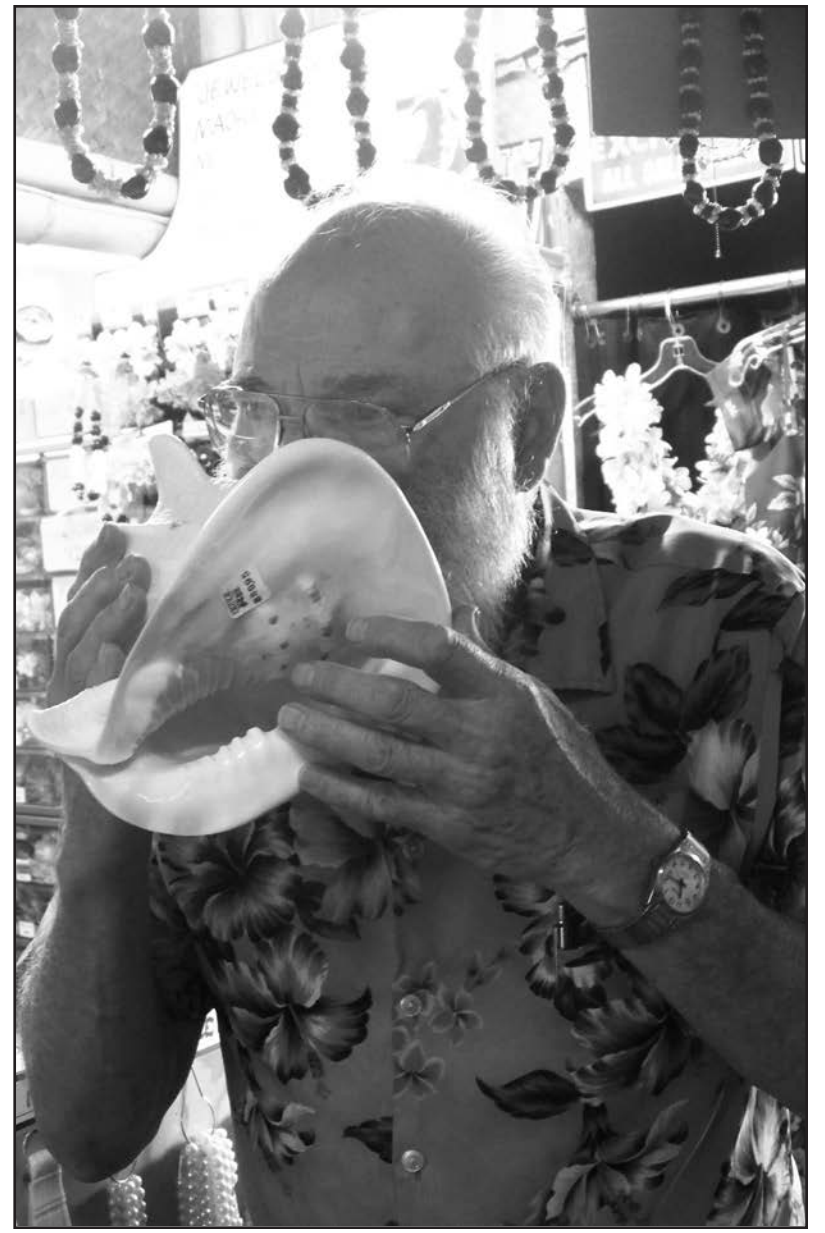
Orloff is all about providing the customer with what they need, which in turn provides for a growing, loyal customer base.

"If people ask for something and we don't have it, we make a note of it and make sure to get it," he said.

For Orloff's son Martin, the key to success is having a wide selection of items and staying open all year round.

"The reason we succeed is because we have a wide variety of sizes, styles and prints," said Martin, who helps operate and manage the store. "We're here all year round to provide what customers need whenever they need it."

For the most part, those who visit the store are looking for something to wear to a wedding, dance or luau, in addition to many Samoan and Hawaiian dancers looking to purchase outfits for upcoming performances. Because customers purchase the merchandise for an assortment of occasions, the store therefore offers an assortment of fabrics — 100 percent cotton, pongee polyester, polycotton and silk.



Paul Orloff, owner of Exotical Hawaiian Apparel, blows into one of the store's conch shells. The store has been open for 44 years and offers a variety of Hawaiian apparel for men, women and children. Photo by Brooke Karli

And if one would rather create their own masterpiece, the store also sells fabric by the yard.

Orloff and his wife, Marian, were married 53 years before she passed away in 2004 and together, they raised two children and managed Exotical Hawaiian Apparel. Orloff's family continues to grow as he now has 10 grandchildren

and 10 great-grandchildren, with another on the way.

Exotical Hawaiian Apparel is located at 8136 E. Firestone Blvd. in Downey. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (562) 869-0575.

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Buddy Brunch outreach May 17

DOWNEY – Pastor Garnett Simpson-Grier and the Breath of God Christian Fellowship will host their 16th annual Buddy Brunch outreach event May 17 at the Holiday Inn Select in La Mirada.

The event provides a buffet breakfast for men and women “less fortunate than us” from local missions and shelters.

The community can support the event by sponsoring a table of 10 for \$500, half a table for \$250, or an individual for \$50. Donations can be sent to Breath of God, P.O. Box 39903, Downey, CA 90239.

For more information, call (310) 767-9620.

Christian Club celebrating 40 years

DOWNEY – The Downey Christian Women’s Club will celebrate their 40th anniversary at their May 14 meeting at the Los Amigos Country Club. Men are invited to the buffet luncheon, which starts at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting will feature all past chairpersons, as well as the installation of officers. Music will be provided by Neomi Hall and the speaker will be Yvonne Karlin, who will speak on “How God Makes Every Day like a Love Song.”

Cost to attend the meeting is \$12. Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Delores at (562) 868-7135.

Church celebrating missionary work

DOWNEY – Jim and Carolyn Hiveley, missionaries who have just returned home after spending three months in Papua, New Guinea, will speak of their experiences this Sunday at First Baptist Church of Downey.

High school students will also present a report of their recent work in Mexico.

On April 27, the church will also host “Mission Encounter Sunday,” where missionaries will be speaking to all Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. Approximately 20 speakers will be introduced during the 8 and 11 a.m. services.

The day will also include a noon luncheon with the missionaries. Tickets to the lunch, priced at \$6, must be purchased by this Sunday.

Temple hosts Seder dinner Sunday

DOWNEY – Temple Ner Tamid is hosting a traditional Kosher-style Seder dinner on Sunday 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 and are to be received before April 11.

Temple Ner Tamid is located at 10629 Lakewood Blvd. in Downey.

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 Sunday.

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.

Local bands performing at Trinity Baptist

DOWNEY – Local bands The Envelope, Diversion, Promise of Restoration, and Hyperbola will be performing on Saturday at Trinity Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$3 at the door.

Trinity Baptist Church is located at 8219 Florence Ave. in Downey.

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Trinity Christian School’s “Extreme Cheer” took first place at the Sharp International Nationals cheer competition held last Saturday at The Sports Center in Las Vegas. The team, based in Norwalk but made up of many Downey children, are led by coach/advisor Kathy Chavez and gymnastics coach Joe Isip.

Manuel Antonio Gallegos served as superintendent

DOWNEY – Dr. Manuel Antonio Gallegos, former Downey Unified School District Superintendent for 15 years, passed away on April 13.

Gallegos was born on July 17, 1926 in Tierra Amarilla, N.M. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II in Korea. Following his service, he attended and graduated from Whittier College to become a teacher. He then received his doctorate in education from USC.

Gallegos was an educator in Downey for 30 years, serving as Superintendent of Schools for 15 of those years. With the appreciation and respect of the community of Downey, the administration building of the Downey Unified School District was named after him. He was also a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Downey and served as president 1982-83. After retiring, he continued serving the community in various capacities, including Foreman of the Los Angeles Grand Jury (1987-88) and as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary; children, Catherine (Bruce) Cralley, Susan Day, Laurie (Alvin) Thompson, Paul (Cindy) Gallegos, and Randy (Linda) Gallegos; sister, Viola, Catherine and Louise; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Yates Funeral Home in Idaho. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Dr. Manuel Antonio Gallegos Educational Scholarship Fund at Bank of America in Hayden, Idaho.



Elizabeth Mae Trader worked at Vultee Aircraft

DOWNEY – Elizabeth Mae Trader, a longtime Downey resident, passed away on April 8. She was 87.

Trader was born on July 17, 1920 in Waukon, Iowa, moving to Southern California in 1929 following the stock market crash. While in high school, she met Norris (Buddy) Trader, whom she married on June 1, 1936. They were married for 60 years before Norris passed away in 1996.

Trader worked at Vultee Aircraft during World War II as a riveter trainer and volunteered at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, helping quadriplegics, those with iron lungs, and those in the tuberculosis unit for more than 20 years. She drove for the Cancer Society and City of Hope until the mid-1990’s and was a longtime member of Downey Free Methodist Church, now known as Downey Light & Life.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Norris, and son, Arthur. She is survived by her son, Tim; daughter-in-law, Marcella and Kris; granddaughters, Nancy Long and Judy Trader; and great-grandsons, Mike Long and Jarod Trader.



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Litter Cleanup
Saturday, April 19th
9 a.m.—10 a.m.
Join us at the corner of
Old River School Rd. & Burns Ave.
in Habana Café parking lot
562-904-7159
Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult

The Poet’s Corner

May Day in Paris

before first light sitting by the Metro exits
still wearing their country clothes
they’re selling lily-of-the-valley *muguet des bois*
three-stalk bouquets wrapped in small twists of green tissue
cornucopias called *cornets* little horns
like Pan’s pointed goat ears
wildflowers sprung from each print of his dancing hooves

around the corner from the steep dark stairs coming up from the Metro
a mechanized parade leads off down the Champs Elysees
artillery caissons clattering on the cobblestones
even aircraft their wings folded like silver larks
towed over the paving
their shiny skin reflects sky and fountains
broken glimpses of chestnut trees mottled like shadows

meanwhile across the *place*
next to the glassed-in *terasses*
in panner of blossoms
quilted with dew
near the stone-barked old mansions on the run de Varenne
spring gloats its tiny triumph
perfume from the woods

– Lorine Parks,
Downey

Margaret V. Wilder lived in Downey 57 years

DOWNEY – Margaret V. Wilder, Downey resident for 57 years, passed away on April 7. She was 86.

Wilder was born on Oct. 4, 1921 in Joliet, Ill. She was one of 11 children. At the end of World War II, she met John Wilder in Atlantic City, N.J., where they wed soon after. The family moved to California in 1947, later moving to Downey in 1951.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John in 1994.

She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Lofstrom; son, Robert Wilder; grandchildren, Christie Lofstrom, Kelly Lofstrom, Kim Johnson, and Heather Wilder; and four great-grandchildren.

Private services have already been held.



Alfey Harriet Grant was a Navy Yeoman

DOWNEY – Alfey Harriet Grant, a Downey resident since 1955, passed away on April 4. She was 90.

Grant was born in 1917 in Ryegate, Mont. to William and Signe Rasmussen. She served in the Navy from 1946-49, when she was honorably discharged as a Yeoman First Class.

In 1948, while in the Navy, she transferred to Oakland, Calif., where she married Lawrence Marine. Together, they had a son and later moved to Downey in 1955. While in Downey, she was a member of the Imperial Church of Christ.

She also enjoyed watching baseball, especially the Pittsburgh Pirates, as her son played for them from 1968-73.

Grant is survived by her sister, Grace Sweeney; son, Michael Marine; grandchildren, Melinda, Derek and Shannon Marine; and great-grandchildren, Alexis, Kyle, Trevor and Kaylee.

Services will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Imperial Church of Christ located at 8321 Imperial Hwy. in Downey.



Class of 1978 reunites after 30 years

DOWNEY – The Downey High School Class of 1978 will celebrate their 30th reunion on Sept. 20.

For more information, visit www.dhs1978reunion.com, call Mike Schroeder at (714) 597-9300, or email Marlene Puch Masone at mtmyl@msn.com.

ProNetworkers OF DOWNEY

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Laurie Marks
Laurie's Pet Sitting will be speaking on 4/25/08

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YOUR HOMETOWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
The Downey Patriot

Parade of Dreams

By Eric Pierce

Gary DeRemer is president of the Downey Rose Float Association. I met with him this week on the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos, and he walked me through the abandoned laundry facility where thieves stripped copious amounts of copper wiring, taking away the Rose Float's source of electricity (along with sense of security).

But what the thieves don't know is that they may have stolen something much more valuable. If the Rose Float doesn't find a new location or source of power soon - like within 30 days - the crooks will have also stolen 50-plus years of tradition and goodwill.

I haven't always been the most outspoken supporter of the Downey Rose Float Association (I think \$70,000 is a lot of money to spend on a float every year) but there's no denying the honorable work done by the non-profit group.

The Rose Float, a volunteer organization made up of 300-plus members, is responsible for the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey pageant, along with the Mr. Downey competition.

"The many contestants...learn social interaction skills, interviewing skills, public speaking, leadership skills and how important it is to volunteer and give back to your community," said DeRemer. "The older citizens have been able to teach skills to the younger volunteers and allowed them to stay feeling active and vibrant. This is what helps make a sense of community."

It's true, the Rose Float is more than just "building a float." It's about a sense of belonging, citizenry, and character.

I'm not a big parade guy myself, but it would be devastating to the community to lose the Rose Float. Here's hoping somebody can help them out.

Economic rebates can amount to more if saved

CONTRIBUTED BY ARKADI KUHLMANN, ING DIRECT USA

This spring, 130 million Americans will receive a tax rebate thanks to the economic stimulus package just signed by President Bush. Single earners who take home less than \$75,000 will find a \$600 check in their mailbox. Married couples with a combined income of under \$150,000 will get \$1,200, plus \$300 for each of their children.

For those who are single, that's enough for a top-of-the-line iPhone. Couples could go out and buy a 50" plasma television. If you have kids, there'll even be money left over for a Nintendo Wii.

Any one of those purchases would certainly provide instant gratification. But if you're looking for long-term piece of mind, then you'd be far better off saving your tax rebate. There's never been a better time to kick-start your financial future.

Many Americans already know this. A recent poll commissioned by the Associated Press found that a third of the country is planning on saving or investing their rebate.

The math is compelling. If you put that \$1,200 into a high-interest savings account yielding 3.40 percent annually, you'll have over \$25,000 in 15 years if you add just \$100 each month.

The reality is that every one of us can benefit from a pool of emergency funds. Some extra money in the bank is psychological insurance: It means knowing you can handle a crisis, help a family member, or save for a long-term goal.

Don't get me wrong - I like my luxuries. But I can only live in one house, wear one pair of pants, or ride one motorcycle at a time.

Saving this tax rebate is especially important for young adults - especially when one considers the volatility of the entry-level job market.

Studies suggest that the average freshly-minted college grad can expect to have three different employers within his first five years out of school. But despite this fact, most young people don't keep a fund that can be drawn on between jobs. A study released last December by the Consumer Federation of America found that almost two-thirds of Americans aged 18 to 24 think they aren't saving as much as they should.

This tax rebate offers young adults the perfect opportunity to put money away without changing their spending habits. And thanks to the miracle of compound interest, saving early means less to worry about in the future.

Plus, with the emergence of online banking, saving money is easier than ever before. With just a few clicks of the mouse, you can start building a nest egg. Once you've deposited this tax rebate in your checking account, for instance, you can sock it away in an online, high-interest savings account in less than 10 minutes.

And if you already have an online, high-interest savings account, you can elect a direct-deposit option on this year's tax form - and the Internal Revenue Service will wire the money into your account.

Of course, saving your tax rebate is just one part of a broader strategy for long-term financial security. It's also important to establish concrete savings goals that can help you and your family stick to responsible spending habits.

Getting ahead financially is a little like losing weight. There's only one sure-fire way to do it, but people are always looking for a short cut. To drop pounds, you have to eat less and exercise more. The tried-and-true secret to accumulating wealth is just as simple, and just as unwelcome to some ears: spend less and save more.

People who learn how to save early in life come out ahead - not simply by accruing money, but by building habits that will continue to pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

Arkadi Kuhlmann is president and CEO of ING Direct USA.

Letters to the Editor:

Pain relief

Dear Editor:

In regards to the column by Eric Pierce ("There Will Be Pain," 4/11/08), it's time to think of ways to relieve the pain. Money for our schools that is.

How about charging \$10 for each motor vehicle that comes into America from Mexico and Canada just for our California schools? This way when you see the long lines of motor vehicles coming into America, we can look at this with glee instead of disdain.

— Mike Sandoval,
Downey

Will forever be a fan

Dear Editor:

It is with great interest (much more interest than Downey's politicians can muster with their silly antics regarding demolished diners or term limits) that I read the article about Julie Patrick ("Julie 'Ace' Patrick is One of Roller Derby's Finest Competitors," 4/11/08).

I was and am a big fan of the Roller Games, and the World Famous Los Angeles Thunderbirds. I grew up in the 60's watching the games on Channel 5, with Dick Lane announcing the play-by-play, with a "Whoooooo Nellllllie" as a jammer would hurtle around the track desperately trying to maintain their balance.

I was and am a fan of the players: Ralphie Valladares, Danny Riley, Greg Robertson, Sam Washington, Terry Lynch, Psycho Raines, John Hall, Georgia Hase, and numerous others - past and present.

I do take exception with the article that Roller Derby is dead. It does live on. It may not be televised, it may not be very organized, but skaters still lace up their skates, don the jammers helmets, and do battle on nearly every weekend across the country. The T-Birds still draw a crowd, and yes, Greg Robertson still laces up his skates. I've been attending games at the Pomona Fairgrounds for the past several months, and I recently took the grandkids to see the action last month. Information about upcoming games can be found at www.latbirds.com.

I want to thank Brooke Karli for the nostalgic article, and I hope she, and others, take the opportunity to experience this unique American sport.

—Thomas D. Smith,
Downey

Dear Editor:

What a surprise and pleasure it was when I came to Page 8 of the April 11 *Downey Patriot* to see my longtime neighbor and a dear friend for many years, Julie Patrick. She is a celebrity to all those who know her, even though she never brags or brings up her past unless she is asked.

She is a sweet, loving person ready to offer a helping hand to those who need it.

—Eleanor Lindinfeld,
Downey

Proud of the commitment

Dear Editor:

The Downey City Council is to be congratulated for their wisdom in deciding to broadcast their meetings over the Internet.

With the increasingly wide-spread use of the Internet and the wider application of cell phones, many more residents will be able to see council meetings.

The projected cost is about one-third what many cities pay, which in our city makes it literally pocket change when the city budget is over \$100 million.

With young people's renewed interest in politics, having the Council meetings online will enhance transparency in our government, thus building greater trust in our elected officials.

It is an opportunity long-awaited and should be encouraged by all. We can be proud of our City Council for making the commitment.

—Jerry Andrews,
Publisher, The Downey Eagle



A mistake on our part

Dear Editor:

I can understand your need to "edit" and "copy fit," but don't you think you took it a little too far when you changed my statement "...he does live in a nation that provides 'liberty and justice for all'" to a statement that said "...he does not live..." ("One World Under God," 4/11/08)? Not very nice. A very bad editing error.

A great article about the YMCA Easter Caravan ("What the Caravan Meant to Us," 4/11/08). You need to know that it is the Downey Y Service Club and it's members that are responsible for the monies raised through the Christmas tree lot that brings in most of the funds for this camping trip. At Christmas time we need to encourage everyone to buy their tree at the YMCA lot.

—Pat Vallefuoco,
Downey

A tremendous loss

Dear Editor:

We lost a true treasure last Sunday when Manuel Gallegos passed away.

He was so much more than an educator; he was a tremendous role model for public education and he was directly responsible for molding the careers of many people who are a part of the Downey Unified School District. He was a man that I respected, not just because he was my mentor, but more importantly, he was my friend. You could always count on Manuel Gallegos; he always had time to talk with you, he was always willing to share his ideas and he always cared about you.

Dr. Gallegos spent his entire career in Downey, first as a teacher, then an elementary school principal, an Assistant Superintendent and finally Superintendent.

It was a great honor for me to follow him as Superintendent in 1986 and like so many others I owe him a great deal. Within a short period of time Downey has lost two pillars, first Gus Shiney and now Manuel Gallegos. All of us are better people for having known these two giants. May their memory serve as a blessing for us all.

—Edward A. Sussman, Ed.D.,
Former DUSD Superintendent

The five myths of U.S. healthcare

BY SALLY C. PIPES, PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Fictions don't become facts through repetition. Keep that in mind next time you hear a politician breathlessly decry the horrors of the American healthcare system and then explain how he intends to fix it. Some of the most popular talking points in the healthcare debate pass as the gospel truth simply because, well, they're popular - not because they're true.

Below, I debunk the five most prominent healthcare myths.

1.) Forty-seven million Americans do not have health insurance.

This figure comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. What most people don't know, however, is that the Bureau counts anyone who went without health insurance during any part of the previous year as "uninsured." So if you weren't covered for just one day in 2007, you're one of the 47 million. That figure also includes 10.2 million illegal immigrants, and approximately 14 million people who are eligible for public healthcare programs like Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program but have yet to enroll. And nearly 10 million of the "uninsured" have household incomes of more than \$75,000 - so they can probably afford to buy health insurance but choose not to.

2.) Universal healthcare coverage can be achieved through an "individual mandate."

According to the federal census, nearly 2/3 of the uninsured are aged 18 to 34. This makes sense - healthy people aren't going to pay for expensive insurance they'll never use.

Those who support an "individual mandate" - like Sen. Hillary Clinton and several governors - believe that by legally requiring all Americans to buy health insurance, the young and the healthy will increase the size of the risk pool and therefore lower premiums for everyone. As a way to enforce an individual mandate, Clinton has suggested garnishing wages as a means of enforcement.

But many states require insurers to charge everyone the same rate. So young people would end up paying far more in premiums than they should - or could - pay. It's patently unfair to force people to purchase insurance they can't afford. Even in Massachusetts, which offers substantial premium subsidies for low-income residents, the government had to exempt 1/5 of Bay Staters from the individual mandate because insurance was still so expensive. And the plan is already \$147 million over budget.

The real way to attract young adults into the insurance market is to lower premiums - not to impose draconian sanctions. This can be done by having states reduce costly mandates like in-vitro fertilization and allowing people to buy insurance across state lines.

3.) Expensive prescription drugs are a big reason why healthcare costs are increasing.

The real price of prescription drugs is actually decreasing. In 2007, inflation rose by more than 4 percent, while drug prices increased by just 1 percent. So in real terms, drugs were 3 percent cheaper last year than

they were in 2006, on average.

What's more, drug spending is but a small slice of total healthcare spending - less than 11 cents out of every healthcare dollar goes to prescription meds.

And drugs actually reduce healthcare costs in the long-term. Medicare, for instance, saves \$2.06 for every additional dollar it spends on pharmaceutical drugs, according to a paper recently published by the National Bureau for Economic Research. This is because prescription drugs often obviate the need for expensive surgeries and hospital stays.

4.) Drug importation will save patients a fortune.

At most, according to the Congressional Budget Office, foreign drug importation would save Americans 1 percent over the next decade.

Brand-name drugs are cheaper in foreign countries because their governments impose price controls. Drug-makers can only afford to sell pills at cut-rate, controlled prices in Europe and Canada because Americans pay full price.

If American politicians allow foreign drugs to enter the U.S. market, they'll in effect be importing price controls too. Such action will not only create practical problems, like shortages, it will also deny firms the return on investment necessary to plunge into the next round of research and development into new cures.

It takes nearly \$1 billion to bring a new drug to market. Investors are willing to take on such a risky investment because the rewards of developing a cure for Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, AIDS, or diabetes are considerable. If the profit motive vanishes, the miracle cures for which America's drug industry is responsible would vanish.

5.) The state-run healthcare systems in Canada and Europe are better and cheaper than America's.

People who make this claim usually point to the fact that life expectancy is higher in Canada and Europe. But life expectancy is influenced by a number of variables aside from the quality of a county's healthcare system - like diet, genetics, exercise, smoking, pollution, and even marital status.

A study published last year in the British medical journal, "The Lancet," suggests that America is much better at treating cancer than Europe or Canada. Researchers found that American have a better survival rate for 13 of the 16 most prominent cancers. An American man has nearly a 20 percent better chance of living for five years after being diagnosed with cancer than his European counterpart.

This study's findings tell us a lot more about the quality of a healthcare system than life expectancy rates do, because the relationship between treatment and outcomes is tighter, clearer, and more direct.

Sally C. Pipes is president and CEO of the Pacific Research Institute and author of "Miracle Cure: How to Solve America's Health-Care Crisis and Why Canada Isn't the Answer."

The Downey Patriot



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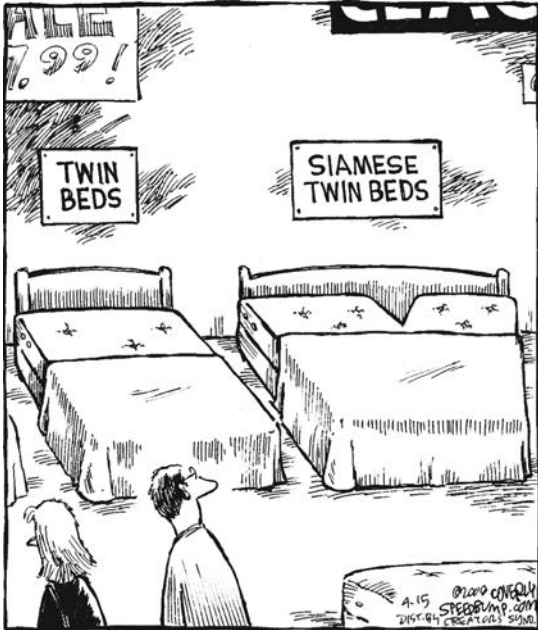
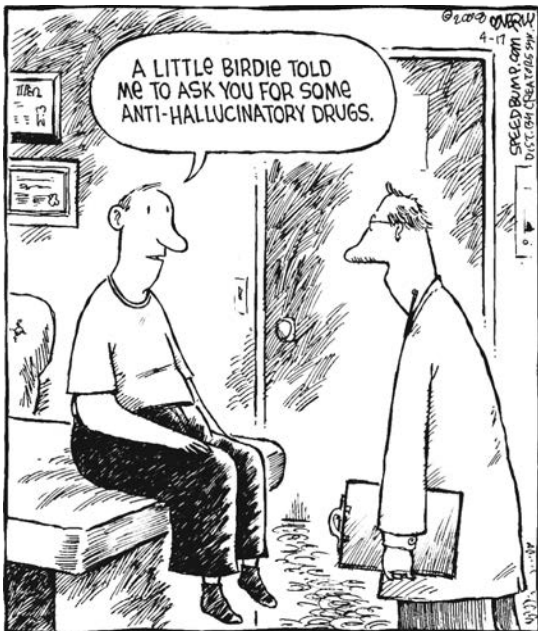
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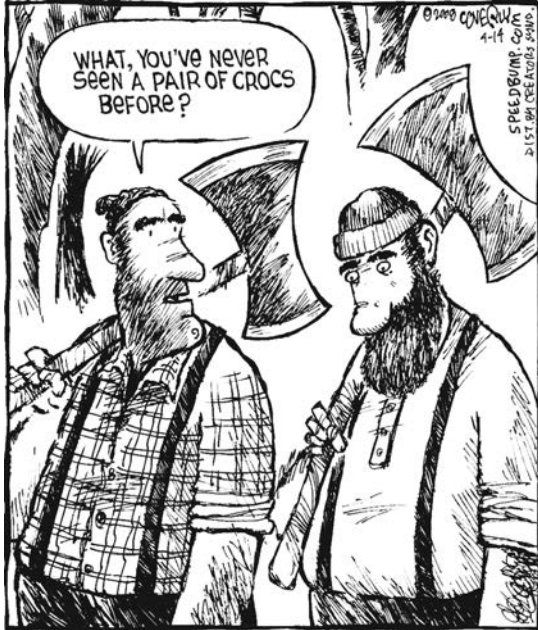
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

Events For April

- Sat. April 19: **Farmer's Market**, 2nd and New Streets, 9 a.m.
- Sat. April 19: **Johnie's Broiler cruise**, Johnie's Broiler, Noon
- Wed. April 23: **Block captain training**, Downey City Library, 7 p.m.
- Thurs. April 24: **"What Really Happened to the Silents."** Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, 7:30 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 18, 1775: The British are coming! The British are coming! Paul Revere begins his historic horseback ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Mass. warning American colonists of the advancing British Army.

1923: The New York Yankees defeat the Boston Red Sox in the first baseball game at Yankee Stadium.

1955: American physicist Albert Einstein dies at Princeton Hospital. He was 76.

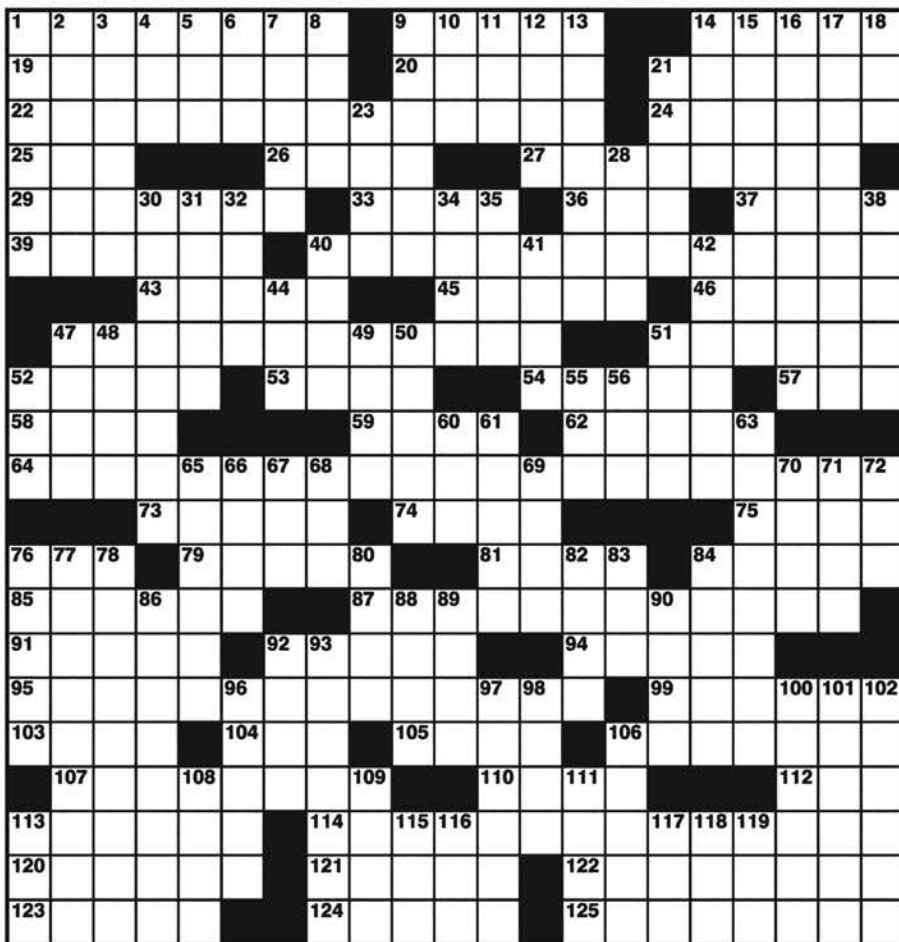
1963: Talk show host Conan O'Brien is born. Also born on April 18: James Woods (61), Rick Moranis (55), Eric McCormack (45), Mellisa Joan Hart (32), America Ferrera (24) and Suri Cruise (2).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

LIQUIDATION: Free-flowing wordplay
by Merle Baker

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 4/13/08



- ACROSS**
- 1 Number of states when Monroe was sworn in
 - 9 Cookout food, for short
 - 14 Thomas of *That Girl*
 - 19 Capital of South Australia
 - 20 Parting word
 - 21 Battleground of 1942
 - 22 Piano piece played in an alley?
 - 24 Monet or Manet
 - 25 ___ whim
 - 26 Ballpark figs.
 - 27 Hammer's creator
 - 29 Overwhelmed
 - 33 Baseball great Willie
 - 36 Pantry pest
 - 37 USN VIPs
 - 39 Firewood units
 - 40 Typical military lockup?
 - 43 Contest submission
 - 45 Weather word
 - 46 Admit
 - 47 Patron saint of gamers?
 - 51 Most dreadful
 - 52 ___ Python
 - 53 Knot in wood
 - 54 He's no angel
 - 57 Reggae relative
 - 58 Between continents, perhaps
 - 59 Actress Ward
 - 62 Fundamental principle
 - 64 Berlin Wall souvenir?
 - 73 Dirty deeds
 - 74 Carson predecessor
 - 75 Screen image
 - 76 Greek letter
 - 79 "All I Want ___" (U2 tune)
 - 81 "___ oil!"
 - 84 Strikes out
 - 85 Refinement
 - 87 Does camera work on Thanksgiving?
 - 91 Turner autobiography
 - 92 Commando group of '80s TV
 - 94 Some noblemen
 - 95 Comedian's cooking concoction?
 - 99 *The Autobiography of Alice B. ___*
 - 103 E-mail command
 - 104 Astronaut affirmative
 - 105 As it happens
 - 106 Most populated
 - 107 Merrymaking
 - 110 Actress Thompson
 - 112 "Oh wad some power the giftle ___ us": Burns
 - 113 Minor mishap
 - 114 Larger-than-life statue of a Civil War general?
 - 120 Pitcher and Ringwald
 - 121 Compulsions
 - 122 Took back
 - 123 French notions
 - 124 George Washington portraitist
 - 125 Like oxygen
- DOWN**
- 1 High-muck-a-mucks
 - 2 Words of denial
 - 3 Music genre
 - 4 Architectural add-on
 - 5 Mai ___
 - 6 German article
 - 7 Barely beat
 - 8 Bird beaks
 - 9 Aromatic fir
 - 10 B'nai B'rith watchdog org.
 - 11 Narrow inlet
 - 12 Planting places
 - 13 "What's up?"
 - 14 Clayey soil
 - 15 Assailant
 - 16 Event planners' backup times
 - 17 DVD forerunner
 - 18 NY neighbor
 - 21 Canine hero of a '95 film
 - 23 Prefix for sphere
 - 28 Type of verb: Abbr.
 - 30 Orangutan, for one
 - 31 Comic Bruce
 - 32 This, in Tijuana
 - 34 Community pool site
 - 35 Auction cry
 - 38 Actress Berger
 - 40 Greenish blue
 - 41 Call for
 - 42 Medical facility
 - 44 DC stadium
 - 47 Good-natured banter
 - 48 "Dedicated to the ___ Love"
 - 49 Impulsive
 - 50 Move stealthily
 - 51 Carry it out
 - 52 Buddy
 - 55 Flow back
 - 56 It means "bad"
 - 60 Mauna ___
 - 61 Battleground of 1836
 - 63 Slope wear
 - 65 Egg-filled capsule
 - 66 Try for flounder
 - 67 Go quickly
 - 68 General on
 - 69 Chinese menus
 - 69 Fields expletive
 - 70 Low-pH compound
 - 71 Be overfond
 - 72 Printers' widths
 - 76 Big pictures
 - 77 Advantageous
 - 78 Its antonym is in the Declaration
 - 80 ___friendly
 - 82 "Got it!"
 - 83 Place to relax
 - 84 Synthetic fabric
 - 86 Like Osage oranges
 - 88 Call to
 - 89 Directional prefix
 - 90 Johnson of Laugh-In
 - 92 Mine, in Marseille
 - 93 Begins to advocate
 - 96 Has no use for
 - 97 Disinclined
 - 98 Kerry and Kennedy: Abbr.
 - 100 Emissary
 - 101 Remarks to the audience
 - 102 Spirited horses
 - 106 Stupified
 - 108 Tarzan portrayer Ron et al.
 - 109 Free from doubt
 - 111 *Harlequin's Carnival* painter
 - 113 ASCAP rival
 - 115 Mickelson org.
 - 116 Slippery critter
 - 117 Author Umberto
 - 118 Ruin
 - 119 Blow-up: Abbr.

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.

ADELAIDE (19 Across), capital of South Australia, is named for the consort of England's King William IV, who was the uncle and predecessor of Queen Victoria. Charles Willson Peale (124 Across) created portraits of George Washington and many other early American notables. BALTO (21 Down), the canine title character of a 1995 animated film, was based on a real-life sled dog whose 1925 life-saving trip to Nome is commemorated by the annual Iditarod race.



Counsel's Corner: Top 9 things to do if your identity is stolen

CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE LOPEZ, THE LAW OFFICES OF STEVE LOPEZ

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Victims come from all walks of life - from everyday people to the rich and famous. It is a felony in California to use the personal identifying information of another person without the authorization of that person for any unlawful purpose including to obtain credit, goods, services, or medical information.



According to the Federal Trade Commission, which operates a nationwide identity theft hotline, Identity theft is a growing national epidemic, claiming about 500,000 victims per year in the United States. Despite the mounting number of victims, many people remain unaware of how to respond to identity theft. If you believe that you are a victim of identity theft take these steps immediately.

1. Keep a log. As you make phone calls or send letters, keep notes of your conversations and correspondence with authorities and financial institutions, including dates, names, and phone numbers. Also keep track of all time spent and expenses you incur; you can deduct theft-related expenses on your income tax return, assuming you itemize deductions, and you may be able to seek compensation if you are ever able to sue the thief.

2. Contact the credit bureaus. Call or write the three major credit bureaus and ask that they issue a fraud alert and attach a statement to your credit report.

Also, get copies of your credit report from each of the credit bureaus. You can request that the credit reports be free because you believe they contain inaccurate information due to fraud. The credit bureaus will issue an Initial, Extended, Active Duty and Creditors Duty Alerts.

After you receive your credit reports from the three credit bureaus, review them thoroughly. Make sure that all your personal information, including name, address, and Social Security number, is correct and that there are no fraudulent accounts or inquiries. Look for accounts that you didn't apply for or open, inquiries that you didn't initiate, and defaults and delinquencies that you didn't cause. Immediately report any suspicious information or activity to the credit bureau that issued the credit report.

3. Call the police. File a report of the crime with your local police department. Provide as much evidence as you can, and ask the officer to list all fraudulently accessed accounts that you know about on the police report. Be sure to get copies of the police report, because creditors will probably ask to see them. Remember to log the phone numbers and names of all the law enforcement agents that you speak to; creditors may want this information. In Downey you can contact the Forgery/Fraud Department by calling Officer C. Hansen at (562) 904-2330 or Officer J.

Sanchez (562) 904-2320

4. Fill out an identity theft affidavit. The identity theft affidavit form is available from the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Creditors may accept this affidavit when you claim that you are not responsible for a new account or for transactions on an existing account. The information that you provide will enable the creditor to investigate your claim. (The creditor may require you to submit additional information or a different form.) This affidavit also will be useful if you request copies of the thief's application and transaction records. Follow the instructions that accompany the affidavit. Remember to send the completed affidavit by certified mail, return receipt requested, and keep the originals of any supporting documents.

5. Close any accounts that have been accessed fraudulently. Contact all creditors, including banks, credit card companies, and other service providers, with whom there has been fraudulent activity. Close all accounts the thief opened or used fraudulently. Request that creditors report closed accounts as "account closed at consumer's request," because a mark of "card lost or stolen" can reflect poorly on your credit report.

Request copies of the identity thief's application and transaction records from businesses that provided credit, goods, or services to the thief. Normally, the business must provide you copies when you send a properly completed written request, and cannot impose a charge. Copies also must be provided to law enforcement agencies that you specify. In general, you must provide satisfactory proof of your identity, a police report, and a completed FTC identity theft affidavit. The request must be sent to the business at the address it specifies for this purpose.

Ask businesses that have provided identity theft-related information to credit bureaus to stop providing the information. You must send the business an identity theft report at the address that it specifies for this purpose and identify the information related to identity theft. The business normally cannot provide the information to any credit bureau after receiving such a request.

6. Stop payment on checks. If a thief stole checks or opened bank accounts in your name, contact one of the major check verification companies to report the fraudulent activity and to stop payment on stolen checks. To report fraudulent use of your checks contact, Chexsystems: 1-800-428-9623, Equifax: 1-800-437-5120, ICS: 1-800-526-5380, SCAN: 1-800-262-7771, Telecheck: 1-800-710-9898

7. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). When you report the fraud to the FTC by filing a complaint, it will enter your information into an electronic database used to prevent future identity thefts. The FTC also uses identity theft claims to assist law enforcement agencies in finding and arresting identity thieves. To file a claim with the FTC, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft or call the Identity Theft Hotline at

877-438-4338. The FTC normally cannot help individual consumers, and cannot bring criminal cases against perpetrators.

8. Deal with debt collectors. While you are handling your identity theft case, debt collectors may ask you to pay outstanding bills from fraudulently activated credit accounts. Inform the debt collector by phone and in writing that you are a victim of identity theft and that you are not responsible for the unpaid bill. In your letter, be sure to include copies of documents, such as a police report, that demonstrate that you are the victim of identity theft.

When you inform the collector that the debt is the result of identity theft, the collector must pass this information along to the creditor (the company attempting to collect the debt). The collector also must send you information that "validates" the debt (usually, just the amount of the debt and the creditor's name). Send the collector a written dispute of the debt after you receive the validation, and include a copy of your police report or identity theft affidavit. Also send a copy to the creditor.

Ask the collector to provide you with all pertinent information (for example, name, phone number, address, account number) relating to both the collector and creditor. Finally, ask the collector to confirm in writing that you are not responsible for the outstanding debt and that the collection account has been closed.

Ordinarily, you will have a complete defense to a debt incurred by the identity thief and should not pay it. Generally, the information you provide the collector and creditor will cause the collector to stop collection efforts. If not, it may be helpful to consult an attorney. Consult an attorney immediately if you receive notice that you are being sued in court based on debts incurred by the identity thief.

You can contact the State Bar of California at (866) 442-2529 for a referral to an attorney.

9. Contact the following government agencies if applicable.


Local postal inspector. If you believe that someone has changed your address through the post office or has committed mail fraud, visit the U.S. Postal Service website at www.usps.com/nesc/locators/find-is.html or call 800-275-8777 to obtain the phone number for your local postal inspector. If you discover that mail in your name is being sent to an address other than your own, ask the local postmaster to forward all mail in your name to your own address.

Social Security Administration (SSA). If you believe that your Social Security number has been used to fraudulently obtain welfare or Social Security benefits, visit the SSA website at www.socialsecurity.gov/oig/guidelin.htm or call the SSA Fraud Hotline at

See IDENTITY THEFT, page 11

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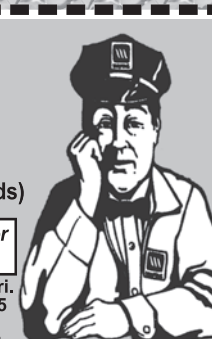
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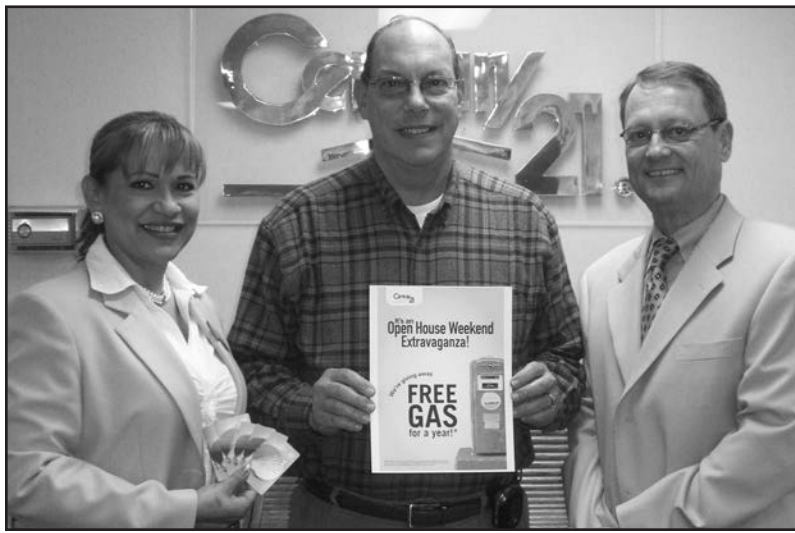
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Bob Morse, center, won free gas for a year as part of a consumer promotion connected to the Century 21 My Real Estate Open House Weekend. "The gas card promotion was an added value that helped to get potential home buyers out and seeing what opportunities exist in our local real estate market," said Steve Roberson, broker and owner of Century 21 My Real Estate. Pictured above are Realtor Lorena Amaya, Morse and Roberson.

Historical Society showing short films

DOWNEY – The Downey Historical Society is hosting an evening of 1920's Industrial Short Films titled, "What Really Happened to the Silents," this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the John Downey Room of the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center.

The program will begin with "Conowingo Project," a film about the building of a massive hydroelectric dam, followed by "Nicholson Thermic Syphon," a film about how engineers struggled to extract more steam power. "Gorham," a short film about the master craftsman and silversmiths in Providence, R.I. factory operations in 1929, will be shown as well, followed by "Ginger Ale," a 1927 film showing the Canada Dry operations and the making and bottling of Ginger Ale in the fully-automated factory.

For more information, call (562) 862-2777.

Adult School hosting photo contest

DOWNEY – The Downey Adult School Career and Education Center is currently hosting its first school-wide digital photo contest, "The World As I See It."

The contest will include five divisions: Division 1 includes DAS students; Division 2 includes DAS or CHS staff; Division 3 includes DAS students from the "Digital Photography for Adults with a Physical Disability Class"; Division 4 includes DAS students over 55; and Division 5 includes any CHS student.

Any student or employee of DAS and CHS are eligible to enter. All entries must be turned in by April 25.

Visit www.das.edu or the DAS main office for contest details.

Warren excels at college Jazz Festival

DOWNEY – The Warren High School Jazz II and AP Jazz Bands recently performed in the 36th Annual Fullerton College Jazz Festival, placing first in the advanced division and third in the novice division.

Jazz II is a new ensemble at Warren and was formed due to increasing enrollment in band and the need to offer an ensemble for young high school students desiring to learn and appreciate the art of jazz. At the Jazz Festival, they placed third in the novice division.

AP Jazz is the top jazz ensemble at Warren and its membership represents the school's most talented musicians. At the Jazz Festival, they placed first in the advanced division.

In addition, the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band each earned unanimous superior ratings at their first spring festival. The ratings have earned them an invitation to perform at the next levels of festivals.

Warren's Spring Concert will also be on May 15 at the Downey Theatre at 7 p.m.

For more information, or to purchase tickets to the Spring Concert, call (562) 869-7306.



U.S. Marine Corps, 724th Platoon, in San Diego in 1943. Photo courtesy Richard Heiberg

Heiberg: 'By the grace of God and a few Marines, MacArthur returned to the Phillipines'

Continued from page 1

E. Bourke while all this raged. He said, in addition to their cannonading, he could hear the boom-boom of ships' cannons at the gulf, with aircraft zooming overhead and the rat-tat-tat of machine guns. In his case, Heiberg said he and his buddies really faced sniper fire from entrenched or retreating Japanese.

Part of an 11-member Long Tom gun crew, Heiberg's job was to adjust the elevation of the gun, and/or rotate it right or left on instructions from forward observers. The battalion's big guns, in concert with others, lobbed shells in enemy positions in the distance to harass and soften resistance.

It was October 1944, and the area of Leyte, just southeast off central Philippines, was the focal point of the long-anticipated return of Gen. MacArthur to the islands that 2-1/2 years earlier fell to the Japanese. Leyte's eastern beaches were said to be the best in the Pacific for landing purposes.

On Oct. 20, Gen. MacArthur waded ashore. The invasion forces included the U.S. 6th and 8th Armies, the U.S. Seventh Fleet and, earlier, the U.S. Third Fleet. Graham, author of "Mantle of Heroism: Tarawa and the Struggle for the Gilberts," wrote that the U.S. 6th Army alone had 193,841 troops, while the U.S. Seventh Fleet (often referred to as "MacArthur's Navy") had over 100 warships, 500 planes, 107 transports and cargo ships, 223 ocean-going landing vessels and 400 other assorted craft. The Third Fleet had 17 carriers, with 1,100 aircraft, six battleships, 17 cruisers and 64 destroyers. It was, he said, the "most powerful armada ever assembled."

Earlier, starting Oct. 12, according to Graham, China-based B-29 Superfortresses and carriers from the aforesaid 3rd Fleet "began reducing Japanese air strength in the Philippines. In only one week of air action, more than 600 enemy planes and 40 ships were destroyed at a cost of 100 U.S. planes."

The defending Japanese 35th Army had by this time only 21,500 men, who could offer only minor resistance and resorted to fighting in the mountains and rice paddies. Nevertheless, the fighting was bitter, exacerbated by typhoons which signaled the start of the Philippines' rainy season. This slowed the Americans' advance, as "violent tropical rain storms and deep mud overtaxed their supply lines." The slowdown allowed the Japanese to get reinforcements totaling 45,000 from neighboring islands (at one point, the Japanese forces peaked at more than 65,000). U.S. troops even ran into the Imperial Japanese army's finest division, the crack 1st, recently removed from the Kwantung Army in Manchuria and secretly rushed to the Philippines. The battle of "Breakneck Ridge" that ensued, wrote Graham, accounted for the "bloodiest combat of the entire Leyte campaign."

Meanwhile, the Battle of Leyte Gulf raged from Oct. 22-27. The Japanese Combined Fleet had three days earlier begun to converge on the Philippines, aiming to secure Leyte Gulf. The fleet consisted of four carriers with 116 planes (about all that was left of the Japanese air naval arm by this time), 9 battleships, 19 cruisers and 33 destroyers. Another 200 supporting land-based aircraft were available on airfields in the

Philippines.

In the end, as noted above, it was no contest. Organized resistance on Leyte officially ended Christmas Day. Heiberg's battalion had by this time already left for Guam (Dec. 20), to, he said, "practice with the guns, for the invasion of Okinawa." Thankfully, the planned assault never happened; the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki took care of that.

In any event, after being discharged, it was for Heiberg back to Council Bluffs, marriage to his wife of 62 years, Mary Ellen (whose best friend then, by the way, was an older sister of Warren Buffett), beginning courses in civil engineering at the University of Omaha, then, later, moving to Downey and securing employment in tool engineering with Douglas Aircraft. After several years, he became manager of plant and safety engineering at Leach Corporation, from which he retired in 1987.

An incident connected with Gen. MacArthur's return, however, rankled him and everybody concerned for a long time afterward. It seems that MacArthur, being the imperious, narcissistic persona that he was, as many thought, for some unexplained reason made it of public record that the Leyte invasion would be a U.S. Army affair, and no mention of any Marines involvement would be tolerated. This despite the fact, acknowledged also publicly later (no less than Gen. Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, the "Leatherneck general," said so in his memoirs, "Coral and Brass"), that some 1,500 Marines (with their Long Tom, and howitzers) were actually involved in the Leyte assault, and that, as Heiberg pointed out in an explanatory piece he later wrote titled "From One Who Was There," the Marines were always called upon to spearhead the assaults on the Solomons, Gilbert, Marshall, and Caroline Islands, Tarawa, Peleiu, Guam, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. The assault on Leyte was no exception.

So a guy in Heiberg's unit, PFC Frank Pinciotti, "fashioned a sign which read 'By the grace of God and a few Marines, MacArthur returned to the Philippines'." The banner was placed, Heiberg wrote, "near the beach where MacArthur would be sure to see it, and see it he did." Of course, MacArthur "fumed and raved to have the person responsible punished." Today, the banner is said to be part of the Archives of History in the Marine Corps Historical Center.

Longtime Downey resident Heiberg tries to keep busy around the house these days (he'll turn 84 in June), but a highlight of the year for him and Mary Ellen is the annual reunion with his old WWII buddies, of whom only five remain. There's Walter who lives in North Carolina, Herman and Frank in Florida, and Jerome and Dave Paxson (Heiberg's best friend) in Pennsylvania. ("They all live back east," he sighs). They would meet in San Diego this June. In the meantime, he and Mary Ellen go camping around the countryside in their RV visiting historical sites, as well as friends and family, whether they're found in Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Denver or Georgia.

Heiberg's story forms part of the "One Book, One Community" display at the Downey City Library. Looking back over his war experience, Heiberg said, "I'm one of the lucky ones who came out of the war alive."

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Lessons learned going to work with mom

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

Hanging in my cubicle is a Polaroid picture of me sitting at my mom's desk, dated April 26, 1996 – that year's designated "Bring Your Daughter to Work Day."

I was 11 years old then and my mom was working in accounting for Global Computer Supplies in Carson. I remember being really excited to go to work with my mom because not only was I getting to spend the day with her, but I was getting to be an "adult," complete with employee badge, timecards, and pantyhose. At the time, I thought it was "cool" to answer phones, process paperwork and work on the computer (and at times, the typewriter), all the while doing so in a cubicle.

It's funny how things change as you get older and begin working full-time. Now, I have my own cubicle, with my own clutter – paperwork, phone and computer – and after a full day's worth of work, the last thing I want to do is look at a computer screen or answer the phone.

So in an effort to change things up a bit, I decided to go with my mom to work on Monday in honor of "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," celebrated this year on April 24.

According to www.daughtersandsonstowork.org, "Exposing girls and boys to what a parent or mentor in their lives do during the work day is important, but showing them the value of their education, helping them discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life, providing them an opportunity to share how they envision the future and begin steps toward their end goals in a hands-on and interactive environment is key to their achieving success."

My mom, Susy, is a speech specialist who just recently joined the staff at Alondra School in Paramount. At the school, she works with students in preschool through eighth grade, working either one-on-one or in groups to reduce articulation errors, improve fluency and speech and language impairments, as well as specific learning disabilities.

On this particular day – tucked in a speech room located between the school's library and computer lab – she met with a preschooler who needs a little help pronouncing his "S's" (i.e. school bus, sponge, snake, etc.). My mom works patiently with him, never telling him he's wrong, but instead reinforcing the sound herself to prompt him. Every time he pronounced the word correctly – or even if he tried but couldn't quite get it – my mom let him remove a stick from under a pile of marbles in the game Kerplunk!

Because the little guy is in the process of learning English, my mom had to use her fluency in Spanish to encourage and affirm him, while teaching him the words in English. She also provided tips to his mom, who attended the speech session, in how to properly teach and correct him when at home.

My mom then met with two third-grade boys, both of whom have autism. While one was very vocal and animated, the other was quiet and reserved. My mom's goal with each of them was to get them to answer "why" questions and be able to identify a problem and come up with a solution for that problem. To make it fun, the kids played Why? Bingo, where they would place a marker on the answers to questions my mom would ask them. For example, she would ask, "Why do people go to restaurants?" Whoever was next would answer, "To eat dinner," and then they would find it on their Bingo cards and mark it. When they had five markers in a row, they had to yell "Bingo!"

Although I couldn't stay all day to observe my mom in her line of work, I saw enough to know that she has a crucial impact on these kids, all of whom adored her. Her ability to patiently pour into these kids not only affects their confidence, but also their way of communicating.

Something my mom has always taught me is when you love something or someone, be passionate about it. When I was younger, I don't think I understood what it meant to go to work everyday and be passionate about what you do. But now that I've been thrown into the workforce and have had my own experiences, I can understand why it's so important.

I'm not sure if my mom loved her job 12 years ago, when I first went to work with her, but I know she loves her job now because it's seen through how she interacts with her students.

And one thing's for sure, no matter what age I am or what career I have, going to work with my mom is an experience I look forward to and learn from each time around.

New & noteworthy titles at the Downey City Library

Fiction:

"*The Dancer and the Thief*" by Antonio Skarmeta. Politics and ballet blend in this tale about a master thief and his eager protégé from a noted South American storyteller.

"*Girl with No Shadow*" by Joanne Harris. In this delectable sequel to "Chocolat," Vianne Rocher changes her name and moves with her two daughters to Paris, where she opens a chocolate shop and vows to renounce magic.

"*Killer Year: Stories to Die For*" edited by Lee Child. For his crime anthology, bestseller Child has gathered 13 stories by newcomers and three by veteran mystery writers.

"*Lush Life*" by Richard Price. With an ear for dialog and an eye for detail, Price explores the characters and neighborhoods of Manhattan's lower East side.

"*Searching for Paradise in Parker, PA*" by Kris Radish. After a summer of separation, Lucky Liptin tries to win his wife back and her search for happiness turns the whole town upside down.

Non-Fiction:

"*The Match: the Day the Game of Golf Changed Forever*" by Mark Frost. This is the inside story of the match that turned the pastime of golf into a professional sport – when Harvie Ward and Ken Venturi played against Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson.

"*Please Don't Label My Child: Break the Doctor-Diagnosis-Drug Cycle*" by Scott M. Shannon, M.D. A child psychiatrist says we are over-medicating our kids and shows parents how to manage the stressors that impact a child's health and well-being.

"*Simply Delizioso: a Collection of Everyday Recipes with a Latin Twist*" by Ingrid Hoffmann. The Food Network cooking star presents 125 easy recipes that bring a bold, zesty approach to classic cuisine.

"*Soraya: a Life of Music, a Legacy of Hope*" by Soraya. The Latin pop music star reveals how family values and determination helped her survive breast cancer and raise awareness of the disease among Latina women.

"*Speak to Win: How to Present with Power in Any Situation*" by Brian Tracy. Even those with a fear of public speaking will find practical tips for effective presentations from a success expert.

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.

Sidi performs at Orange County Pavilion

SANTA ANA – Sebastian Sidi will present "Sebastian Sidi: Live in Concert" on April 25 at the Orange County Pavilion Performing Arts Theatre at 8 p.m. The concert will be filmed for Sidi's PBS debut, planned to air on KOCE-TV June 11 at 8 p.m. Sidi will work side-by-side with 12-time Emmy Award-winning producer George Veras, who produced "Yanni Live at the Acropolis."

"It's been a dream of mine to work with a legendary producer as accomplished as George Veras," said Sidi. "This high-profile collaboration with Veras, combined with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a PBS broadcast debut will enable me to reach new audiences across Southern California. Coming from a modest background and being self-taught, self-produced and self-promoted up until now – this recognition truly validates my years of hard work to get to this point."

Tickets for the event cost \$25 - \$35 and can be purchased online at www.ocpavilion.com, or by calling (714) 550-0550.

The Orange County Performing Arts Theatre is located at 801 North Main St. in Santa Ana.

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Free bus ride to Festival of Books

DOWNEY – The Friends of the Downey City Library will be taking a bus to the UCLA Festival of Books on April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival offers lectures, author panels, storytelling, and writing workshops by more than 400 authors. Book signings by some of today's leading authors, as well as cooking demonstrations and poetry readings, will also be featured.

The bus will depart from the Downey City Library parking lot at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Bus transportation and festival admission are free but some events require advanced tickets. Bus passengers must sign and turn in a liability waiver upon registration.

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

Baskin-Robbins offers 31 cent scoops

DOWNEY – Baskin-Robbins is hosting their 2nd Annual 31 Cent Scoop Night on April 30 from 5 to 10 p.m. at all 2,700 stores nationwide, including their location in Downey.

During the event, the ice cream brand is thanking its customers by reducing prices of its 2.5 oz. ice cream scoops to 31 cents. Additionally, Baskin-Robbins will again partner with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in an effort to extend support to the firefighting community, by donating \$100,000 to the organization. Together, Baskin-Robbins and the NFFF will honor 31 firefighters from across the country who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to community service through the America's 31 Firefighting Heroes program.

"We are excited to host the second annual 31 Cent Scoop Night event," said Jack Kwieninski of Baskin-Robbins in Downey. "The event gives us a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation to local customers and honor local heroes."

Scoops of ice cream will cost 31 cents each plus applicable tax. To ensure everyone enjoys 31 Cent Scoop Night, there will be a ten-scoop limit per person per purchase.

Baskin-Robbins is located in Downey at 7938 E. Florence Ave. For more information on the event, visit www.baskinrobbins.com.

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FORBIDDEN KINGDOM PG13	(11:45 2:25) 5:05 7:45 10:25
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL R	(11:00 1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40
88 MINUTES R	(10:55 1:40 4:25) 7:10 9:55
EXPULSED PG	(11:00 1:35 4:10) 6:45 9:20
STREET KINGS R	(11:35 2:20) 5:10 7:50 10:35
PROM NIGHT PG13	(10:50 1:35 4:10) 6:55 9:35 10:55
THE RUINS R	(1:00) 5:50 10:35
SHUTTER PG13	(10:40 3:25) 8:15
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PROM NIGHT PG-13 (12:20, 2:40, 5:05), 7:45, 10:10

STREET KINGS R (11:05, 11:50, 1:50, 2:35, 4:35, 5:20), 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45 (ON 2 SCREENS)

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The truth is, you're not likely to find a real estate professional who knows the intricacies of the local market like Dale. When you're looking not only for the right home, but the right neighborhood to fit your needs, Dale has the knowledge to make it happen. When you add the fact that he's been in the business since 1983, it seems only fitting that he's considered the local expert. Put simply, when it comes to your next move, there's no better professional to turn to than Dale. Give him a call today. You'll be glad you did!

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Mother's Day is May 11!!!
Send a message in The Downey Patriot!

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"
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Send to:
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Line 2 (Your message here) _____
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Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562)904-3668

Identity theft: Tips to minimize the damage

Continued from page 1

800-269-0271. Also get a copy of your Social Security Earnings and Benefit Statement and look for earnings for jobs you've never had. You should receive your earnings statement automatically each year if you have worked and are 25 or older, or you can request a copy by calling 800-772-1213 or by visiting the SSA website at www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement. In an extreme case, you may be able to change your Social Security number, but it is difficult to do and may not resolve the problem.

U.S. State Department. If your passport was stolen or if you believe someone may be fraudulently ordering a passport in your name, notify the U.S. Department of State by completing the form DSP 64. This form is available at your local post office or may be obtained at: www.state.gov or call

202-955-0430.

Department of motor vehicles (DMV). Contact this department if your driver's license was stolen or if you think someone is using your driver's license number to facilitate fraud. To report identity theft related to your California driver license (DL) or identification card (ID), call the DMV DL/ID Fraud Hotline toll free at 1-866-658-5758 or visit the DMV's website at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/consumer/fraud.htm>.

Diligence and quick action on your part will not only save your credit rating and will keep you from being victimized by this growing crime.

The purpose of this column is to provide general information on the law, which is subject to change. It is not legal advice. Consult a lawyer if you have a specific legal problem.



Above are the newly-installed Downey Rose Float Association officers for 2008. Standing left to right: Barbara Emry, second vice president, membership; Susan Domen, first vice president, ways and means; Madelyn Barefoot, secretary; Nathan York, board of directors; Cheri Maldonado, treasurer; and Gary DeRemer, president. Seated is Judy Atherton, third vice president in charge of memorabilia. Not pictured are Pam Chambers, corresponding secretary, and board members Roy Long, Andrew Malarkey, Audrey Mitchum, Mike Negrete, Annett Pasco, Jason Redfox and LeeAnn Sears.

Becerra completes Career Agents Course

DOWNEY – Carmen Becerra of Downey and Ruben Chacon of Santa Fe Springs have completed the Career Agents Course at the University of Farmers for Farmers Insurance Group.

The University of Farmers, a training facility located in Agoura Hills, Calif., offers training to Farmers' 14,000 agents and their staff, 500 district managers, and 10,000 claims staff year round.

"Chacon completed the five-day Career Agents Course which is clearly defined and targeted to enhance the professional skills of Farmers' agents," explained Annette Thompson, Farmers vice president. "The course gives an agent the ability to learn how to successfully understand the needs of Farmers customers and help them choose the right insurance to meet their needs. Using professional facilitators and a curriculum that maximizes training effectiveness, this course is a roadmap to success for every agent."

Class teaches how to plan vacations online

DOWNEY – The Downey City Library is offering a free class, "Vacation Planning Online" on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Cormack Room as part of National Library Week, April 13-19.

The class will demonstrate how to search the Internet to locate trip destinations, find the best travel values, and book transportation and accommodations online. Participants will also learn how to conduct online transactions with increased safety and security. As a pre-requisite, students should have a basic familiarity with using the Internet and accessing Web sites before attending this workshop.

"The Internet offers you great vacation values," said instructor Nancy Munoz. "This class will help you navigate the best sites for a more enjoyable travel experience."

The event is free and is sponsored by the Friends of the Downey City Library.

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

'Mega Mixer' planned Tuesday

NORWALK – Cerritos College will host its 12th annual Chamber Mega Mixer on Tuesday.

The mixer will feature a western theme and include chambers from Downey, Bellflower, Cerritos, Lakewood, La Mirada, Norwalk, Paramount, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate.

Since it began, the mixer has grown each year to feature booths from local businesses, networking opportunities, door prizes and drawings, and cuisine prepared by the Cerritos College Culinary Arts Program.

Exhibitor tables are available at \$145 each. Admission to the mixer is free.

For more information, call Toni Grijalva at (562) 860-5451, ext. 2798.

Advice for those making home improvements

CONTRIBUTED BY THE CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

Q: I want to do my part for the environment while getting some work done on my house. I've seen a number of articles on how solar, wind power and other "green building" techniques can help the environment and save some money for me in the long run. How do I find a contractor who knows about this kind of technology and do they have different credentials than other contractors?

A: "Green" is an emerging trend in the contracting trades. But, old fashioned homework and research will help you find someone who is knowledgeable about the newest techniques and materials available. One of the best ways to find a qualified contractor is to ask family or friends if they were satisfied with similar work done for them. A local builders exchange or trade union might also have information available about their members. Regardless of the recommendations you receive, make sure your contractor has a valid contractor's license by visiting the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) Web site, www.cslb.ca.gov, or by calling (800) 321-2752. You can also get more information about hiring a contractor. There are 43 different types of contractor licenses, including general and specialty contractors like C-46 Solar. A general contractor usually oversees projects and coordinates with specific subcontractors to complete a project. Talk with a qualified licensed contractor to see if they share your green vision.

Q: It is time to get some new floors at my house. I've been checking out a number of flooring shops and finally found what I think is the best deal. The owner of the shop said he will install the floors for me. I found out that he is not a licensed contractor. Am I leaving myself open for problems?

A: Anyone installing flooring or doing any kind of contracting work in California that is valued at over \$500 must hold a valid license from the CSLB. Many retail flooring outlets provide floor installation through licensed subcontractors. Ask for the name and license number and then verify your installer/contractor status by visiting the CSLB Web site at www.cslb.ca.gov, or by calling (800) 321-2752. There will also be information on the contractor's complaint history and if they hold workers compensation insurance for employees. Although general liability insurance is not required under the law, it is a good idea to ask about it. You and your homeowner's insurance policy could be held liable if unlicensed or uninsured workers are hurt while on your property.

Q: We are undergoing a major kitchen remodel. The contractor I hired to build and install the cabinets did not measure correctly. The cabinets,

which are the wrong size, were paid for, in full, and are currently sitting in their original boxes in my garage. I talked to the contractor only one time before he stopped taking my calls. Now, I cannot seem to locate him at all. He is licensed, but not responsible. What should I do?

A: If you are unable to communicate with your contractor and resolve issues on your own, it is time to contact the CSLB. You can get information and file a complaint at www.cslb.ca.gov, or you can call CSLB (800) 321-2752 and request that a form be mailed to you. When you mail in your complaint form, be sure to attach copies of all relevant information like contracts, photographs and change orders. The more evidence you provide, the better. Once CSLB receives your complaint form, they will send you a letter confirming the receipt of your grievance. When at the Web site, be sure to download the brochure, "A Consumer Guide to Filing Construction Complaints."

Q: My brother is a licensed contractor. It really upsets me to see unlicensed people underbidding him on jobs and blatantly breaking the law. Not only are they taking work away from my brother who is trying to be an honest businessman, but I know for a fact, they are doing substandard work. What can I do to help in this situation?

A: Since your brother is a licensed contractor, you know that anyone performing construction jobs that are valued at more than \$500 needs to be licensed by CSLB. Unlicensed operators are part of a multi-billion dollar underground economy that do not pay taxes or carry insurance. Many of these individuals have other problems with the law or can even be part of an organized crime network. Homeowners who hire unlicensed workers leave themselves vulnerable to theft, project abandonment, substandard work, or even lawsuits if someone is injured. The CSLB Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) goes after unscrupulous operators through stings, sweeps and complaint investigation. You can provide SWIFT with tips by either calling (800) 321-2752, or by downloading a tip sheet at www.cslb.ca.gov. You can also use that contact information to see if a contractor is licensed and if there are any complaints posted. Licensed contractors must pass competency tests, be fingerprinted and bonded, and undergo a background check.

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