

Welcome home, Cpl. Aysse See Page 2



Rojas masters the trombone See Page 11



Sidi performs
PBS special
See Page 13

**Friday, May 2, 2008** 

Val 7 Na

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

# County will restore electricity to former Rancho property

By Eric Pierce, City Editor

**DOWNEY** – After a brief scare that threatened the future of a time-honored community tradition here in Downey, this city's float in the Tournament of Roses Parade has been saved.

Downey Rose Float Association president Gary DeRemer announced at last Tuesday's City Council meeting that Los Angeles County has agreed to pay \$102,000 to replace electrical wiring stolen from a warehouse on the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

The warehouse supplied power to a nearby building where Downey's float is built.

The Rose Float Association will pay \$20,000 to refurbish parts of the warehouse, DeRemer said, adding that the new electrical system will be "burglar proof" and installed high above ground.

DeRemer thanked the City Council for lobbying county officials, specifically the office of Supervisor Don Knabe, for help. DeRemer said he also received numerous phone calls from residents and electricians offering their assistance after a story on the situation appeared in this newspaper two weeks ago.

Mayor David Gafin said the Council "made a lot of calls" to the supervisor's office.

The building where the Rose Float Association constructs their float is located on land owned by the county and slated for redevelopment. DeRemer said he didn't know if redevelopment plans will include space for the non-profit Rose Float Association.



These fifth grade girls from Maude Price Elementary School were among the 1,600 Downey students treated to a free concert by the Downey Symphony last week. The concert was made possible by the Symphony's Music in the Schools program, which was funded this year by the Downey Kiwanis Foundation. *Photo by Joyce Sherwin* 

## Students get intimate look at symphony

BY JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

nother Wednesday Miracle Morning at the Downey Theatre when students from every fifth grade class in the Downey Unified School District filed out of school buses and into their seats to hear a concert by our symphony orchestra. And, as expected now at these annual events, it all went without a hitch.

As part of the Symphony's Music in the Schools project, funded this spring by the Downey Kiwanis Foundation, and with logistics handled by Ana Thorne at the District offices, more than 1,600 youngsters came in three consecutive waves of bus arrivals, orchestra performances and bus departures to hear a program of great music. They learned that classical music isn't stodgy and that classical musicians are real people who work at something they love.

Music Director Sharon Lavery introduced the instruments of the orchestra by size, smallest to largest. The players held up everything from a teeny piccolo to a majestic bass viol, and the "Oohs" and "Ahs" from the audience grew louder and longer in a perfect crescendo. Everyone giggled, appreciating the effect.

"Now picture this," Lavery urged the kids, as Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" spread its great tonal colors. "Imagine you are in a crowded market place, people buying and selling things, yelling across to each other, friends meeting friends...it's like the mall." Ah, that they relate to! They leaned forward to listen and imagine.

A quick onstage costume change, and Lavery turned to the audience wearing a black eye patch and triangular hat edged with silly feathers. "AARRGH!" she growled, brandishing a wicked sword. "What are we going to play now?" "Pirates of the Caribbean!" the kids shouted with delight.

Schools assigned seats in the balcony have advantageous sight lines onto the stage, and perhaps a few students caught the calisthenics required

See SYMPHONY, page 3

## **Downey Street Faire tomorrow**



Thousands of residents packed Brookshire Avenue last year, enjoying the festivities of the Downey Street Faire. The annual event, produced by the Downey Chamber of Commerce and now in its 15th year, will again take place tomorrow starting at 9 a.m. *Photo by R.D. Salyer* 

### Music, food and fun on Brookshire Avenue

**DOWNEY** – The 15th Annual Downey Street Fair will hit Brookshire Avenue tomorrow at 9 a.m. Kicking off the event will be the Warren High School marching band along with a U.S. Army Color Guard.

Entertainment will be ongoing all day. Featured will be The Country Kickers at 9 a.m., Flight at 9:45, Sebastian Sidi at 11:15, OnStage Dance Center at 12:45 p.m., Jaguar at 2, Downey Bachelors 'N Bachelorettes at 3:30, and Class 6 Band at 4:15.

The fair will have over 200 vendors, lining both sides of Brookshire Avenue from Firestone Boulevard to Civic Center Drive.

For the kids, there will be a super slide, climbing rock wall, train ride, moon bounce, carousel "elephant" ride, 60-ft. climb-and-slide, games, and more.

The food court will be centrally located on Brookshire and will feature fair favorites, including funnel cakes, Philly cheese steaks, pastrami, submarine sandwiches, pizza, tacos, hot dogs, kettle corn, empanadas, Thai barbecue, shaved ice, churros, and more.

The Classic Car Show, produced by the Old Memories Car Club, San Gabriel Valley Chapter, will feature over 150 classic automobiles. It will be located in Downey High School's south parking lot on Firestone Boulevard.

The Street Faire is produced by a committee of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, made up of volunteers and headed by Chamber President Rick Rodriguez.

Sponsors of the event are CareMore (platinum); Downey Regional Medical Center and Sky Management (diamond); Law Offices of Steve Lopez (gold); AppleCare Medical Group, Assemblyman Charles Calderon, Downey Savings & Loan, Shaklee Products, Stonewood Center and Wescom Credit Union (silver); Best Buy, Call Yellow, Kragen Auto Parts, Trilogy Financial Services and Variety Ticket Service (bronze); All



The First Baptist Church of Downey children's choir enjoyed last year's Downey Street Faire. The annual event will take place again tomorrow on Brookshire Avenue. *Photo by R.D. Salyer* 

American Home Center, Century 21 My Real Estate, Don Dixon & Associates Insurance, Downey Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, E.N. St. George DDS, Law Office of Steven J. Hoffman, More Than Accounting Inc., "Santa Claus" Mark Keller, Southern California Alcohol & Drug Programs Inc., and St. Raymond's Catholic Church (friends of the faire).

## Historical Society apologizes for fictional Wiley-Burke story published last week

By Eric Pierce, City Editor

**DOWNEY** – A story in last week's edition of *The Downey Patriot* supposedly detailing the history of this city's Wiley-Burke Avenue and its notable namesake has turned out to be false.

The article, which ran on Page 12 in our April 25th issue under the byline of Downey Historical Society president John Vincent, was a parody piece written by Vincent in honor of April Fools Day and submitted to this newspaper in late March.

The fictional story was never meant for publication, according to Vincent, who apologized.

"I didn't make the 'deception' clear when I submitted the piece and extend my deepest apologies to you, to the Wiley and Burke families and to anyone who was taken in by my fictional story," Vincent

said in a letter to the editor. (The entire letter can be found on Page 5 of this week's issue.)

The story, which ran under a large, 40-point font size headline, "Wiley-Burke: a Brief History of the War Hero and British Patriot," told the supposed story of "Sir Alan Grimsby Wiley-Burke," a World War II hero who fought under Gen. George S. Patton's Seventh Army during the Sicilian invasion of July 1943.

According to the fictional story, Sir Alan Grimsby Wiley-Burke purchased "a parcel of land on the west side" of Downey after he retired from active military service in 1945, but the property was sold to developers three years after his death in 1947.

In truth, Downey's Wiley-Burke Avenue was named after the pioneering ranching families of Wiley and Burke. Records show a K. Wiley was an honor student at a Downey elementary school 1891, and a Mrs. E.W. Wiley served as a trustee at First Baptist Church in 1916.

The fictional story was pulled off this newspaper's Web site early this week after Vincent informed the *Patriot* of the mistake.

The story was submitted to the *Patriot* during the last week of March but did not publish until last week due to the article's extended length. The fictional story was nearly 1,700 words and occupied approximately 70 column inches.

Vincent, along with the Downey Historical Society, has been a longtime contributor to this newspaper, and has been used as a source in numerous articles detail-



ing Downey's past, including stories involving Harvey's Broiler, City Hall, Downey Cemetery and the city's school system.

The Wiley-Burke article was the only fictional story Vincent submitted to this newspaper.

## Page 2 Friday, May 2, 2008 Community



Marine Cpl. Justin Andrew Aysse will return home Saturday after serving seven months in Iraq. Aysse grew up in Downey and attended Warren and Downey High Schools, where he played varsity football and basketball. After graduating, he went to boot camp in San Diego on Sept. 19, 2006; his home base is in Twentynine Palms. He is the only son of Matthew Allan Aysse of Downey and Julie Dominguez of Palisade, Colo.

#### Church giving away clothing

DOWNEY - Downey First Christian Church will host their Third Annual Great Clothing Give-Away on May 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Men's, women's, boy's and girl's clothing will be given away at the event. A free breakfast will also be served from 9 to 11 a.m.

Downey First Christian Church is at 10909 New St., one block north of Krikorian Theatres.

#### Osteopathic center opening in Downey

DOWNEY - The new Osteopathic Center for Well-Being, in conjunction with the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will hold a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony this Wednesday at noon at the Brookshire Medical Building, 11411 Brookshire Ave., suite 304.

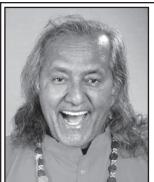
For more information on the Osteopathic Center's services, or on the grand opening, call (562) 869-6400.

#### American Legion takes bus to Pachanga

**DOWNEY** – The American Legion Post 723 will be taking a bus trip to Pechanga Casino on May 8.

The bus will leave the Post's parking lot, located at 11269 S. Garfield Ave., at 8:30 a.m. and return around 5 p.m. Bingo will be played to and

Cost is \$11 and all proceeds will benefit the Veterans Rehab and Youth programs. For more information, call Wade Murdoch at (562) 928-0712, or Nancy Watson at (562) 413-6414.



#### YOGA FOR WEIGHT LOSS, PAIN & STRESS RELEASE

With Guru Yogi Ramesh (45 years experience Celebrity Guru) New session starts May 6th 2008 (Yoga classes in Paramount too) Barbara J. Riley Community Center ENERGIZE and be happy now. Call (562) 716-9367 www.universalyoga.org

#### **Used Cars** As Low As

have an \$88 Dollar Used Car & Slash-It Sales Event<sup>TM</sup> this Friday, Saturday & Sunday, May 2, 3 & 4, 2008.

All cars will be on display in the secured area at Penske Toyota, 9136 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA. At 2pm on Friday, 10am on Saturday & 11am on Sunday, all vehicles will be opened so that buyers may inspect the vehicles for one hour. On the windshield of each vehicle will be it normal retail selling price. The sale begins at 3pm on Friday, 11am on Saturday & 12noon on Sunday. First come first served. Each vehicle's price will be slashed one time and one time only to the rock bottom price, including used cars for only \$88\*\*! There are three \$88 cars and in addition to these we will have at least 20 more vehicles for under \$10,000. We will continue to slash all vehicle prices until 9pm on Friday and 8pm on Sat. & Sun. and the store will be back to "business as usual."

It's a win-win situation for the customer AND the dealer. The customer gets the best price up-front, without any haggling or wasting time. The dealer gets to reduce inventory FAST!

#### PENSKE TOYOTA 9136 E. Firestone Blvd.

Downey, CA 90241 1-(800) 913-4651

\*\*'89 Toyota Corolla, VIN#327857; '93 Honda Accord, VIN#076609, '93 Honda Accord, VIN#017620. Vehicles subject to prior sale. Prices do not include government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer docu-mentation preparation charges and any emission testing charge.

### Police waiting tables in name of Special Olympics

DOWNEY - Downey police officers will be serving as waiters and waitresses at the Elephant Bar restaurant in Downey this Tuesday, working to collect tips for the Special Olympics of Southeast Los Angeles.

The "Tip a Cop" fundraiser is a collaborative effort between Elephant Bar and the Downey Police Officers' Association.

Police officers will work as waiters and waitresses between 5 and 10 p.m. Their tips will be donated to the Special Olympics.

For more information, Donald Howard, Special Olympics area director, at (562) 804-1424, ext. 2266, or Mike Pope at the Downey Police Department, (562) 904-2308.

#### Author talk and book signing June 7

DOWNEY - Published magazine and book author D.J. Waldie will speak and sign books at the Rio Hondo Event Center on June 7.

Waldie is the author of "Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir," and is also a contributing writer to Los Angeles magazine.

The event is part of the Friends of the Downey City Library's annual meeting. The community is invited to attend.

The cost is \$15 and includes a lunch with beverage and dessert, author talk, and book signing. Registration is due by May 31 at the Friends' Shop inside the library. For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

#### Library planning trip to museum

**DOWNEY** – The Downey City Library is organizing a June 28 trip to the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

The museum features the Terra Cotta Warriors, guardians of China's First Emperor. A docent-lead tour of the museum will be included.

Cost of the trip is \$22. Register in the Friends' Shop inside the library or call (562) 904-7360, ext. 132.

#### Gustafson to speak at Nordic Fox

**DOWNEY** – Gwynn Gustafson of Co-Op Cache Consulting and John Quagliani of Buzy Bodies will be the guest speakers at the May 13 meeting Rise 'N Shine Networking at the Nordic Fox restaurant.

Mark Mikelat of Building Aspirations will be the May 27 speaker.

The cost to attend is an order from the menu. RSVP by calling the Downey Chamber of Commerce at (562) 923-2191.

#### Mixer event at the Woman's Club

**DOWNEY** – The Woman's Club of Downey, in conjunction with the Downey Chamber of Commerce, will host a 110th anniversary mixer this Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Admission to the networking event is \$3, and includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages and door prizes.

The Woman's Club of Downey is located at 9813 Paramount Blvd., north of Florence Avenue. For more information, call the Chamber at (562) 923-2191.

#### Newcomers' fashion show May 19

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Newcomers Club will present their "Hats Off to Fashion" on May 19 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

The fashion show is the club's major fundraising event of the year. The club receives contributions from local merchants to raffle as door prizes, and all proceeds go to the club's scholarships for the three local high schools

The fashions will be from Stein Mart and the models are the club's own members of Karen Davis, Barbara Emry, June Ferguson, Ellie Harrington, Jeanne Henson, Melvelene Martin and Estella Mendoza.

For tickets, call Melba Willbanks at (562) 862-2799.

# Air Force Airman Kevin W. Baker has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, Baker studied the Air Force mission, organiza-

tion, and military customs and courtesies. He also performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. Airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Baker graduated from Calvary Chapel Christian High School in 2006 and is the son of Stephanie A. Baker of Downey.

### **DRMC** names Torres director of development

DOWNEY - Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC) recently named Crystal Torres as its new director of development.

A fund development professional with more than 10 years of experience, Torres came to DRMC from White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles. A resident of Whittier, she is a graduate of the University of LaVerne, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in organizational management and a master's in business administration with an emphasis in leadership and marketing.

Torres has also held board and committee positions with the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) and has spoken at several AHP conferences. She has earned two awards in the field of philanthropy as well.

As director of development, Torres is part of a team responsible for encouraging the community's charitable support of DRMC.

"Crystal was involved in a number of major successes at White Memorial, including recruiting boxer Oscar de la Hoya as a major donor and spokesperson for the hospital and securing a \$950,000 grant for the hospital's nursing program," said Greg Bonn, executive vice president, fund development. "We're delighted that she has decided to be part of our team at Downey Regional Medical Center."



#### Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church

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May 9 at 7 PM May 10 at 11:00 AM Luncheon at 12:30 PM

9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013 www.downeychurch.org

Trinity Christian School

#### **OPEN HOUSE! Everyone Welcome!**

Friday, May 9, 2008 5:00 - 7:3011507 Studebaker Road Norwalk, 90650

This is a great time to visit our K - 8th grade classes, listen to live music, see the cheerleaders perform, participate in a silent auction, and enjoy good food. Come see why Trinity would be a great place for your child attend school.



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**Christ Lutheran** 7707 Florence Ave. **Downey 90240** 

## Community Page 3 Friday, May 2, 2008

## Symphony: High school brass players get in on the fun, too.

Continued from page 1

of one of the percussionists. Toward the conclusion of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, with the mallet in his right hand he struck chimes repeatedly to signify church bells announcing the military victory, at the same time that the left hand was hitting a gong positioned behind him. Then, because the score indicates that the gong's resonance must be damped, he used the only spare limb available for that - his leg. All quite subtle and choreographed, but we

may have had a first, right here on our very own stage.

Some years ago our late conductor, Tom Osborn, invited brass players from Downey and Warren High Schools to join the orchestra at these Fifth Grade Concerts for the triumphant finale of Tchaikovsky, a successful idea continued by Lavery, his successor.

Between performances I chatted with some of the Downey High students. This was the third year that Dustin and Victor have played this concert. Victor wants to be a band director. Clarinetist Steven

wanted to do music and elementary teaching But Caitee, a trumpet player here for the first time, who wants to teach science or music, made a point of telling me what impressed her the most as they waited back stage to per-

"Listening to the violins," she said. "It is really a privilege to be among those amazing players."

And so it went that marvelous Wednesday morning. Great music bringing people together, and we are better for it.



Students, parents and community members signed a banner-draped bus at Saturday's Carnival of Champions, deriding the governor's proposed state budget cuts. Photo by Jeff Orlinsky

### Ragtime performer Nan Bostick featured at ice cream social

■ May 10 fundraiser at Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center to benefit Downey Symphony.

By Joyce Sherwin, **DOWNEY SYMPHONY** 

Question: What's the name of the rag played in "The Sting"?

Answer: "The Entertainer." Question: Who was the first great ragtime composer?

Answer: Scott Joplin.

Question: Where does the term "ragtime" come from?

Answer: Ha ha! Not gonna tell

But you can find out when you come to the Ice Cream Social with Ragtime Piano on Saturday afternoon, May 10, at Downey's community/senior center. That's when the marvelous ragtime performer Nan Bostick brings us a program rich in the history of an authentically American musical form, and plays one delightful, catchy rag after another.

Tickets are \$5, \$3 for kids under age 10, and will be sold only

at the door starting at 1:30 on Saturday, May 10. The program begins at 2 p.m.

A suggestion to Anyone With a Mother: Since Sunday, May 11, is Mother's Day, you could bring her to this pleasurable event for a really different kind of celebration. (And give her one of Nan's CDs as an extra gift.) Moms don't forget great times like this! But seating is limited, so come early.

The community center is at 7810 Quill Dr. That's just north of Imperial Highway at Rives Avenue, and lots of free parking is available.

This Ice Cream Social is a fundraising event sponsored by the Downey Symphony as part of its 50th Golden Jubilee Season, and donations for Nan's programs will be gratefully accepted. For further information, please call (562) 928-



Nan Bostick will provide the musical entertainment at the Downey Symphony's Ice Cream Social with Ragtime Piano at the Barbara J. Riley Community &

Senior Center on May 10. Bostick is an "acknowledged expert" on the ragtime era of Detroit and works to track down details on ragtime's female composers, having co-authored "The Lexicon of Ragtime's Women Composers" with Dr. Nora

Hulse.

## Old River School wins first place at Carnival of Champions

By Henry Veneracion, Staff Writer

DOWNEY—Old River School dethroned perennial champion Rio San Gabriel School with a total of 224 points in Saturday's 48th annual DUSD Carnival of Champions Track and Field Exhibition held at Warren High School among fourth and fifth graders representing nine Downey elementary schools.

What's more, it was the first victory ever by the Old River Gators since the sports meet was initiated in 1962. (Perhaps there was a correlation here, but the Gators' cheering section was noticeably the loudest and most raucous of the lot). Powerhouse Rio San Gabriel had held the overall first place title for the past 11 years.

The scoring was 10 points for 1st place, eight points for 2nd, six points for 3rd, four points for 4th, and two points for 5th. The events consisted of the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 400-meter relay, mixed co-ed relay, standing long jump, softball throw for distance, and baskets in one minute.

The order of finish:

First — Old River

Second — Rio San Gabriel

Third — Lewis

Fourth — Carpenter

Fifth - Rio Hondo Sixth — Gauldin

Seventh — Gallatin

Eighth — Price

Pervading the competitions was the theme and spirit of the Six Pillars of Character. DUSD Superintendent Wendy Doty reminded everybody present of their import prior to the games, while school student representatives articulated the meaning of each.

Meanwhile, greeting each parent, student and community member as they arrived at the sporting event were Downey Education Association officers and student volunteers who urged everybody to affix their signature to a 40-ft.-long panoramic banner pasted to the side of a school bus. The signatures and messages (e.g., 'Education Cuts Never Heal', 'Public Schools - An Investment We Can't Afford to Cut') indicated opposition to the proposed state budget cuts to education. DEA president Jeff Orlinsky is scheduled to lead a delegation to Sacramento on May 20 to deliver the "message' to the Governor.

## **15th Annual** Downey Street Faire Brookshire Ave., At Firestone Blvd. Saturday May 3rd, 2008 y amf5 Pm **Special Thanks To Our Major Sponsors:**

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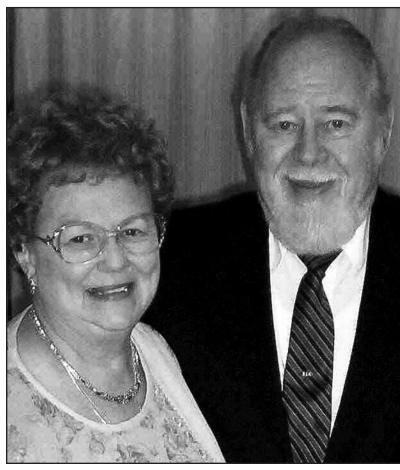
E.N. St. George DDS, Inc. Law Office of Steven J. Hoffman More Than Accounting, Inc. Mark Keller "Santa Claus"

So. Calif. Alcohol & Drug Programs, Inc. St. Raymond's Catholic Church Downey Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

## OVER 200 CRAFTERS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WILL LINE BROOKSHIRE AVENUE . . .

The Downey Chamber of Commerce extends many thanks to the City of Downey, City Council, Police and Fire Departments, Downey High School, and L. A. County Supervisor Don Knabe for their contributions in producing our 2008 Downey Street Faire.

## Page 4 Friday, May 2, 2008 Community



Jim and Pat Brown celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with 130 friends and family members.

#### Browns celebrate 50 married years

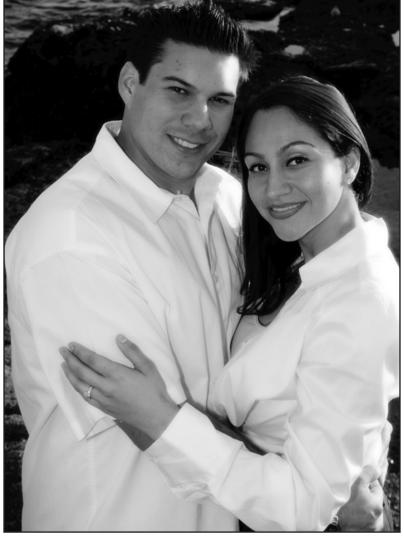
DOWNEY - Downey residents Jim and Pat Brown celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Saturday with a celebration attended by 130 guests.

The guests represented several groups of friends from the different schools and churches the Browns have attended, including many from their present affiliation as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Various family members flew in from as far away as Florida for the occasion. The only missing family members were three grandchildren who are currently serving the Church on missions in Arizona, South Dakota and in Fiji.

Pat Brown taught piano to dozens of children in Downey. She taught preschool and worked as an aide in Downey schools. She was active in PTA when her daughters were in school, and later earned a teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach. She taught in Downey and in the Little Lake School District of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs for 17 years.

Jim Brown worked for the Southern California Gas Company for 32 years. He became a substitute teacher for Downey's high schools after retiring. He also taught a free class on writing your family history, titled "Life Tapestries." He has also served as director of public affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 20 years. In this position he has overseen community service activities and has contributed regularly to The Downey Patriot and its successors.



Anthony Santana, a 2000 granduate of Downey High School, will marry Priscilla Flores, a 1996 graduate of Bell Gardens High School, on Aug. 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Downey. They both currently teach for Montebello Unified School District. Flores is also a councilwoman for the city of Bell Gardens.

#### Casa Serena apartments sold

**DOWNEY** – A Paramount Boulevard apartment complex in Downey has sold for more than \$6 million.

Casa Serena, a 42-unit complex at 11530 Paramount Boulevard, was sold for \$6.75 million to Santa Ana-based Paramount Property.

Casa Serena was built in 1970 and features 24 one-bedroom units and 18 two-bedroom units ranging from 780 to 1,050 square feet.

#### Bingo luncheon this Sunday

**DOWNEY** – The Italian Catholic Federation of St. Raymond's Parish will present a bingo luncheon this Sunday at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Robert Gipson Hall, 12348 Paramount Blvd.

The donation is \$10 and includes one Bingo card, door prizes and lunch. For tickets or information, call Aline Amatisto at (562) 693-9430, or Charlene Drobeck at (562) 928-1937.

### **The Poet's Corner**

#### Inner Island

That quiet place I visualize, How do I reach its tranquil shore? When sleep eludes me I breathe softly, Leaving now a seething sea. Happenings that tear at me. Wind chimes then ring, musically. Now I visualize greenery turqoise sky, I can rest quietly, inner island of serenity. - Terese Akins Anthony, Lakewood

#### Our Album

I watched the gathering dust among my souvenirs Tenderly I fondle them, as I savor all my tears The roses that he gave me as our hearts were so entwined Are only futile memories pressed between the pages of our time With misty eyes and trembling hands, I slowly turned the page A photo of my love and me, well-preserved with age So sated are the pages with momentos of our past This album that I treasure so, thru eternity will last And when we are departed from this earth forever more May the memories of our album wait for us at heaven's door - Rose Sciascia Neal, **Downey** 

#### What is Lack?

I feel tired, heavy, and sleepy my eyes are red Passion fed the dread of wanting words said Must I rest or cotinue contrive ahead I want more whether by pull or force No remorse for unwilling contenders here nor near Drink at will instill no luck out of the fear Remember to speculate don't respect your fate Can't retain and be reticent while sounds reverberate late I see you peeking out windows, eyes peeled back Satellite a spectacle watching TV what is lack? - James Hernandez,

Poems can be submitted to The Downey Patriot at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240 or via e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com

**Downey** 

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- Reservations are required with a \$15.00 fee payable to MMC Foundation
- **Cholesterol/Glucose Screenings**
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Nirav Patel, M.D., Neurologist, will cover "Brain Attack." Jim Wilkins, Stroke Survivor, will cover "The Best Worst Thing That Happened to Him."

Greg Jones, MS, will cover "Why Should I Be More Active?" Darice Hawkins, RN, CNS, will cover "Cerebral Vascular Disease and Stroke." Becky Gerl, BS, MS, will cover "Nutrition, Hypertension and Stroke."

Please call our Stroke Help Line today to make your reservation: 562-922-0520 or 949-305-8450 Or visit us on the web at www.rthfoundation.org or www.longbeachstroke.org





**Every Saturday 9AM-1PM** 

**Downtown Downey** On Second St. at New St.

Email: farmersmarket@downeyca.org

## Editorial Page 5 Friday, May 2, 2008

### Prescription drugs cause more harm than good

CONTRIBUTED BY MARY RIESER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NARCONON ow are you feeling today? Not so well? Just plop down in front of the television tonight and you'll soon be given the opportunity to Lidiagnose yourself. Double check with your doctor if you want to make sure you're right. Chances are your doctor is also familiar with the pharmaceutical commercials.

Do restless legs keep you awake? This can be fixed with a pill. If the side effects of the pill cause you to gamble away all your money, you don't need to feel depressed for long. There are pills to fix this too, and a big bus will deliver them for next to nothing.

Before you go to bed decide if you want to sleep or have sex. There is a different pill for each. (The commercials don't tell us what happens if you take both at once.) If you opt for the sex pill and notice at 2 a.m. difficulty with your anatomy (if it lasts for more than four hours) the ad says to call your doctor. You might have to wait for a more convenient time for him to meet you at the office to fix the problem.

Too fat? Eyes watering or are they too dry? Are you afraid you might wet your pants or worse, do you have to wear long sleeves in the summer? Don't fret. It can all be fixed. Take a pill and enjoy life in living color.

As our population is lulled into the safety and normalcy of fixing everything with medication is it any wonder that prescription drug abuse and subsequent addiction are on the rise at an alarming rate?

Young people are more addicted now to what they find in the medicine cabinet than what they find on the street, and for the first time, in some parts of the country, more people are dying from overdoes of pharmaceuticals than street drugs. Prescription drug abuse is the second most commonly abused substance now (with the exception of alcohol). This didn't

When I was a child, all my friends had Barbie dolls. We saw her on TV and had to have one - some girls had a dozen. We were obsessed. Fortunately, most of us outgrew our "Barbie brain" and didn't need rehab. No one had to come up with a vaccine to make us not want Barbie. Barbie apparently is non-addictive long term. But today, in contrast, television ads are leading children to major drug addiction, not Barbie dolls.

Most people understand that there are times when the proper medication is life saving and necessary. Some ailments such as diabetes require long-term maintenance, but not everything can be treated with a pill.

Let's get wise. There is no pill to bring the dead back to life or to cure young people who have become addicted.

#### Grateful for farmers market

Finally, we have the farmers market people have been asking for. I went to the opening and have only one complaint. Well, maybe one "suggestion."

Move the booths on the parking lot side back against the curb. They were very crowded and it made it hard to walk through. That extra couple of feet would make a big difference.

I hope this market continues and I hope they will add some craft booths.

— Doris Hannon,

#### The criminalization of salvia

A bill has been introduced by Assemblyman Anthony Adams of Hesperia that would criminalize the sale or distribution of the currently legal hallucinogens "salvia divinorum" to persons under the age of 18.

This is just more evidence of the failure of America's war on drugs, as well as its war on youth. The war on drugs is useless and counterproductive, costing governments billions of dollars to wage, and increasing crime rates to an appallingly high level. Expanding it further will simply increase crime and revenues for drug lords, as well as costs for governments, resulting in the loss of funds that could have been used more effectively elsewhere.

Furthermore, the supposedly harmful effects of salvia are far from proven. Contrary to the hyperbolic ranting of policy makers such as Adams and pundits such as Howard Samuels of the Wonderland Center (a substance abuse treatment facility in Los Angeles), there are no studies that have shown that salvia causes long-term or even especially persistent neurological damage. It is generally not regarded to be addictive or toxic. Medical facilities and experts have not been raising concerns about salvia, nor have the police expressed any major objections to its legal status. And yet, politicians and pundits who want to pander to their constituencies and toss them a bone have conducted a merry little dog and pony show to make people think that they are "tough on crime" and fully willing to "protect the children." The ratings-hungry media has recklessly exaggerated the supposedly harmful effects of salvia, and blown the entire situation out of proportion by calling much attention to Brett Chidester, a young man who committed suicide, and also happened to be using salvia. Needless to say, many of the "news reports" on salvia have a bit of an "editorial slant" with the media's bias against the legal status of salvia disgustingly clear in some cases. Experts have condemned this frenzy by opponents of salvia.

As a matter of fact, the limited research that has been done on salvia has overwhelmingly shown it to have beneficial and therapeutic effects.

The criminalization of salvia will cause nothing but problems, and it is the moral obligation of patriotic Americans who support the principles of freedom and liberty, as well as have a pragmatic position as to the effects of the war on drugs, to stand up and declare that they will not idly stand by as liberty and common sense are assaulted.

—Julian E. Gutierrez, **Downey** 

The Downey Patriot



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#### Letters to the Editor:

#### Joke gone awry

Dear Editor:

My story which you published on Page 12 of the Patriot of April 25th was an April Fools joke your way ("Wiley-Burke: A Brief History of the War Hero and British Patriot," 4/25/08). The street called Wiley-Burke is named for two pioneer ranchers Wiley and Burke.

I didn't make the "deception" clear when I submitted the piece and I extend my deepest apologies to you, to the Wiley and Burke families and to anyone who was taken in by my fictional story.

- John Vincent,

President, Downey Historical Society

#### Action people

Dear Editor:

We are all upset at the high cost of petroleum fuels. There are vehicles on the road now that are flex fuel capable. What that means is that they can run on unleaded gas or E85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent unleaded gas).

Ethanol is made from fermentation of plant sugars. The current most popular way to make ethanol is from corn. One of the problems with corn is that it is one of the least efficient ways to make ethanol. One of the major reasons for not making ethanol more efficiently is political.

If you or your readers are interested and do not know if their vehicle is flex fuel capable, there is a Web site that will give you details, www.e85fuel.com. If you or your readers find that their vehicles are flex fuel capable, or are interested in more information regarding E85, I would like an e-mail. My e-mail address is flexfuelcargroup@live.com.

I hope this letter will turn upset people into action people.

— Mark Niehaus,

Downey

#### A note of appreciation

Dear Editor:

A note of thanks to the *Patriot* for placing the public service announcement in your paper for our weekly meeting of the OWLS at Rancho Los

The OWLS is an ongoing group of older individuals that have been meeting here for over 25 years for educational and social purposes, as well as acting as a consumer advisory board and mentors to first-year medical students at USC.

Through your announcement, we were able to gain three new members who, while enriching our group, will greatly be enriched in turn.

We always appreciate your assistance and valuable community serv-

—Jan Brady, M.A., MFT,

Program Manager, Gerontology Program, Los Amigos Research and **Education Institute** 

#### A bargain for Downey

Now that the citizens of Downey know what the City Council members are "paid," what would Mr. Whittington like us to do about it? ("Council Pay," 4/25/08) What was his point? To inform us that the City Council is "underpaid" for their services to this community? That the monies they receive cannot even make up for the hours of personal time they give to the citizens of Downey?

I imagine our mayor, David Gafin, works hard at balancing his business life and personal life while doing his civic duty as our mayor. All for \$1,016.88 a month? Oh, I forgot about the mileage and snacks! What a bargain for the citizens of Downey!

I applaud anyone who has the passion and sense of duty to want to be member of any city's council. I may not agree with everyone who sits on the council, it's never a perfect system, but it's the only one we have. Until it changes, I want to thank you, City Council members, for giving so much of your time in making Downey a better community. Your time and efforts

Now will you do something about completing demolition of Johnie's Broiler? Now there's my real concern!

Alexa Davis,

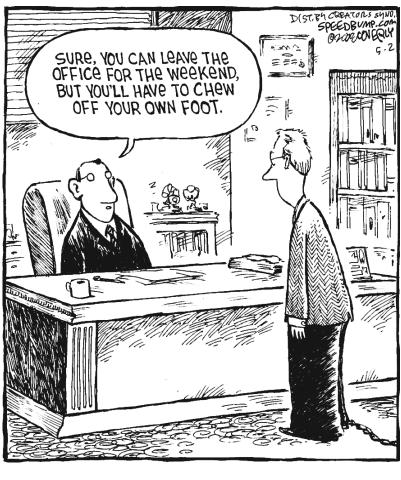
Downey

Dear Editor:

I would like to have the number for the city's caterer. \$125 for a catered dinner - including "snacks and drinks" - that feeds five council members, plus additional city staff, sounds like a bargain to me.

Matilda Vance,

Downey



#### Prepared for budget cuts

Dear Editor:

The Downey Patriot article entitled, "Budget Cuts: DUSD Considering Sweeping Cuts in Response to State Budget Crisis," of April 4 was perhaps meant to shock our community and its citizens. Such as in the story of "Chicken Little, the Sky is Falling," readers must realize that beneath the eminent fear of the world's end, there may be more to this story than meets the eye. A calmer look at our district's budget is needed.

The California School Employees Association (CSEA), which represents classified school employees in the district, requested and received the district's budget prior to negotiations the summer of 2007. The result of our analysis shows the following items:

- 1. Enrollment at Downey Unified School District has been steadily increasing every year since the early 1990s. Last year it declined by 1.4 percent to 21,507. This was the first decrease in more than a decade. The outlook for the next few years is for modest declines in ADA forecast to slip to 21,165 in 2009-10.
- 2. The adjusted net beginning balance was \$43.5 million at the start of this year (2007-08), which is more than adequate for a district with a total budget the size of Downey Unified.
- 3. Downey spent \$8.1 million for books and supplies in 2006-07. On a cost per student/ADA basis, this is the most the district has expended for at least the last 10 years. However, this was \$387 per student/ADA, which was below the state norm of \$429. In fact, every year since 1996-97, the district has spent below the average for a unified district on a cost per student/ADA basis.
- 4. Last year, total revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$10 million, resulting in another significant increase in the ending balance.
- 5. The ending balance increased by 27.4 percent to finish at \$43.5 million on June 30, 2007. This was the fourth year in a row that the balance has increased. The balance was 26.4 percent of the total expenditures which is more than double the norm for a unified school district.
- 6. The reserve standard percentage level for Downey Unified is 3 percent, which calculates to \$5.3 million. The district has met its reserve standard and has included it in the \$22.9 million, which is a designated component of the ending balance.
- 7. Just one look at the very large balance of \$43.6 million at the start of 2007-08 tells us that the financial condition of Downey Unified is excellent and it has been for a long time. The net beginning balance was \$20.3 million on July 1, 2001. Downey Unified has had four years with a surplus totaling \$25 million and one deficit spending year of \$3.7 million. The net result is a balance of \$43.5 million to start the current year. 8. Downey is fortunate to have one of the largest balances in the state
- as compared to their total spending! In view of the above, thanks to the conservative nature of its administrators and its school board members, the district, unlike Chicken Little, is more prepared than most districts in California to face Gov. Schwarzenegger's budget cuts.

— Arthur L. Bennett,

**CSEA Chapter 248 President** 

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

### Businesses getting serious about energy efficiency

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

he sense one got at Tuesday's well-attended third annual Energy Efficiency Expo sponsored by Downey-based Southern California Gas Company, or The Gas Company, for short, is that more and more businesses are getting serious about achieving energy efficiency in their operations and helping protect the environment in the process.

Touting itself as "the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility" and by any measure a major player in the vast energy industry, officials of The Gas Company made it clear in no uncertain terms that the company intended to intensify its role as a leader in promoting energy efficiency, even as it unrolled its program of rebates, incentives and services which companies can avail of not only to augment their bottom line but also help halt global warming.

"We have \$18 million to give away this year to business customers who are able to use energy more efficiently," said Debra Reed, The Gas Company president and chief executive officer, as she stressed the need to "save money and save the environment." She noted meanwhile that new technologies in energy conservation have been developed over the years that have more or less kept pace with progress.

In describing some of the company's various energy efficiency incentive programs, The Gas Company vice president Hal Snyder said its Express Efficiency rebate program offers up to \$200,000 per customer per year if a company were to replace a variety of equipment ("Over 400 pieces of equipment qualify for this program") with "energy-efficient models" such as boilers, commercial water heaters, pipe insulation wrap and others. The Commercial Food Service Equipment Replacement Program, for another, he pointed out, offers up to \$25,000 per customer per year for replacing existing ovens, fryers, griddles and other cooking equipment with energy-efficient models. The company has also expanded its Business Energy Efficiency Program, he said, offering up to \$1.2 million per customer per year for improving business processes and replacing equipment not covered in the company's rebate programs.

In sum, Snyder said, the three things to remember about the company's energy efficiency programs are: 1) Rebates—for replacing existing uneconomical equipment with more energy-efficient ones, 2) Incentives-for replacing inefficient equipment or improving business processes (incentive amount is based on energy savings and project cost) and 3) Services— "There is help before, during, and after the project." All are designed to save money and save the environment.

The keynote speaker, California Public Utilities Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon, affirmed that "energy efficiency is the state's number one priority." He spoke about the cessation of construction of power plants ("a major source of pollution") in the state, of the need for continued reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, while taking comfort in the leveling off of the use of electricity state-wide, while urging businesses to take advantage of the various energy-saving funding options and services available to them.

There were five simultaneous breakout sessions, the first "An Economic Forecast for the Greater Los Angeles Area" by guest speaker Jack Kyser, of the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation; a second one, "An Update on AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006" by the California Air Resources Board's Richard Varenchik; a third one on "Plant Efficiency: An overview of bioenergy and other new technologies" by the California Energy Commission's Dr. Valentino Tiangco; a fourth on "Energy Efficiency in the Food Service Industry"; and a fifth one on "Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector: A case study of the Newport Mesa Unified School District."

This brief rundown on the talks and events that transpired at The Gas Company's Firestone Boulevard facility Tuesday is but an introduction to the larger context of saving our planet by an all-out attempt at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We hope to restart a dialogue on this vital subject on these pages.

## Page 6 Friday, May 2, 2008 Comics/Crossword \_\_\_\_\_\_ The Downey Patriot

### SPEED BUMP

### DAVE COVERLY

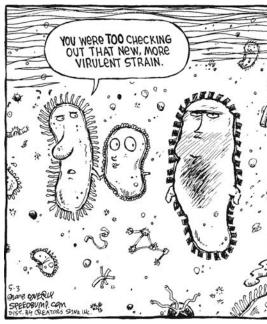












May 2, 1519: Leonardo da Vinci, creator of "The Last Supper" and the "Mona Lisa," dies.

**1863:** Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is accidentally wounded by his own military unit. The wound proved fatal, as Jackson died eight days later.

**1972:** Wrestler and actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is born.

**1972:** J. Edgar Hoover, who served as head of the FBI for 48 years, dies at age 77.

1997: Tony Blair becomes the British prime minister. At age 44, he is the country's youngest prime minister in 185 years.

### **Downey Community Calendar**

#### **Events For May**

Sat. May 3: **Downey Street Faire**, Brookshire Avenue, 9 a.m. Tues. May 6: "Tip a Cop" fundraiser, Elephant Bar, 5 p.m.

Thurs. May 8: Women's Club of Downey mixer, Women's Club of Downey, 5:30 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 & 4 th 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

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.

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.

4rth Weds., 12:00 noon: Retired Federal Employees, at Furman Park West Bldg., call 943-5513. Wed.& Fri., 10:15 a.m.: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### **Thursdays**

7:30 a.m.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.

7:30 a.m.: Connections Networking, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.

**12 p.m.: Kiwanis Club of Downey,** at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.

12 p.m.: Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee, for information call 928-4153.

12 p.m.: Optimist Club of Downey, at Sambi's, for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.

4/27/08

22

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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.

7:30 a.m.: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

#### **Sundays**

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

#### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com) **FULL MOONS: With a variety of fillings** by Fred Piscop

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Playbill listing Go and go fish
- 10 Oodles African snake Limburger
- emanation '08 debate regular
- 21 Poor dog's portion 22 Deck out
- Conscientious one's
- Up to speed, with "in" Come before
- Big-top performer Scouts' finds **Tennis star Williams**
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"Far out!" Keep from escaping Big name in

Sundance Kid's

**British comedy** Hardwood tree 52 Black, to bards Jazz singer Anita

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Amos of song

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- 120 Mineral in spinach 121 Ready to 126 Across 122 Barely defeat 123 Cartridge filler
- 124 "Rats!" 125 Winter rides 126 Take a siesta
- DOWN Freebie tix Be gaga over More steamed
- Try to locate French cleric Content starter

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Caterer's fu

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New Haven

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104 Spud

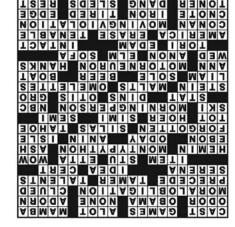
- Barbera's cartoon
- 106 Clunky shoes 107 Basic principle 108 S&L depositor
- 110 In the thick of 112 Some NCOs 113 Up to no good 114 Hammered on

109 Like early LPs

a slant mouse?' '. . . man 118 Infuriation

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.

> hour in 1934. the Earth's surface: 231 miles per the highest wind ever recorded on INGTON (16 Down) is the site of -HSAW TNUOM s'srinkgmaH CONAN Doyle (115 Across). New Holmes was Arthur Ignatius name of the creator of Sherlock "dough," as in "money." The full because it was Pig Latin for surname to O'DAY (53 Across) Singer Anita Colton changed her



The Downey Patriot \_\_\_\_\_\_ Page 7 Friday, May 2, 2008

# National Volunteer Appreciation Week

## April 27 through May 3, 2008

Downey Regional Medical Center is honored to recognize our amazing and dedicated volunteers. They have made a commitment to serve and are helping create a healthier community.

Auxiliary Members Serving Between March, 2007 and April, 2008:

Downey Regional Medical Center celebrated 50 years of continuous service to the hospital on Thursday, April 3. We congratulate each member

of the Auxiliary on this important milestone!



The Auxiliary of the 1950s was comprised entirely of women living in Downey. Pictured at left are Mrs. C.W. Roberts and Mrs. Norbert.



Today's Auxiliary is comprised of men and women from throughout Southeast Los Angeles County.

Mario Acevedo
Melissa Ackerson
Lucy Aguero
Floralie Anthony
Victor Atallah
Nancy Bazz
Diana Biggs
Rita Breen
Louise Briggs
Wilma Brouwer
Jean Brown
Mabel Brown
Madeline Buckley
Robert Buckley
Betty Carlson

Marion Clauson

Judith Commodore
Beth Corrin
Mary Lou Danielsen
Mary Dawson
Ellia Deblois
Jorge Del Toro
Patricia Delgado
Creszentia Devereux
Josephine DiMatteo
Robert Erickson
Alma Ezell
Bette Fager
Joyce Farley
Linda Forrester
Jean Forsse

Kimberly Fox

Conchita Garcia Wilma Garcia Margaret Garde **Janet Giertz Nellie Giron** Nann Goldstein Rosa Gomez Claudia Graham June Greene Helen Gregorio Sylvia Hall Mary Hammerle Helen Hampton Lou Hanna **Dorothy Harris** Shirley Hersh

**Helen Higgins** Josephine Hudson Ann Hutchinson **Nellie Jacob** Monira Karim Terry Knoth Pat Landin Marion Leger Joan Lingrey Gayle Marquez Gus Mazloumi Gloria Mazzara Marion Mongan Yvonne Navar Vada Nelson Jeanne Ohlemacher

Joanna Orsel
Christina Pappas
Howard Park
Loveta Park
Monica Pasquel
Lenore Pohl
Eleda Powell
Millie Powell
Fran Reveley
Barbara Roberts
Pat Romero
Rose Romero
Lois Rossi
Monier Said
Dolores Santolla

Minnie Sarmiento

Shirley Sheibe Mildred Sherreitt Jean Smith Jean D. Smith Rosalie Smith **Shirley Smith** Jilma Steck Yvonne Swain Pamela Tapia **George Toerge Donald Vale** Becki Verdi Alicia Vukovich **Robert Wartenbe Joyce Watson** Lois Wilson

Vicky Winter Wini Yurechko Winnie Zello Jackie Zinnen Florence Zywocienski

In Memorium:
Barbara Bradshaw
Mildred Beckner
Ann Reagen
Rosemary Newkirk
Roberta O'Dell
Marge Risher
Julia Jensen
Mildred Kerr

Genevieve Romine

#### Volunteer Corps Members Serving Between March, 2007 and April, 2008:

**Daniel Aguilar** Cynthia Alday Diana Alonso Elizabeth Alvarado Dora Alvarez Alvira Anderson Christina Arsenescu Jonathan Assas Andrew Atangan Percy Avalos Bianca Avina **Kourtney Barrientos** Serena Bartels Hannah Bashir **Demian Becerra** Iliana Becerra Juan Benavides Yvette Bendezu Michelle Bertinelli Natalie Bertinelli Deyana Beshir Rebecca Betancourt Tara Blakeslee Hanley Bologa Carissa Burch Aisha Butt **Umeamara Butt** Jeffrey Capps Julie Castillo Mohammed Chehata Sung Cho

Jennifer Choi

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## Page 8 Friday, May 2, 2008 Dining/Entertainment\_\_\_\_The Downey Patriot

## Broadway favorite revived by DCLO

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Civic Light Opera will present "one of Broadway's most brilliantly conceived" musical comedies, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at the Downey Theatre later

"Forum" received the Tony Award for Best Musical in 1963. The book is by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart with music by Stephen Sondheim.

"The creative team wove an ingenious new plot with hilarious subplots and hysterical complications," said Marsha Moode, who will produce and

Musical direction will be by Eddy Clement and choreography by Miriam Nelson.

"Forum" will open May 29 and play through June 15. Seats are available for all performances and group rates are available. Call (562) 923-





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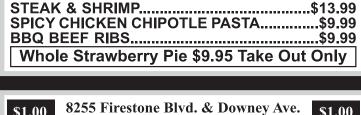
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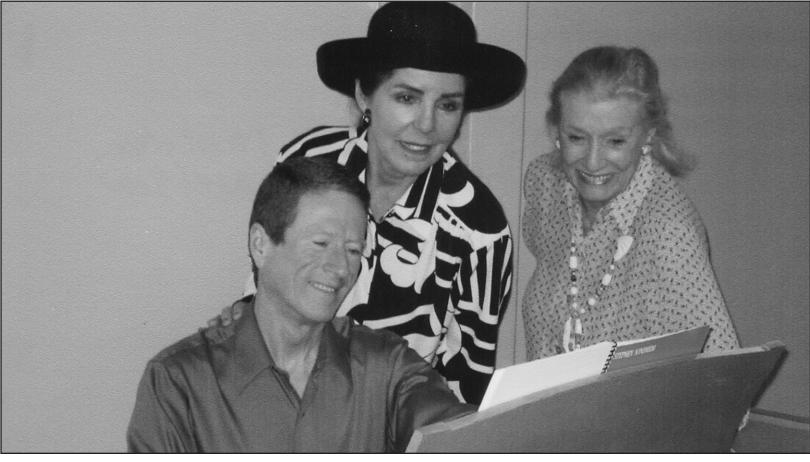
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w/soup or salad and Dessert Fish & Chips

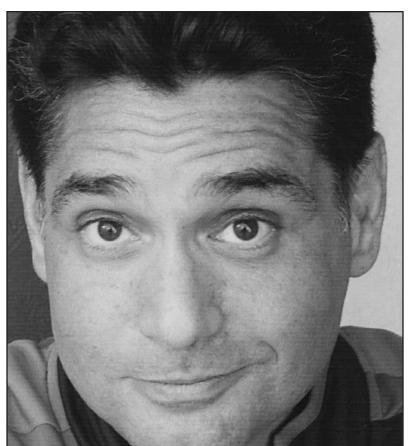
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Eddy Clement, Marsha Moode and Miriam Nelson are again working together, this time on "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," which opens May 29 at the Downey Theatre. For tickets, call (562) 923-1714 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 1 and 5 p.m.



Nick Santa Maria returns to the Downey Civic Light Opera to star as Pseudulus in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," which opens May 29 at the Downey Theatre. Santa Maria previously

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MADE OF HONOR PG-13 (11:35, 2:15,

HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY ® (11:15, 12:00, 2:35,

BABY MAMA PG-13 (11:25, 2:00, 4:35), 7:15

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL R

Times for Friday-Thursday, May 2-8, 2008

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM PG-13

4:40), 7:25, 10:05 **DECEPTION ®** (11:20, 4:50), 10:25

(11:10, 2:05, 4:55), 7:40, 10:35 **PROM NIGHT** PG-13 (2:40), 7:45

NIM'S ISLAND PG (1:50, 4:30)

appeared as Nathen Detroit in "Guys and Dolls" last season, and has appeared on Broadway in "The Producers" and "Grease," in addition to film and television.

Bianchi 7770 Rosecrans Ave. @ Paramount Blvd.

Phone: (562) 630-SHOW (7469) IRON MAN PG13 (10:10 1:10 4:10) 7:10 10:1 (11:10 2:10) 5:10 8:1 (11:45 2:20 4:55) 7:30 10:05 (10:25 12:55 3:25) 5:55 8:25 10:50 (11:00 1:45 4:30) 7:15 10:00 (11:45 2:20 4:55) 7:30 10:05 (10:45 1:25 4:05) 6:45 9:2 (11:10 2:10) 5:10 8:10 (11:00 1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40 FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL R

IRON MAN PG13 MADE OF HONOR PG13 BABY MAMA PG13 DECEPTION R HAROLD & KUMAR 2 R FORBIDDEN KINGDOM PG13 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM PG13 STREET KINGS R (11:35 2:20) 5:10 7:50 10:35 PROM NIGHT PG13

### Film student wins big at media competition

■ Short film wins top prize at statewide media competition.

NORWALK – Cerritos College film student John Cha was honored with the highly-coveted Media Arts Merit Award on April 17 at the annual statewide Media Arts Competition, the school announced this week.

Cha's short film, "Neverending," was selected from a field of 52 entries by a faculty screening committee and an industry panel of judges. He will be receiving the Final Cut Studio 2 suite from Apple Computers as his prize.

The annual competition is conducted by the Multimedia & Entertainment Initiative (MEI) of the Economic and Workforce Development Program of the California Community Colleges. The entries for the competition come from community colleges all across California.

"I never thought I would win something like this," said Cha. "I was extremely shocked to be even

considered for the competition. It was an honor to win the Merit Award."

Born in Los Angeles, Cha grew up in Cerritos most of his life. The returning sophomore was always interested in film since he was a

"My mom would drop me and my brother at a movie theater and we would spend the whole day there," recalled Cha. "I was always amazed at the different worlds I was taken into."

Cha shot "Neverending" in the course of one weekend - a very stressful weekend according to him. Fueled by Red Bull and a mere two hours of sleep, Cha learned the hard way the process of filmmaking.

Cha's instructor, Steven Hirohama, served as the chair of the film/video competition.

"I wasn't involved in selecting or voting for any of the films, but I knew from having screened all of the submitted entries that John's film would do well," Hirohama.

"He took a rather complex, well-written story and executed it extremely well. John re-edited his film at least three times having consulted with me at each of those stages."

Hirohama also encouraged Cha and gave him advice and support throughout the process.

"Professor Hirohama even encouraged me to enter into competitions," said Cha. "It was truly rewarding to have a professor who took extra time to push me forward."

On the Web: http://cerritosfilm.org



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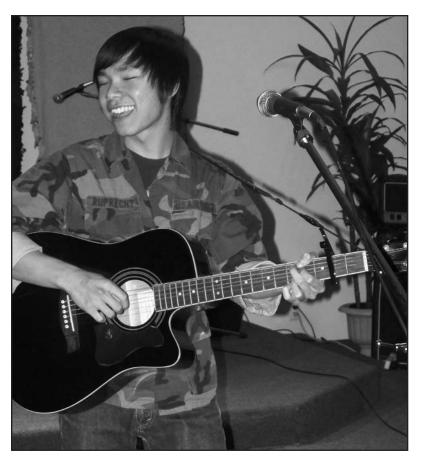
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The Downey Patriot \_\_\_\_\_\_ Page 9 Friday, May 2, 2008

## Local bands ROCK OUT at Trinity





A.C. Slamet (left picture), who describes his music as acoustic alternative rock, played a mixture of originals and covers, including "Anyone Else But You" from the motion picture "Juno." Mike Tang (right picture), guitarist for The Envelope, allowed fans to sing along by turning his mic to the audience during one of the band's songs. Both performers played at a concert at Trinity Baptist Church on April 19. *Photos by Brooke Karli* 

#### By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

he evening began with the sound of an acoustic guitar and a welcoming voice. A.C. Slamet of San Gabriel opened the concert at Trinity Baptist Church on April 19 with a combination of original songs and covers, all to the tune of acoustic rock. The highlight of his performance, in my opinion, was when he asked his girlfriend to join him onstage and together they sang "Anyone Else But You" from the motion picture "Juno."

Slamet's performance was complemented by an open guitar case in front of him, vulnerable to donations and offering free CDs to the audience. Slamet's self-titled album, released late last year, was solely produced by him and all the instruments played on the album are played by him as well. Slamet has been doing music since he was eight years old and said he tries to incorporate different genres of music into his songs.

"I try to write and record what will sell," said 20-year-old Slamet. "I always do a mix of originals and covers because people tend to like what they're used to, but also want to hear new music at the same time."

Slamet currently performs every second or third Friday of each month at Sierra Cup in Monrovia and is in the process of recording another album. (www.myspace.com/acslamet)

Sans Eyes, a Downey-based hard rock band, took to the stage next, transforming the mood of the evening. The band, made up of Robert Alarcon (20, vocals); Fernando Sanchez (18, drums); Eric Ridley (20, bass); and Jesse Montoya (20, guitar), have gone through the Downey Unified School District together, attending Alameda Elementary School, South (now Sussman) Middle School, and Downey High School.

The band formed in 2006 and writes their music collectively as a band. Although they have only played a few shows throughout Southern California, they hope to make music their careers, allowing them to play all over the world.

During the concert, Sans Eyes got the crowd to participate, waving their arms in the air and jumping up and down. The band was entertaining as a whole and had great stage presence, as well as chemistry with one another. They faced some difficulties with the sound system, but were able to work through them and sound as smooth as ever.

Upcoming performances include a show at Downey High School and a possible concert in Durango, Mexico. (www.myspace.com/sanseyes)

Up next was Hyperbola, a hard rock "hair" band that had hints of pop in their music. From what I could decipher, they only played covers, putting their own "twist" to songs originally done by other bands. Many in the audience appeared to lose interest in this particular band because of their lack of originality and fluidity. Their transitions seemed awkward at times and they failed to connect with the audience on more levels than one.

They sounded like a typical, mediocre garage band that anyone could

The band was unavailable for an interview after the show. (www.myspace.com/dirty562)

Promise of Restoration was able to regain the audience's interest and put on quite a show during their set. Although their lyrics were hard to understand, as they were being screamed into the microphone, it was an overall great performance.

The band, consisting of Hector "Bean" Becerra (18, lead vocals); Tim Sarell (17, guitar and vocals); Jordan Gibson (17, guitar); Omar Aviles (17, bass); and Steven Sowell (17, drums), plays original hardcore Christian music. They have been together for more than a year and the concert at Trinity was their second show since forming.

Their goal, said Sarell, is to not only reach out to the hardcore scene, but also to kids who don't know God.

"For most of us, this isn't what we want to do with the rest of our lives," he said. "It's just a good way to spread God's love and restore hope in people."

That night's set opened with a pre-recorded introduction that had the room pitch black until they began playing live. They worked very well together and had the audience enthralled with every lyric and movement.

Promise of Restoration currently does not have any upcoming shows planned, but hope to book a few in the near future. (www.myspace.com/porcali)

The night concluded with headlining band The Envelope – and it's understandable as to why *they* were the headliners.

The rock band made up of Michelle Tang (24, lead vocals); Mike Tang (22, guitar and vocals); Matt Leal (23, guitar); Coy Sarell (22, bass); and Paul Perrin (21, drums), literally stole the show in all aspects. Their set was entertaining and original, their transitions between songs were smooth, and their onstage presence, as well as their ability to connect with the audience, was strong. They too opened with a pre-recorded introduction that in turn led to one of the best opening songs ever played – at least at a church show, that is. And with every song, the crowd sang along, waving their arms in the air and clapping to the beat.

In addition, they were the only band that was asked for an encore and the only band that sold merchandise.

The Los Angeles band has been together for more than two-and-a-half years but just began performing shows in recent weeks. They have an upcoming show at the Anarchy Library in Downey on May 16 at 11 p.m. (www.myspace.com/theenvelopemusic)

Although the sound system wasn't the best in town, the concert as a whole made for a Saturday evening well-spent. And considering it only cost \$3 a head, who could go wrong?

For more information on Trinity Baptist Church and their upcoming activities, visit www.myspace.com/trinitybaptistyouth.



The Envelope was the headlining band for the concert held at Trinity Baptist Church, also being the only band asked to perform an encore. Pictured above is lead singer Michelle Tang. *Photo by Brooke Karli* 

#### Football registration at Street Faire

**DOWNEY** – Downey Youth Football will hold registration for the upcoming season at tomorrow's Downey Street Faire.

Sponsored by the Downey Chamber of Commerce, the Downey Street Faire will take place from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Brookshire Avenue between Firestone Boulevard and Civic Center Drive.

Cost to register is \$185 (tackle football), \$130 (flag football) or \$100 (cheerleaders). The first day of practice is July 28, and the first game is Sept. 6. No try-outs are held and everybody plays.

Teams represent Downey against other cities throughout Southern California with a chance to qualify for the post-season and play teams from other states. Cheerleaders compete in a local cheerleader competitions against other cities with a chance to qualify for a national competition in Las Vegas.

For more information, or if you are interested in being a head coach at the flag football level or an assistant coach at all levels, call Louis Morales, president, at (562) 928-6081.

#### Kids Day scheduled for May 10

**DOWNEY** – Kids Day will take place May 10 at Furman Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's theme is "A Celebration of Healthy Youth in a Caring Community."

Produced by the city of Downey Community Services Department, Kids Day will include health and youth sports vendors, live entertainment, carnival games and a giant slide for kids.

There will also be displays and live demonstrations by the police and fire departments, and the Public Works Department.

The event is made possible by financial donations from residents, community-based businesses and service clubs. If you would like to make a donation, call the Community Services Department at (562) 904-7238.





Page 10 Friday, May 2, 2008 \_\_\_\_\_ The Downey Patriot

# A tool in the ongoing fight against autism

By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – Currently, one in every 150 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism each year, an astounding rate that beats the amount of American children diagnosed with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.

Downey's Autism Society of America (ASA) chapter – the Greater Long Beach/San Gabriel Valley Chapter – is working hard to spread awareness to those unfamiliar with autism, and provide support and resources to those living with an autistic individual.

According to Leora Leon, chairperson of autism awareness for the Greater Long Beach/San Gabriel Valley Chapter and mother of a 13-year-old autistic son, said more than 2.500 students in Downey Unified School District (DUSD) have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP), which is provided to students with developmental and neurological disabilities such as autism, Down Syndrome and Tourette Syndrome.

The amount of children diagnosed with autism has increased rapidly in the U.S. the past 10 years, Leon said. When her son, Brandon, was diagnosed in 1997 at the age of two, one in every 500 children were being diagnosed. As mentioned earlier, the current rate is one in every 150.

Autism, as defined by the ASA, is a "complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others." Autism is a "spectrum disorder," meaning the symptoms and characteristics can present themselves in a wide variety of combinations from mild to severe. Although often defined by a certain set of behaviors, children and adults with autism can exhibit any combination of behaviors in any degree of severity. Certain symptoms may change or even disappear over the course of an autistic person's life as

Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls, and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries. Incomes, lifestyle, or educational level do not affect the chance of occurrence. Autism is not a mental illness because there are no known factors in the psychological environment of a child that have been shown to cause autism. However, autism is the third most common developmental

disability

The ASA states on their Web site, www.autism-society.org, that there is no known cause for autism, but that research indicates it's caused by abnormalities in brain structure or function. Researchers are also investigating a number of theories, including the link between heredity, genetics and medical problems; problems during pregnancy and/or delivery; and environmental factors such as viral infections, metabolic imbalances, and exposure to environmental chemicals.

"Our planet and bodies are filled with nothing but chemicals," said Leon, a Downey resident since 1992. "Our planet is toxic and we're cooking ourselves and our environment."

As stated above, symptoms of autism can vary in combinations of behaviors, as well as degree of severity. The Greater Long Beach/San Gabriel Valley Chapter Web site, www.greaterlongbeachasa.org, lists the following as symptoms of autism:

• Communication – Language develops slowly or not at all; uses words without attaching the usual meaning to them; uses gestures instead of words; and short attention span.

• Social Interaction — Individual may spend time alone rather than with others; shows little interest in making friends; and less responsive to social cues such as eye contact or smiles.

• Sensory Impairment — Unusual reactions to physical sensations such as being overly sensitive to touch or under-responsive to pain. Sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste may be affected to a lesser or greater degree.

• Play – Lack of spontaneous or imaginative play; does not imitate other's actions; and doesn't initiate pretend games.

• **Behaviors** – May be overactive or very passive; throws frequent tantrums for no apparent reason; perseverates (shows an obsessive interest in a single item, idea, or person); apparent lack of common sense; may show aggressive or violent behavior or injure self; and often has difficulty with changes in routine.

The Web site also explains that there are four autism-related disorders grouped under the heading "Pervasive Developmental Disorder": Autism, PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified), Asperger's Syndrome

and Rhett's Syndrome.

Since autism was first described in 1943, there has been no medical cure found. With appropriate intervention, certain symptoms may dramatically decrease or disappear altogether as the child ages. Most children and adults, however, will continue to exhibit some symptoms of autism to some degree throughout their entire lives.

As far as treatments are concerned, experience proves that early intervention and a highly structured education program are essential for the future development of the child. Different therapies in an educational program may include speech and language, behavioral modification, social skill development, sensory integration, vision therapy, music therapy, auditory training, medications, and dietary interventions. In order to be effective, any approach should be flexible in nature, rely on positive reinforcement, be re-evaluated on a regular basis, and provide a smooth transition from home to school to community environments.

The Greater Long Beach/San Gabriel Valley Chapter offers numerous support groups to help individuals, as well as their families, cope with autism.

The Chapter is also currently working on establishing a "Return Home Registry" with the Downey Police Department, similar to that of Irvine Police Department. In short, the Registry is an innovative program designed to assist officers in locating lost or wandering persons when they go missing from their home or caregivers. Persons who suffer from health conditions such as Alzheimer's, autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, or other debilitating illnesses, would be eligible to register for the program.

Although the ASA offers an abundant amount of resources and services to those with autism, the most important thing to remember is that those with autism are still people.

"This population of children, adolescents and adults all are human beings that have feelings," Leon said. "They love, they laugh, they cry and feel sad. They are just like typical people, most without the ability to communicate, socialize or act in a way that typical people think of as normal.

"They are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. And they are loved very much by someone."



Seen at the 2008 Amistad Awards were (from left) Co-Chair Debbie Tomlinson, Rancho CEO Jorge Orozco, Honoree Tom Hale, honoree Diana L. Bonta, RN, DrPH, honoree Jan Furumasu, PT, APT, Rancho Los Amigos President Gene Klow, and Amistad master of ceremonies Supervisor Don Knabe. *Photo by Greg Waskul* 

## Amistad Gala raises record \$161K for Rancho hospital

**DOWNEY** – A record \$161,000 (after expenses) was raised last month at the 22nd Annual Ranchos Los Amigos Foundation Amistad Gala.

The event, benefiting Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, was held April 5 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel. Its theme this year was "Celebrating 120 Years of Rancho's Excellence."

Four people were honored with Amistad Awards this year. The awards, along with a brief biography provided by Rancho, appears

#### Downey Resident Tom Hale -Amistad Individual Achievement Award

Hale has become an indispensable part of the Rancho treatment team because of his unique and highly valued ability to design and build customized devices to fit the very special needs of the hospital's patients. He has created thousands of devices for patients that fit their highly-specialized needs. These devices range from specialized wheelchair control pieces to accessible easels for artists with disabilities, to customized chairs, all created in Hale's workshop in the basement of Rancho's Jacquelin Perry Institute. Without Hale's generosity and genius, these many

devices would not be possible, and several generations of Rancho patients would have found far less ability in their disabilities.

#### Renowned Physical Therapist Jan Furumasu, PT, ATP -Amistad Lifetime Achievement Award

Furumasu has provided several generations of patients during her 29 years at Rancho with the best possible seating options for their wheelchairs as well as being an invaluable resource on physical therapy, mobility and seating issues for the entire Rancho staff.

Furumasu is best known for her work in Pediatric Mobility. In March, she presented a paper titled "Impact of Early Powered Mobility on Young Children's Play and Psychosocial Skills" at the International Seating Symposium in Vancouver, Canada. This is one of dozens of papers she has presented at professional conferences in the U.S. and around the world. She also has authored nearly 20 publications, mostly on powered mobility for children.

#### Kaiser Permanente - Amistad Community Service Award

Kaiser Permanente has been a loyal supporter of Rancho and the Amistad Gala, which is part of the company's core value of improving the health of communities it serves.

The leadership and vision of Kaiser's Diana Bonta, RN, DrPH have helped improve the health of millions of Californians.

#### Lisa Hilborn, MA, CAPE -Amistad Friend Award

Lisa Hilborn, the director and head coach of Rancho's Wheelchair Sports Department, is one of the nation's most respected wheelchair sports leaders. Since she came to Rancho in 1990, she has built a nationally renowned program where her Junior team has been to the Nationals for 15 consecutive years. More importantly, she set high standards for her athletes: to play on the Rancho Wheelchair Sports team, one must be in school and maintain a "B" average or hold a job. In addition, Hilborn demands outstanding conduct both on and off the court from her athletes. These high expectations have resulted in incredible success for her young athletes, many of whom have become scholars as well.

The Wheelchair Sports program has been funded from the beginning by the ladies of Las Floristas. With the help of scholarships from Las Floristas, 15 of Hilborn's athletes have earned college degrees, and several have earned advanced degrees.



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The Downey Patriot \_\_\_\_\_ Page 11 Friday, May 2, 2008

## Downey High School student named winner of art competition

## Alex Hernandez wins trip for two to Washington, D.C.

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School sophomore Alex Hernandez took first place in this year's 34th Congressional District Student Art Competition.

The announcement was made last week by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34).

Hernandez's yarn and wax piece, titled "My Ride," will be exhibited at the U.S. Capitol for one year. He will receive a fourday trip for two to Washington, D.C. for the June 25th national exhibit opening and \$500 spending money. Hernandez also won a \$1,000 scholarship, a \$200 gift certificate for art supplies, and \$150 certificate.

In addition, a copy of his piece was printed on 2,000 posters representing the competition.

"I started creating art back in first grade," Hernandez said. "Art helps me express my imagination. It also helps me to relieve any kind of stress. I believe that art prevents society from becoming boring and dull."

Hernandez's teacher, Darrelle Nikaj, also received a trip to Washington, D.C. and a \$600 gift certificate for art supplies to benefit Downey High School art stu-



Alex Hernandez, center, is pictured with his winning entry. From left: Debbie Hoover of Ellis Paint Company and art competition committee chairperson; Hernandez; Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard; and Jeff Boyer, a customer service supervisor at Southwest Airlines, who presented Hernandez with complimentary airline tickets to Washington, D.C.

"Someday, I would like to become an art teacher at the high school level or teach adults and older people," Hernandez said.

Four other students also received awards. Mayfair High School junior Joanne Lee, of Bellflower, placed second with her

painting titled, "Pressure." She won a \$750 scholarship, a \$175 gift certificate for art supplies, and \$100 cash.

Bell High School senior Carolina Gomez took third place for her pastel and chalk piece, "Me, Myself and I"; Bellflower High School senior Joelene Gipson won honorable mention for a black and white photograph titled, "Chicken Feet"; and Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High School senior Pablo Hernandez also received an honorable mention for his painting titled, "Sunday on the Beach."

## Emmanuel Rojas earns himself a spot on top 20

By Brooke Karli, Staff Writer

**DOWNEY** – On the outside, Emmanuel Rojas looks like your typical 16-year-old. On this particular day, he is wearing a brown pull-over sweater, blue jeans and tennis shoes. He, like the other students in his Jazz I class, takes to his seat and fiddles with his instrument – the bass trombone. But what many don't know about Emmanuel, and the very thing that makes him an extraordinary young man, is that he was recently named a member of the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra, one of the most prestigious youth orchestras in the world.

Emmanuel, a sophomore at Warren, began playing music when he was in the fourth grade, as part of the elementary school band offered by West Middle School. Since then, Emmanuel has participated in the Jazz All-Stars for the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA), and attended the Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Jazz Camp at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) last summer.

"Going to the Big Phat Jazz Camp is what made me fall in love with jazz," Emmanuel said. "It pushed me full-force into it."

Currently, Emmanuel is part of The Hollywood Canteen Swing Band in Long Beach, and the Los Angeles Youth Jazz Ensemble, which is part of the University of Southern California's (USC) music department.

Emmanuel also receives music lessons from Andy Martin, a world-renowned trombonist whom Emmanuel met at Big Phat Jazz Camp. Martin performs weekly on "Dancing with the Stars" and is the first-call trombonist at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood.

The Next Generation Jazz Orchestra, an orchestra constructed of the top 20 high school jazz students, was Emmanuel's next undertaking. So Emmanuel auditioned for the orchestra at last year's Monterey Jazz Festival, one of numerous locations throughout the country where students may audition.

"I wanted to audition so that I might get the chance to gain more experience and travel overseas," he said.

Although Emmanuel had the option of videotaping his audition, he decided to audition live at the Monterey Conference Center. Fifteen students auditioned in Monterey alone and each student had only one chance to make a lasting impression. Right away, Emmanuel said, the judges complimented his work, saying they loved how he played the bass trombone. More importantly, Emmanuel received high recommendations during his audition, which eventually led to his acceptance.

Emmanuel was notified of his selection early last month, in which he also learned of where the orchestra would be traveling. After a weekend of preparation and rehearsals at the Berklee College of Music in Boston in early July, the orchestra will then venture to The Netherlands, where they will perform at the North Sea Festival in Rotterdam. The group will remain in Rotterdam until mid-July, after which they will return to the United States and later perform at the 51st Annual Monterey Jazz Festival Sept. 19-21.

Because the orchestra is part of a non-profit organization, Emmanuel and his family will have to pay a pretty penny for the experience. The \$1,600 each student is asked to pay, however, includes hotel accommodations in Boston and Rotterdam, most meals, ground transportation, airfare roundtrip from Boston to Amsterdam, as well as other incidentals.

After graduating from high school, Emmanuel hopes to major in jazz studies at USC. He also plans to get his master's in jazz studies from Juilliard or Eastman School of Music, and his doctorate in jazz studies from USC. Ultimately, Emmanuel said, he would someday like to take over the jazz department at Warren and teach jazz classes at USC.

David Niemeyer, Warren's band director, could not have described Emmanuel in a better way: "He is just a phenomenal kid – he is so dedicated and great at what he does."



Warren High School student Emmanuel Rojas was one of 20 students chosen nationwide to travel with the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra to Boston and The Netherlands this summer. Emmanuel, who plays the bass trombone, plans to study jazz at USC and pursue a career in music. *Photo by Brooke Karli* 

#### Daughters Day Brunch set for May 10

**DOWNEY** – The 10th Annual Daughters Day Brunch at Downey United Methodist Church will be held on May 10 at 11 a.m.

Rev. Gwen Ehrenborg will present "The Drama of God's Promises." Cost of lunch is \$5.

For more information, call (562) 861-9777.

#### 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.

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

#### 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.

## Aurora Valencia survived by family

**DOWNEY** – Aurora Valencia, born July 4, 1918 in Los Angeles, has died. She was 89.

Valencia died April 22 in Downey.

She is survived by her three children, Bob, Olivia and Pauline; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were held April 27 at Chapel of Memories Funeral Home in Norwalk. Burial services were at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.



## Annie Renshaw was hospital volunteer

**DOWNEY** – Annie Renshaw, of Downey, died April 26. She was 84.

Renshaw was born Sept. 11, 1923 in Tacoma, Wash. Her family moved to California and settled in Huntington Park. She met her future husband, Elwood, when she was 14. They both attended Huntington Park High School and graduated in the summer of 1941.



They were married Sept. 8, 1946 at St. Matthias

Catholic Church in Huntington Park. In 1950, they moved to Downey.

Annie Renshaw worked as an office manager for the Los Angeles School District for 23 years. After retirement, she volunteered at the Rio

Hondo Hospital and Downey Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband, Elwood; sons, Mike of Foresthill, Calif., Patrick of Downey, and Dan of Cle Elum, Wash.; sister, Markey Norberg; grandchildren, Christi, Brandon, David and Adam; great-grandchildren, Christopher, Bella, Mia and Rocco; and many nieces, nephews,

great-nieces and nephews, cousins and in-laws.

A memorial service was held May 1 at Calvary Chapel of Downey.

In liqu of flavors, the family requested contributions in Panshay.'

In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions in Renshaw's name to City of Hope, 1500 E. Duarte Rd., Duarte, CA, 91010, attention Central Processing.

#### St. Raymond's Festival May 16 – 18

**DOWNEY** – The St. Raymond's All American Festival will take place May 16 – 18 and will include entertainment, games, food, and raffles. For more information, call Dianne Pacheco at (562) 889-3816.

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#### Helen Joy Daines Griffin

October 16, 1927 - April 27, 2008



Helen Joy Daines Griffin, 80, beloved wife, mother, sister and friend, passed away peacefully at home on April 27, 2008. Helen was born October 16, 1927 in Lewiston, Utah, the oldest daughter of Homer F. Daines and Mary Johnson. She grew up in Smithfield, Utah, where she loved to sing and dance with her friends and read. She graduated from North Cache High School and attended two years at Utah State University where she studied child development. She

married Morris R. Griffin on September 19, 1947 in the Salt Lake City, Utah L.D.S. temple. Later they moved to San Francisco where she worked as a secretary at Traveler's Insurance while Morris attended dental school. Helen and Morris made their home in Downey, California where they lived for 52 years.

Helen spent her life caring for others in a kind, nonjudgmental way. An active member of the L.D.S. church, she served in the Primary, Young Women and Relief Society organizations. Many benefited from her hours of service and her gentle personality. She also served her community as a volunteer and president of the Friends for the Downey City Library. She spent many hours at the library gift shop.

Helen's greatest happiness came from serving her family and friends. She loved cooking, was an accomplished seamstress, and knew the names of all the flowers in her garden. She never missed a birthday for her children, grandchildren and friends.

Helen is survived by her husband, Morris; 3 daughters and 1 son, Marilyn (Gerry), Patricia, Sheri (Roger) and Cort (Donna); 11 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Peggy Daines and Donna Christiansen, and her brother, Tracy Daines. She was preceded in death by two sons, Brian Daines and Jeffrey Todd and her sister, Marianne.

Helen's family would like to express their appreciation to Hospice for the care they provided her, as well as to her sweet caregivers Anita and Susan for their tireless and loving efforts to make her comfortable.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Downey 3rd Ward L.D.S. Chapel located at 10511 Paramount Boulevard. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 a.m. Internment will be at the Newton Utah Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family is suggesting donations be made to the Friends for the Downey City Library at

http://www.downeylibrary.org/friends/

PAID OBITUARY

Page 12 Friday, May 2, 2008 The Downey Patriot

### No mercy: Downey clobbers Warren 11-0

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

**DOWNEY** – In what turned out to be a laugher later in the game, the Downey Vikings stayed hot and beat the Warren Bears 11-0 Tuesday night at Yanez Field, the win being their ninth straight overall.

Downey struck first in the opening frame scoring two runs off of Abraham Carrasco with a two-strike double from Vikings' centerfielder Ivory Thomas. Thomas tried to stretch the double to a triple but was

Carrasco, who pitched a complete game in a 10-8 win last time the two clubs met, pitched much better this time around giving up four runs and six hits through five innings but was out-pitched by his counterpart Nate

Viking's pitcher Coronado went six strong innings allowing only one hit and striking out nine Bears. Only two runners reached third base against him but to no avail as he managed to pitch his way out of jams coming up with timely strikeouts.

"I felt good and I wasn't nervous and went out there like any other game," Coronado said.

He also continued to say that his changeup and curveball helped his overall dominance over the Bears.

"He pitched great," said Downey manager Jess Gonzalez who watched his team go to seven games over .500 for the season. "He used his changeup and curveball and he kept the guys off balance and made his fastball look a heck of a lot faster and he made some good pitches in some tough situations. Good for him for battling.'

Coronado may have pitched great but Downey's offense was as equally impressive putting up double digits in runs for the fifth time during their nine-game winning streak.

Thomas was the one who broke the game open in the sixth inning where the Vikings hung an eight spot on the scoreboard.

With the bases loaded and a full count, Thomas fought off three pitches then took Warren reliever Greg Siqueiros' shoestring fastball over the left field wall for a grand slam.

Earlier in the at-bat, it looked as if Thomas missed a pitch he thought he could hammer. He managed to stay up at the plate and get another pitch

"I was hoping to get a pitch to handle," he said. "I was on him the whole at-bat so I was hoping he'd leave something down. I was just hoping to get another pitch I could handle and when I missed that one pitch he gave me another opportunity."

Thomas had a monster game going 3 for 3, scoring a run and single handedly driving in seven runs. To add to the night's resumé, he also stole a base.

Gonzalez felt great about the game saying the whole team played very well and is impressed with the string of wins his team has been able to put together and the way in which they've done it.

"We try to eliminate killing ourselves and shooting ourselves in the foot and that's what we did today," he said. "We made the plays we had to make. That's been something we've been working on and hopefully we keep it going in the next couple games we have."

The Vikings seem to be firing on all cylinders now going into their final game with the Bears today and seem to have a different attitude during this winning streak.

"We're playing as a team now," said Thomas. "Earlier there were cliques here and there so we're doing more team things now."

While Downey has come together as a team, it looks like the Bears are starting to split at the seams a little bit. The loss makes it their eighth in their last nine games, making a third place finish all but gone with the loss.

"We played a fairly decent game up until the fifth inning," Bears manager Paul Alvarez said. "The pitching was relatively solid. They just got to us and our pitching and started hitting the ball."

Alvarez thought his team did a poor job at the plate saying his team let too many pitches go and didn't jump on Coronado's fastball as he thought

See BASEBALL, page 15

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## Conglomeration of career, family and service ennoble Brian Saylors' life

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

mong Brian Saylors' many distinctions is his being trilingual. In addition to English, he's fluent in Portuguese and Spanish.

The managing partner of Downey-based Strayer Saylors & Associates, Inc. (SSA) went down to Sao Paolo, Brazil at age 19 as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This was after his graduation from La Mirada High. Born and raised in La Mirada by an Irish-German father and a Scottish-English mother, Brian spent two years in Sao Paolo and imbibed some Latin American culture, including proficiency in

Back in the States and enrolled in accounting at CSU-Long Beach, the youthful Brian says his Spanish class didn't pose any problem. "The two languages [Portuguese and Spanish] are very similar," he says. "They have the same roots and [as is true of other so-called Romantic languages] differ only in their word-endings, declensions, and so forth."

He and wife Elise met as they began their studies at CSU-Long Beach. They got married a year later, on June 25, 1988. They also decided to move to Downey that same year. Brian had found work as a Detention Service Officer at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. He was to hold on to this job until he got his B.S. in Accounting degree, cum

Degree in hand, he started his accounting career in the Long Beach branch of prestigious Deloitte & Touche. He stayed with the firm three years, where he specialized in mid-sized companies (loosely-defined as valued at \$250 million or less), and long enough to get his CPA certification. He then joined Bowers Ambulance Service (a \$25 million company), also in Long Beach, as controller. He was to serve in this capacity for four years. In the ensuing two years, he hired on as finance manager for the Cypress-based national health insurance company, PacifiCare Health Systems. Then he made the

In 2000 Brian decided to open his own practice in Downey, merging four years later with Strayer & Associates, a firm with extensive



As Downey Rotary president, Brian Saylors, left, often stands front and center at award presentations, as he did last month in feting Angelo Cardono with Rotarian of the Year honors. Councilman Kirk Cartozian, right, also assisted.

practice in tax matters. The merger teamed him up with fellow Rotarian Richard Strayer (Richard is a past Downey Rotary president; Brian is the incoming president, and begins his term this July).

Brian also lends his expertise as a member of the Supervisory Committee at Downey Federal Credit Union (DFCU). Meanwhile, he holds memberships in the California Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, which publishes the Journal of Accounting.

Brian says his 16 years experience in public accounting, his specialization in matters affecting small to medium-sized companies, and his work with many real estate investors and high net worth individuals have provided him with insights and expertise especially in the areas of real estate sales, mortgage lending, property management, and real estate development in the U.S. and outside, e.g., in such countries as Costa Rica and

Brian also says that despite the economic uncertainty bedeviling other businesses, SSA is intent on business expansion. "After all, accounting and tax planning services is essential, a basic service, as recession-proof as any," he says.

On a basic level, he says, clients need help with their book keeping and accounting, with their income tax planning and preparation, with audit reviews and financial statements preparation. There are issues and problems relating to growth or expansion (lender requirements, loan package representations, etc.), or, opportunity windows (leasing vs. buying equipment, the best use of extra cash, liability protection, etc.). Needless to say, Brian is good at it, and thrives at it.

He has honed his people skills, too. "It's a relationship business," he says. "We just don't do numbers, we have to know our clients' needs. Then we tailor our services to their goals."

Faced with expansion matters of their own, Brian is also busy nowadays with beefing up operations at SSA's Anaheim office.

On the family front, Brian, active as ever with his church, says his energies are focused now on his kids: Ethan, 16, is a sophomore at Warren High; Candace, 13, is a Griffiths Middle School eighth grader; Spencer, 10, is in fourth grade at Maude Price; and the youngest, Mason, 5, is in kindergarten, also at Maude Price.

"I spend a lot of time with them," he says. "They're into soccer, baseball, and basketball. One has piano lessons, and another plays drums. I help them study. One is with the Boy Scouts. I'm a

counselor for merit badges."

Brian adds, "I want to ensure a good future for them. This is my main motivation. Secondly, because I've been blessed, I want to give back to the community. It's nice to be able to do this. This is one of the reasons why I joined the Rotary."

Wife Elise, who joined DRMC upon graduating from Cerritos College Nursing School in 1991, has been DRMC Director of Quality for the past four to five

Reading the Scriptures, or John Grisham and Jonathan Kellerman novels, or historical fiction (on the American Revolution, the U.S. Civil War, WWII) relaxes him, he says. What little travel he and his family have done, he says, has been confined to New York (where his wife's lawyer-brother lives), Hawaii, Idaho ("to see our relatives"), and New Mexico (Carlsbad Caverns, UFO museum in Roswell). Seeing the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, he says, was simply "awesome."

At this point, there's no better example of an upright, productive, and proactive citizen than Brian Saylors as he meshes smoothly together a successful career, a fine family, and a laudable community service orientation. May his tribe

Henry Veneracion is an honorary member of Downey Rotary.



Program is now offering two new acting classes. The "Acting for Commercials and TV" class offers tips for working in

the world of television and commercials. The class explores all aspects of the industry, from getting an agent, headshots and auditioning skills, to working on a set and taking directions. The class meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Activity Center in La Mirada, located at 13810 La Mirada Blvd.

The "Acting for Stage plus Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking" class helps students to be a more effective communicator and develop a better appreciation of theatre and the performing arts. The class meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon, also at the Activity Center in La Mirada.

Classes are free and are open enrollment classes accepting students at

For more information, contact Sally Greer at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2489.





"Once Upon a Mattress," a musical comedy involving an unwed prince and his impossible search for a bride, will be presented by the Norwalk High School Theatre Department all next weekend.

#### Family comedy performed in Norwalk

NORWALK - The Norwalk High School Theatre Department will present its spring show, "Once Upon a Mattress," next weekend at the Excelsior Auditorium, 15711 Pioneer Blvd., in Norwalk.

The musical is a comical variation of the fairy tale classic, "The Princess and the Pea." As the story goes, all through the land no one may wed until the prince shares his wedding bed, which may come as a problem since all the princesses who come in hopes of marrying the prince must pass impossible tests.

The story involves a mute king under curse, an over-controlling, overbearing queen, a dancing jester, a sneaky wizard, knights, ladies, and one specific beautiful lady and her knight who have a problem.

"Once Upon a Mattress" is a show designed for the entire family. Performances will be held May 8-10 at 7 p.m. Adult tickets are \$7 and students/children are \$6.

#### 'My Fair Lady' coming to OC

**COSTA MESA** – The award-winning production of "My Fair Lady" will visit the Orange County Performing Artscenter June 4-15 as part of a

The new production was hailed by the London Daily Mail as, "The revival against which all others will be measured."

Tickets to "My Fair Lady" are \$20 to \$75 and are now on sale. Tickets are available by calling (714) 556-2787 or online at www.ocpac.org.

## Sebastian Sidi and band perform live for PBS

By Brooke Karli, STAFF WRITER

**SANTA ANA** – The audience had settled into their seats, the instruments had been tuned, and the cameras were ready to roll. Sebastian Sidi's PBS debut, "Sebastian Sidi: Live in Concert," hosted at the OC Pavilion Performing Arts Theatre last Friday, was ready to take flight, and when it did, every woman in the audience was left on cloud

But really, who could blame them? With his charming smile, silky shoulder-length hair and unforgettable leather pants, one is only destined to fall in love with the 32-year-old musician.

Sidi, however, wasn't there just to impress the ladies – he was there to do what he does best – entertain, all the while, filming his PBS debut, due to air June 11.

"It's been a dream of mine to work with a legendary producer as accomplished as George Veras,"

Sidi said of working side-by-side with 12-time Emmy Award-winning producer Veras, who produced PBS's "Yanni Live at the Acropolis." "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."

Sidi, a Downey resident for more than 15 years, is a Uruguayborn American musician who taught himself how to play the drums, keyboards and bass guitar. Although he does not sing, Sidi and his band create instrumental compositions that contain Latin, rock, classical, tango and New Age sounds. Throughout his career, he has drawn inspiration from the sounds of the Scorpions, Iron

Maiden, Van Halen and Raul Di

Sidi's professional career began nine years ago, when he established Sidi Music Records. Since then, he has released four albums: "Prelude" (1999); "Electrified" (2000); "Passion" (2002); and "Desperate Journey" (2005). Collectively, the albums have sold more than 150,000 copies.

During the concert, Sidi performed many of the audience's favorites, including "Take Off"; "Longing," during which he brought a female fan to the stage; "Desperate Journey"; and "Annastasia," a song named after a woman he met online whom he connected with after learning she too had a family member with cancer. Before performing another crowd favorite, "Destination," Sidi sat at the edge of the stage and explained the meaning behind

See SIDI, page 15



Accomplished musician and Downey resident Sebastian Sidi recorded a live concert for PBS last week. The concert will on KOCE-TV June 11. Photo by Andre Torng Photography

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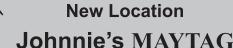
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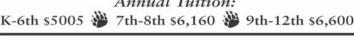


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## Real Estate Page 15 Friday, May 2, 2008

### Festival of Books was last weekend's best-seller

By Brooke Karli, STAFF WRITER

ne by one they stepped onto the charter bus parked in the Downey City Library parking lot. People of all ages took to their seats, accompanied by sun block, water bottles, and for some, fanny packs and sun hats, to prepare for a day at the *Los* Angeles Times Festival of Books at UCLA. And it wasn't long before the 33 passengers began mapping out their day, preparing their cameras and Sharpie markers for a possible candid moment with their favorite author.

The 13th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books was held last Saturday and Sunday (yes, the same weekend as the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival), and for most, it served as the perfect opportunity to stock-up on the newest reads and get a chance to meet the people who pen the very words they read.

The Festival, however, is most popular for the celebrity authors they invite to attend. Every year, the celebrities tend to get more prominent than the year before. And this year, it was no different.

On the bill for this year's appearances were actress Julie Andrews Edwards, actress Marlee Matlin, comedian and actor Cheech Marin, and director and actor Henry Winkler – and that's just on the Target Children's Stage.

The Los Angeles Times Stage featured the likes of California First Lady Maria Shriver ("Just Who Will You Be?"); actress Valerie Bertinelli ("Losing It: And Gaining My Life Back One Pound at a Time"); former baseball player Steve Garvey ("My Bat Boy Days: Lessons I Learned from the Boys of Summer"); and actress Danica McKellar ("Math Doesn't Suck"), while the Culinary Stage, Etc. Stage, Poetry Stage, and Reading by 9 Storytelling Stage provided their own outlets of entertainment through food, music, creativity and discovery, respectively.

The event had something for everyone – literally. Interested in religion? There were booths passing out free Bibles and Qurans. Interested in comics? There was a whole stretch of booths dedicated to die-hard cartoon fans. What about children's books and activities? Travel? Education? Politics? There were booths for all of those

But by far, the most popular area of the Festival – besides the food court, that is – was the Target Children's Stage, where tiny tots and parents alike sang along to



Aly & AJ reading to children. Photo by Brooke Karli

Playhouse Disney's Johnny and the Sprites, danced with The Doodlebops, and screamed for Aly & AJ. It was also there that the audience was treated to book readings by Ben Barnes ("Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian"); Marlee Matlin and co-author Doug Cooney ("Leading Ladies"); Cheech Marin ("Cheech and the School Bus Driver") and Henry Winkler and co-author Lin Oliver ("Hank Zipzer #14: The Life of Me [Enter at Your Own Risk]"); also being granted a question-andanswer segment with Julie Andrews Edwards ("Simeon's

Other entertainment on the Target Children's Stage included Robin Preiss Glasser, author of "Fancy Nancy"; Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players; Katharine Holabird, author of "Angelina Ballerina"; Laughing Pizza; and Playhouse Disney's Choo-Choo Soul.

Teen pop-duo Aly & AJ attracted what seemed to be the largest audience on Saturday afternoon, with fans trying their hardest to snap photos and get autographs as the two made their way from the stage to the signing tent – a daunting task for the Target staff. The girls read excerpts from "Aly & AJ's Rock & Roll Mysteries."

The Doodlebops, who performed both Saturday and Sunday, also had a large crowd. The trio, made up of Deedee, Rooney and Moe Doodle, sang, danced and laughed their way through their segments.

"We have loved being at the Festival because reading is really important to us, as is music and education," Moe Doodle said. "Everyone, including us, gets to have fun while learning."

Rooney Doodle added, "In being role models, we want to practice what we preach and if we can get one or two kids to leave our show interested in the arts, then we have done our job."

Their characters, said Deedee Doodle, are based off their own personalities. She also said that the group tries to take any opportunity they get to meet more fans.

Ben Barnes, who plays Prince Caspian in the upcoming Disney film, "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," was a hit as well, reading excerpts of the Narnia book in an enchanting English accent. Later in the day, actress Marlee Matlin took to the stage and signed parts of her latest book, "Leading Ladies," to an audience held captive by her means of communication - sign language. Her interpreter, as well as the book's co-author, Doug Cooney, accompanied her on stage.

The next day, Sunday, was just as star-studded. The ever-so-pleasant Julie Andrews Edwards received a warm welcome and was interviewed by Deedee Doodle, sharing information about her newest children's book, "Simeon's Gift."

Following the actress was actor and director Henry Winkler, who proudly gushed about his latest book, "Hank Zipzer #14: The Life of Me [Enter at Your Own Risk]," which he wrote with Lin Oliver.

Target, the Festival's presenting sponsor, is all about supporting education and couldn't stress more the role reading plays in shaping a child's future. Target not only sponsors major reading and book festivals throughout the country, but also partners with United Through Reading, Reach Out and Read, Read Across America, and the Library of Congress' Letters About Literature program, to name a few. Currently, Target donates five percent of its income (totaling more than \$3 million a week) to organizations that support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism.

Overall, the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books was a best-seller, for lack of better words. Although every stage had something to offer, Target's Children's Stage achieved, what would seem to many, the impossible - they kept the kids entertained and in good spirits, all the while in 98-degree weather.

## Sidi: Possibility of a national telecast with enough pledges.

Continued from page 13

"Desperate Journey," his most recent album, which documents the struggles he faced after his mother passed away in 2002 following a 12-year battle with cancer.

Throughout the concert, Sidi connected with the audience on more than one occasion. Besides sharing some of his most personal, intimate stories, Sidi also threw drum sticks out to the crowd, got the crowd to clap their hands during certain songs, and even took the crowd to "meet" Veras, who was running the show from a trailer stationed outside the Pavilion.

Many would agree that Sidi was the main attraction at the concert, but he is the first to say that he is nothing without his band.

"I'm not up there by myself – just because it's my name that's seen everywhere, doesn't mean it's

just me," he said. "Without them, I can't perform."

Sidi's band is made up of Javier Lima, guitar; Xris Martin, bass guitar; John Michael Roch, keyboards; Dan Romo, percussion; Georgia Waggoner and Tonya Fujita, vocals; and 16-year-old James Friedman, who by far is one of the best drummers around. The concert also featured Grammy-nominated violinist Cara-C, who was asked by Sidi to perform alongside the band for the taped performance.

"Our focus tonight was to entertain the way we normally do but also keep in mind that we were filming a concert for TV, which we've never done before," Sidi said after the concert. "What we did tonight I want to do three to four times a week."

Thus far, the group has performed at numerous Southern

California venues including Universal City Walk, Downtown Disney, Irvine Spectrum, The Block at Orange, Citadel Shopping Center, Fashion Island, Horton Plaza, Orange County Market Place, Long Beach Shoreline Village, Hollywood Park, and the La Mirada Performing Arts Center.

Sidi recently appeared on "Azte Pa'Ca," a talk show hosted by Renan Almendarez ("El Cucuy") and served as celebrity marshal for the Downey Chamber of Commerce's 56th Annual Holiday Lane Parade last December.

The PBS special will air on KOCE-TV on June 11 at 8 p.m. If the concert does well and receives an abundant amount of pledges, the concert will be aired nationally.

On the Web: sebastiansidi.com, or myspace.com/sebastiansidi.

## Baseball: Warren will get chance to avenge their loss today.

Continued from page 12

they should. He did say he is optimistic about today if they manage to string a couple of hits together.

"We have to come out and swing the bats." He said. "We have a good chance against Adrian Vallardes or whoever else they might throw at us. We just have to come out and swing the bats. That's the bottom line."

During the Bears slump, focus seems to be the concern amongst

the coaching staff. Assistant coach Carl Chavez and Alvarez concur when it comes to the lack of focus the team has.

"A lot of it is just mental," said Chavez. "We won one of our tournament games on Saturday and we thought that would break the streak. A lot of it has to do with the mental approach to the game more than anything else. I think you'll find that common in sports.

"You'll find some of the great

est teams doing well then suddenly they'll drop off the map."

Alvarez thinks the team is just letting themselves go, saying that maybe his team thought because other teams lost to them the first time around that they would just ease off and lay down their bats.

Downey and Warren face off for the final time in the regular season at Taylor Field today. Starting pitchers have yet to be determined. Game time is 3 p.m.

### Warren's struggles continue versus Gahr

By Scott Cobos, Contributor

**DOWNEY** – Warren's struggles continued as they dropped the season series against the Gahr Gladiators, losing 5-0 in their final meeting of the regular season last

The Bears have not been able to string any timely hits together, the two-game set.

The Bears are 6-17 on the season and 5-7 in league going into today's game against the Vikings.

Downey continuse to win games, sweeping the season series against the Lynwood Knights and winning their final meeting of the today's game versus Warren.

managing to score only one run in season last Friday 8-3.

Downey's bats continue to stay hot as the team is hitting over .300 for the season and have averaged over nine runs per game during their win streak.

The Vikings are now 15-9 overall and 8-4 in league going into

#### Dispose hazardous waste at Waste Roundup

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

"The Roundups offer County of Los Angeles residents a convenient way to discard common household products, e-waste and universal waste such as household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs that are

hazardous to people and the environment if not properly disposed of," said County of Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe (4th District). "And, even though old computer monitors and key boards can be reused, refurbished, or recycled, electronic waste is a growing

"Improperly disposing of household hazardous waste is a serious threat to public health," added La Mirada Mayor Hal Malkin.

"By taking part in these free and convenient Roundups, we can all do our part to avoid the serious pollution problems that result when these items end up in landfills or storm drains."

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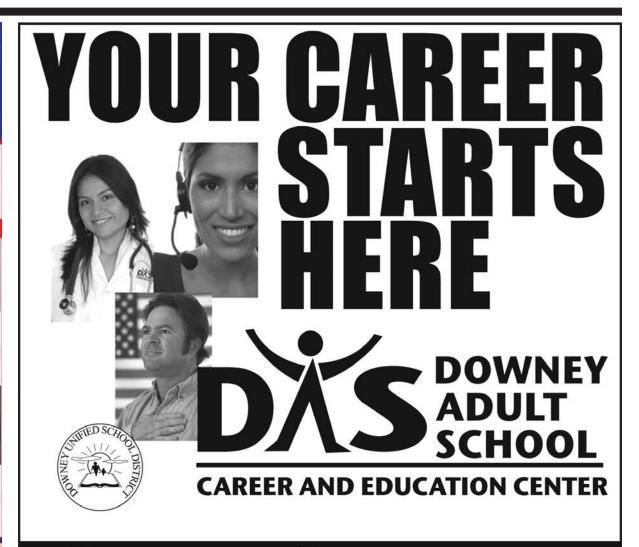
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